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Mahathir-OIC

OIC NEED NOT WAIT FOR FRANCE TO WITHDRAW FROM BOSNIA

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ALOR SETAR, May 15⁹⁴ (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) need not wait for France to withdraw its troops before sending their armies to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said OIC member countries should help settle the conflict in the former Yugoslav republic to the best of their abilities.

"The OIC's statement is very good but no need to wait until France pulls out its troops," he told reporters on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport here.

The Prime Minister arrived here to launch the national-level Teachers' Day celebration at Wisma Darul Aman here tonight.

Dr Mahathir cited Malaysia as an example which did not wait for anybody to withdraw their troops before sending its peace-keepers to the war-torn country. -- more

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"We didn't wait, if we did, many people would have died," he said.

Asked on the peace initiative started by foreign ministers' of seven countries in Geneva yesterday, Dr Mahathir said that if the ceasefire could be enforced, it should not be to the extent of the Bosnians losing their territories to others.

He said such things did happen to the Palestinians when their land was taken away and given to the Israelis.

"Now, they want to take Bosnians' land and give them the Serbs," he said.

The foreign ministers had for the first time approved a joint strategy, enforcing a plan to allow the Serbs to take 51 per cent of the Bosnian territory with the rest to be shared by the Croats and Bosnian government.

The plan also called for the warring factions to start negotiations in two weeks. --Bernama

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