

Dr M: Israel must do more to get our recognition

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Malaysia is not ready to recognise Israel unless it displays willingness to do more to make peace with the Palestinians, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said that, for example, under the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, there was no declaration by the Israelis that it would not use State terrorism to realise its national objectives.

"There is also no recognition by Israel on the existence of the State of Palestine," he said, adding that this meant that the agreement was not complete.

"And we know that this agreement is also not easy for them to implement. For these reasons, we have to wait before taking action to accept Israel," Dr Mahathir said at a Press conference at the end of his visit to Angkasapuri.

He was responding to questions by reporters on an earlier interview with RTM where he also spoke on the developments of the Israeli-Palestine peace process.

To another question, he said Malaysia was not happy at all with the United Nations and the developed nations for their inability to

resolve international conflicts, particularly the tragedy in Bosnia and Somalia.

He said: "We are also not happy with Europe on its handling of the Bosnian issue.

"It's only recently that we feel slightly at ease to see the United States siding with developing nations and the Islamic countries in asking that the arms embargo and sanctions on Bosnia be lifted."

Dr Mahathir said the lifting of the embargo would allow Bosnians to purchase arms to defend themselves against the Serbs.

"It is clear here that the developed nations are not willing to defend the Bosnians," he added.

Dr Mahathir said: "Although the West talks about human rights, democracy and other (principles) these are all just words which have no meaning at all."

He said the problem was the attitude of the Western nations which appeared not willing to see Muslims establish a nation of their own.

"Some military leaders of the West have condemned the actions of the Serbian

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'West refuses to accept reality'

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soldiers who commit acts of brutality including murders and rape.

"But the Western Governments refused to accept this reality," Dr Mahathir said.

He said it was clear that Western Governments were

using democracy and principles of human rights only for their political interest.

To a question on the co-operation between the whites and blacks in South Africa, Dr Mahathir said it was still difficult because the feelings of the people

would not be easy to change.

He added that although apartheid had been abolished, the co-operation between whites and blacks and also between blacks and blacks would not be easy to accomplish.