

World body has failed to prevent the killings in Rwanda as in Bos

UN is useless, says Dr M

**By Manan Osman
and Rosli Zakaria**

KUALA TERENGGANU, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today delivered another broadside at the United Nations, calling it "useless" as a protector of the weak.

He said the world organisation, by its indecision, failed to prevent the genocide of more than 500,000 people in Rwanda just as it had failed to halt the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"I consider the UN, because of its inaction, guilty of allowing the killings in Rwanda," the Prime Minister said. "The UN is to be blamed because of the ditherings in the Security Council."

He was responding to questions from reporters at the Sultan Mahmud Airport before leaving for a two-day visit to Pulau Langkawi. Earlier, he had opened the 9th World Taekwondo Championship (ITF) at the Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah Stadium.

The Prime Minister said the UN had earlier this year pulled out its peacekeepers from Rwanda leaving only a token force to take charge of the highly volatile situation in the unfortunate country.

But if a similar incident had occurred in "a certain country" he was confident the UN would have quickly mobilised all nations to send their troops, even if the number killed was small.

Asked to comment on re-

ports that UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali had suggested the Security Council consider pulling out the UN Protection Force (Unprofor) from Bosnia-Herzegovina if there was a peace pact, he said the UN was "useless" in its role as protector of weak nations.

"It does not want to save the Bosnians, but on the other hand it is threatening the Bosnians to accept peace or the UN forces would be pulled out and let everyone die at the hands of the enemy," he said.

"We are not satisfied with (Yasushi) Akashi, the UN Special Envoy in Bosnia, or Boutros-Ghali. There has been no discussion with other nations."

Dr Mahathir said the five superpowers were not committed to a resolution of the issue. They would help only when their interests were affected. "But if it just involves the killing of other people, they will not help," he said.

A foreign news agency report earlier quoted Boutros-Ghali as saying that the Security Council should consider pulling out the UN force in the Balkans if there was a peace pact, saying that only major powers such as the United States could enforce it.

The present 35,000-strong Unprofor was too small to implement a peace pact, he was reported to have said in a letter to the council. If major powers decided to take military measures to force Serb compliance, Unprofor's position would become untenable.