

S 26 SEP 1993

We stand by proposal for military solution, says Dr M

By ROHAIZAD A RAHIM

SUNGAI PETANI: Malaysia's proposal for a military solution to end the atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina may be the best one for the beleaguered nation, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We still believe our proposal is more effective," he told reporters after meeting the Bosnia-bound Malaysian Battalion (MalBatt) here.

Asked to comment on British Prime Minister John Major's suggestion that a long-term diplomatic solution would be more viable, he said Major had his own views.

"We discussed it. He gave his opinion and I gave mine."

Dr Mahathir added that he would also raise the matter again at the United Nations 48th General Assembly. He is scheduled to address the assembly on Oct. 1.

"We are not satisfied with Europe's handling of the issue, especially on the plight of the Bosnian people."

Present at the ceremony were his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his deputy Datuk Wan Abu Bakar Mohamad, Armed Forces Chief Jen Tan Sri Abdul Rahman and Army Chief Jen Tan Sri Borhan Ahmad.

As Malaysia is now in the forefront of the international world, Dr Mahathir said the nation was obligated to back its words with action.

"Although we support what is being done in the United Nations, we do not want our support to remain just words.

"It is because of this that we decided to send our soldiers to help the people of Bosnia."

Dr Mahathir also inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 812 officers and men under the command of MalBatt deputy commander Lt-Kol Che Hasni Che Ahmad.