

# PM: I don't think Kuwait is in any real danger

LANGKAWI, Mon. — Malaysia does not believe that Kuwait is in any imminent danger of a second invasion from Iraq since the 1990 war, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said: "They are not that stupid as some people think ... they will not want their country to be destroyed for the second time.

"I don't think Kuwait is in danger ... I honestly don't think Kuwait is in danger."

Dr Mahathir said this at a Press conference after declaring the Armed Forces Rapid Deployment Force operational here.

He was asked to comment on the possibility of another Gulf War following the build up of Iraqi troops along the Kuwaiti border.

Dr Mahathir then reiterated his call that the United Nations should stop the

victimisation of the Iraqis by certain "people" who are pressing for the ouster of the Iraqi Government.

He said the people of Iraq should not be made to suffer by imposing sanctions on food and medical supplies just because certain countries in the UN wanted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to be toppled.

"The sanctions on food and medical supplies have been imposed for four years and I have been informed that about one million children and aged people died due to insufficient food and medical treatment," he added.

Dr Mahathir said toppling a Government was not easy, and advised those out to topple the Iraqi Government to let it fall by itself.

"We shouldn't pressure the people by denying them food ... this is not ancient days where you lay siege around the city

until they feed on mice. This is modern times, we don't do such things."

On whether Malaysia would take part in military operations against Iraq if the war broke out, Dr Mahathir said: "Malaysia did not participate in the previous operations (1990 Gulf War)."

He said if war broke out, it could be a result of provocation.

"We don't agree with provocation. If they want to topple the Government, don't torture the people."

Dr Mahathir called on the parties concerned about their interests in Kuwait to instead help the Bosnians.

"Why not spend that money in Bosnia and make sure the Serbs do not kill.

"I think by comparison to Iraq, the Serbs have killed, displaced and raped more people ... but they don't bother about the Bosnians," he said.