

# PM: Give our UN troops more arms

GENTING HIGHLANDS, Mon. — Malaysian troops carrying out United Nations peacekeeping duties in Bosnia should be provided with more weapons to cope with the new scenario in the war-torn country, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the Government had informed the UN of this following a pledge by Serb leader Radovan Karadzic that the Serbs would fight

on alone despite losing the support of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and being under Nato air attacks.

Speaking at a Press conference after opening the Heads of Mission Conference here, Dr Mahathir said the role of UN forces in Bosnia had now changed from a passive to an active one.

"We want our troops to be prepared, but the weapons must come from the UN," he added.

The Prime Minister was asked to comment on Karadzic's statement to fight on and his refusal to accept the latest peace plan drawn up by the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia.

"Our troops must be provided with adequate weapons. The role of the UN in Bosnia has changed from passive to active and maybe the UN will now take action to attack the Serb forces.

"The Serbs no longer have

the support of Serbia. So the UN should no longer fear that its actions would ignite the Third World War."

The Prime Minister also said the UN had initially refused to provide adequate weapons as the troops were on a peacekeeping mission.

He said since their role had now changed to "peace-enforcing", perhaps the UN would reconsider.

Malaysia has 1,500 troops serving under the UN banner in Bosnia.