

No defence pact with major powers, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is reluctant to enter any bilateral defence pact with the major powers because the other parties may not live up to their end of the bargain, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said this concern had been justified by the reluctance of major powers in the United Nations and Security Council to put an end to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"If they (the major powers) can-

not be trusted, then what guarantee do we have that they will come to our aid if we are attacked?"

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after launching books depicting the plight of Bosnians entitled *Bosnia (Voices of Malaysia)* and *Bosnia: Testament to War Crimes as told by Survivors* at Parliament.

He said the UN and the Security Council were looking for ways to avoid taking action against the Serbs for the atrocities committed.

"They will make countless threats against the Serbs but when they (the threats) were ignored (by the Serbs), they became quiet.

"We are disappointed and saddened by this attitude as it only demonstrates the lack of credibility within the UN and the council.

"We can no longer trust them as most of their actions are only in the interest of certain countries."

In his speech earlier, Dr Mahathir said weak countries could not rely on the UN for protection

against aggressions.

He said this was evident as the world body had instructed its peacekeeping force in Bosnia not to do anything if opposed by the Serbs and not to use force (against the Serbs) to ensure relief supplies reach their intended destinations.

This, he said, was because the UN did not want its soldiers "to get hurt" in carrying out their duties.

"Why call themselves soldiers if they can't get hurt?" he asked.

"What use are relief supplies if

you have to ask the enemy's permission to get the supplies through to the very people they oppress?"

Dr Mahathir said the UN and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation were adamant about watching the atrocities on television and not doing anything about it.

He also received cheques totalling almost RM1 million from government and private sectors for the Bosnian Aid Fund under the National Unity and Social Development Ministry.