

# Dr M happy with outcome of summit

By Adlin M. Zabri  
and Rashid Yusof

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he was satisfied with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) because Malaysia managed to include its stand on Bosnia in the communique.

The Prime Minister said that in general, the meeting went smoothly. "Overall I am quite satisfied," Dr Mahathir said.

He said Malaysia only faced some opposition on the country's stand on Bosnia, but managed to include the item in the communique issued at the end of the meeting.

He added that apart from several Asian countries, Malaysia noticed there was lack of sympathy for the Bosnian problem.

Speaking to reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang on his return from Cyprus after attending the CHOGM, Dr Mahathir said: "I do not understand why, perhaps because the former Yugoslavia had at one time close relations with developing nations in their fight for independence."

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Yugoslavia's participation in the Non-Aligned Movement in Jakarta could also be another factor, he said.

He added that Malaysia's proposal on technology management was also accepted. "We took an active part in the discussions," he said.

On his trip to Malta and Cyprus, Dr Mahathir hoped that Malaysia could resume its exports of Proton cars to Malta after it was stopped for some time.

Dr Mahathir said he noticed that there were many showrooms on the island especially for Japanese cars.

Malaysia could also look into the possibility of exchanging information on rearing of fresh water fish in salt water. He said that Malta had been quite successful in this venture.

He also viewed Malta and Cyprus as popular tourist destinations. In the case of Cyprus, tourist arrivals reached two million a year, three times its population of 700,000.

Asked to comment on a news report which appeared in the *Utusan Malaysia* yesterday that Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) wanted to return to the Barisan Nasional, Dr Mahathir said

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# PM: We must know reasons why party wants to rejoin

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that the BN would need to know if there was any guarantee that the Sabah-based party would not repeat its past actions.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said: "While we welcome the PBS' intention, we certainly want to know what conditions the party could have attached (to the return.)

"We cannot have a situation where parties can join and leave BN just like that... otherwise it has no meaning."

He said political parties wishing to join the coalition must uphold the BN struggle and principles.

In the report, PBS vice-president Datuk Lajim Okin was quoted as saying that the PBS wanted to return to the BN.

Lajim, who is also Assistant Minister to the Chief Minister, was reported as saying that PBS had confidence in the new Umno leadership. The PBS was

also confident that it would be accepted back into the coalition.

Dr Mahathir said: "What is the guarantee that the PBS would not do the same things?"

When asked what sort of guarantee the BN wanted, Dr Mahathir said: "You should know. In 1990, when we were busy preparing for the general election, the PBS pulled out of the coalition at the eleventh hour.

"We could not contest in several constituencies... the BN was not able to nominate other candidates," he said.

Asked to comment on statements by PBS leaders linking the Umno elections and changes in the party leadership to its desire to rejoin the BN, Dr Mahathir said they were mere excuses.

Asked whether the BN would be reluctant to accept the PBS back into its fold as long as Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan remained as

the party president, Dr Mahathir said it may be.

"BN still wants to know the reasons why PBS wants to rejoin... the guarantee, and whether it would be lasting," he added.

Asked whether the return of PBS into BN would improve ties and integration between Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah, Dr Mahathir said it appeared that PBS was the stumbling block.

"Previously, we (the Federal Government) were very close with the Sabah Government... to the extent that I visited the State up to five times a year.

"And I would stay for five days, visiting development projects and getting to know State leaders," he added.

Dr Mahathir said this had changed since PBS came into power.

"Now when I visit Sabah, I only go to one place. It is as if it's deliberately done to cut me off from the people of Sabah. There is no more closeness," he added.