

Dr M: I will continue to speak out

By PAUL GABRIEL

LANGKAWI: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says he will continue to speak out on relevant issues even when foreign leaders visit Malaysia.

The Prime Minister said he did it when (the then Australian Prime Minister) Malcolm Fraser was here.

"I was even more critical when (former British PM) Lady Margaret

Thatcher came," he said.

"If I'm expected to make ordinary speeches, I might as well keep quiet," he told newsmen after inspecting projects in preparation for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (Lima '93) in December.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on British newspaper reports that he had chosen to hit out at Britain's policy on Bosnia

during Prime Minister John Major's recent visit to Kuala Lumpur.

Asked how far Malaysia had been successful in getting the message across, the Prime Minister said there could be no evaluation on this.

"But the reality is they are forced to defend their policies. And we find that it is difficult for them to do so.

"Because they (the United States and Britain)

are not prepared to help out in Bosnia, they have lost whatever right to criticise us," he said.

Dr Mahathir later toured several sites, including the RM10 million Lima convention centre at Padang Matsirat, the Berjaya Group's hotel project in Teluk Burau, the development in Kisap, the pontoon at the Kuah jetty and the jetty complex and Trimala commercial projects in Kuah.