

# Lift trade sanctions on Hanoi, says Prime Minister

BANGKOK, Fri. 7 — Malaysia hopes the United States will lift economic sanctions against Vietnam soon to ensure development there.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Vietnam was no longer interested in military conquest after its experience in Cambodia and had devoted itself to economic development.

He said the US should not insist on tracing soldiers who disappeared during the Vietnam War as this would retard the process of economic renewal in Vietnam.

"Vietnam also lost people whom it could not trace. If the US insists on tracing its missing soldiers, then everything will be held up," he told Thai businessmen at a cocktail reception organised by the Joint Standing Committee of Commerce, Industry and Banking at the Oriental Hotel here today.

He was asked if the US trade embargo on Vietnam should be lifted and Malaysia's involvement in the country in such an eventuality.

Dr Mahathir said the trade embargo was making it difficult for Vietnam to develop because of problems in obtaining loan.

Malaysia, the Prime Minister said, believed in prosperous neighbours as this meant peace for the region.

"Nations that want to trade realise that they need peace for development."

The US, he said, should look to the future and not dwell on the past as far as Vietnam was concerned.

To a question on China's role in the region and political stability in the country, he said China would be playing an important role both economically and politically in the global arena.

The country had the right formula for growth for its large population, industrial people and reduced interest in politics.