

# Dr M: We want probe

ALOR STAR, Fri. — Malaysia wants the Cambodian Government to investigate the bombing incident at the Malaysian Embassy in Phnom Penh to establish the motive behind it, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said Malaysia wanted to know whether the bombing was targeted at Malaysia or someone else.

"If the Malaysian Embassy is the target of the bombing, we want to know who is the actual target and why," Dr Mahathir said when asked to comment on the incident which occurred at 1.30am yesterday.

Speaking to reporters at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport here, the Prime Minister said so far the Government has yet to establish the motive of the bombing.

"The Cambodian Government will investigate the incident," he said, adding that he had not received a detailed report apart from being informed verbally about the incident.

The Malaysian Embassy was attacked with a hand grenade. However, no one was reported hurt. The attack caused slight damage to the chancellery building and Cambodian police are investigating.

Asked to comment on reports of Britain's plan to withdraw its peacekeeping troops if there was no solution to the problem in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr Mahathir said if British soldiers were not willing to face the danger in the war-torn country, there was no point asking them to remain there.

"The only thing we want is they (Britain) should not block efforts by other nations to send their peacekeepers on religious excuses or any other reason.

"The most important subject now is to give an opportunity to the Bosnians to arm themselves and adequate time to train to defend themselves.

"This is their right under the United Nations' Charter, every nation has a right to defend itself."

Asked whether the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) should be al-

lowed to send peacekeepers to replace the British troops if they decided to withdraw, he said: "Probably OIC could replace them."

Dr Mahathir said he wanted the United Nations to support replacement from other countries if Britain withdrew its peacekeeping forces.

"We do not want to hear that when the British peacekeepers are withdrawn, the UN does not support a replacement and the Bosnians are exposed to be slaughtered by the Serbs as if the UN is following orders from others.

"If that happens, I think it is useless to have the UN."

Asked on reports that there was opposition to the admission of Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) and Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) into Barisan Nasional, Dr Mahathir said he could not say whether he agreed or not (to the admission) because the decision depended on the Barisan Nasional and its component parties.

"I believe all parties will accept the views of the majority and we also consider consensus," adding that there was still chance for PDS to be in the BN.

It was reported today that Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar) would block the admission of PDS led by Datuk Bernard Dompok and PBRS led by Datuk Joseph Kurup into the BN.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali will celebrate the Hari Raya Aidiladha with the people in his Kubang Pasu constituency tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah will host an open house at Dewan Jitra in Jitra, 22km from here, from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 3pm.

Dr Mahathir and his wife arrived here this evening. They were welcomed on arrival by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff and State Executive Councillors Datuk Abdul Rahman Ibrahim, Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain, Datuk Azizan Taib and Syekh Alias Mustapha.

Dr Mahathir later pro-

ceeded to his residence at Titi Gajah where he handed over four head of cattle for sacrifice in conjunction with the Hari Raya.

The Prime Minister will attend the Hari Raya prayers at Masjid Zahir tomorrow morning.

In Kuala Lumpur, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia had sought the cooperation of the Cambodian Foreign Ministry and police to identify those responsible for the grenade attack on the embassy.

In addition, the embassy has tightened security pending the outcome of the investigation.

Describing the attack as disheartening and sad, he said it had not been established if it was a random attack on a foreign embassy.

"Neither have we been able to confirm if the attack was specifically targeted at the Malaysian mission. We have also no information on the motive behind the move," he added.

Abdullah said no group or individual had come forward to claim responsibility for the attack.

"Normally they do, but they have not in this case," he told newsmen at his office at the Ministry here.

Abdullah also said that the embassy staff did not receive any threat, verbal or written, prior to the incident.

The mission has a staff of 10 but most are residing outside the embassy premises. This is the first attack on a foreign mission since the UN-sponsored elections almost one year ago.

Such attacks using small arms were common during the run-up to the elections and it was believed to be an intimidation tactic against foreign governments supportive of such a democratic exercise.

Malaysia is one of the most active regional players involved in the peace process in Cambodia.

Abdullah said the embassy would continue with its daily operations despite the attack as the situation was under control.

# into bombing