

U.N. CHIEF 'IS INEFFECTIVE'

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PETALING JAYA: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad hit out at UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali yesterday for his continued inaction over Serbian aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina and said it would make a difference if he resigned.

The Prime Minister said he was saddened that Boutros-Ghali had once said events occurring in Bosnia also happened in other parts of the world, "as if to suggest that what the Serbs are doing is not something unusual."

"I am unhappy that someone holding such high office and entrusted to protect the rights of all countries has such a stand," he told reporters after launching an Umno Youth special programme here.

Asked whether he supported an Umno Youth resolution passed on Thursday night calling for Boutros-Ghali's resignation, Dr Mahathir said he had no objection.

On whether it would make a difference if Boutros-Ghali resigned, Dr Mahathir replied: "Well, it certainly would make some difference because he is definitely not doing anything."

"He takes the attitude that he has no power. Yet when we ask Nato, they say they will have to wait for the Se-

curity Council to decide.

"Now for the Security Council to act, they say they must ask Nato and for Nato to decide, they must ask somebody. The US now says (that) to decide, it must ask Nato.

"Who is in charge? Don't they know somebody who is in charge?"

Asked whether he believed the Bosnian problem would be solved if Boutros-Ghali stepped down, Dr Mahathir said:

"I am not saying that. But if we choose someone who is an activist and who is brave, we may be able to solve the problem."

Dr Mahathir said the problem was

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if they failed to observe the ultimatum. "We will only believe it when it materialises."

He said Nato had given the Serbs ultimatum after ultimatum but failed to attack. The deadline for the latest Nato ultimatum expires at 8am (Malaysian time) today.

On the Russian proposal for all UN members to hold a special conference on Bosnia, Dr Mahathir said: "While they call for meetings, more people (Bosnians) are being killed. There have been too many meetings already."

On Boutros-Ghali's replacement, he said Malaysia would not put religion as a criteria for the next UN secretary-general as long as the person held closely to humanitarian principles.