

# PM: Send other troops to replace Britain

ALOR STAR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday the United Nations should send replacement troops to Bosnia if Britain pulls out from the UN Protection Force.

The Prime Minister said it was meaningless for Britain to remain with the force if it was not prepared to face the risks.

"We only ask that they (Britain) don't stop others

from taking over, because of religious excuses.

"The UN has a responsibility to send in additional troops to prevent the slaughter of the Bosnians, otherwise there's also no point in having the UN," he told newsmen on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport here.

The Prime Minister was asked to comment on reports that Britain may withdraw its 3,000 troops

in Bosnia unless the warring factions there settled their differences in eight weeks.

The British ultimatum followed an announcement by France of possible cuts in its 6,000-strong force in the former Yugoslavia. France and Britain are the two largest contributors to Unprofor.

Malaysia has stressed that it will not pull out its troops.

Dr Mahathir said in the event of a British pullout, the UN should support requests by other parties to step into Bosnia.

He said it was vital for the UN to arm the Bosnians and provide them with training to defend themselves.

On whether the Organisation of Islamic Countries could fill the vacuum, Dr Mahathir said it was a possibility.

Commenting on the bomb attack against the Malaysian embassy in Cambodia, he said the Government would investigate the motive behind the incident.

"We don't know whether the attack was against Malaysia or another party," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Home Minister, said he had not received a full report yet.