

Dr M: UN responsible for tragedy in Rwanda

S - 23 JUL 1994

By **STEPHEN THEN**



Taekwondo Championship here.

KUALA TERENGGANU: The United Nations must be held accountable for the tragedy in Rwanda, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

—In expressing his concern over the massive loss of lives and suffering in Rwanda, the Prime Minister said the United Nations had failed again in its responsibility to protect the innocent.

“I consider the UN as being responsible for the tragedy in Rwanda (as) more than 500,000 people have been killed so far but no action has been taken to stop the crisis.

“Instead, the UN has withdrawn its soldiers from Rwanda.

“That is why so many have died. They did not take immediate measures to stop the crisis when it started,” he said.

He was speaking to reporters at the Kuala Terengganu airport after launching the 9th World

Dr Mahathir also deplored the slow action taken by the major world powers in handling the crisis in Rwanda.

“If the war affected certain countries, I am sure the UN would call on members to send soldiers even though the situation may not be critical.

“What the UN values is not human lives, but economic and other interests of certain nations.”

The Prime Minister said there was an “uncanny resemblance” between the way the UN and the superpowers handled the Rwandan crisis and also that in Bosnia.

“I feel the UN is no longer useful as a body to defend weaker countries.

“In Bosnia, they did not take any concrete action.

“They even threatened that if the peace plan is not accepted, the body will withdraw its peacekeepers and let the massacre continue.”