

'Transparency' profit-motivated

□ FROM PAGE ONE

as regards the international Press. The Government can only hope and pray that they will realise the damage they are doing through telling lies.

"But we do hope that occasionally they cover the truth as well. Power corrupts. But power without responsibility is the most corrupting influence of all."

Dr Mahathir, congratulating the PLO and Israel, said their peace talks became successful only after they moved away from the glare of the media.

Thus, this need for transparency, this right to information is an invention of

those who want to make money from the information industry.

On the "peace dividends" pledged by the powerful nations in the euphoria that followed the end of the Cold War, he said the debit side was more than the credit side.

He criticised these countries for being unsympathetic preferring instead to stereotype the Third World nations as being politically unstable, administratively weak and economically depressed.

Malaysia has chosen to be none of those, and because of that it has been predicted its achievements are temporary and that it will go the

way of their preconceived Third World countries.

"But so far we have not obliged. We are, however, humbly aware that nothing is permanent. Our detractors may yet be proven right."

He concluded by saying that airing the woes of the Third World in the UN General Assembly was not going to change the world but not to air them was to encourage the kind of supercilious arrogance on the part of those who were most responsible and yet still presumed to extol their virtues and to preach to others.

"Even if the benefit is minimal, the truth must be

told." A thunderous and long applause followed. For two minutes Assembly chairman Samuel R. Insanally of Guyana could not call the protocol officer to escort the Prime Minister to his seat.

Dr Mahathir stepped down from the podium when the officer came, but as he walked down another round of applause followed.

When he reached his seat about 70 representatives rushed from their pews to congratulate him — a practice discouraged since several years ago for security reasons and also to prevent disruption of the business of the Assembly.