

# PM: US move on embargo timely

**By S. Jayakrishnan  
and Saiful  
Mahathir Nordin**

PEKAN, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today welcomed the US decision to stop enforcing the arms embargo against the Bosnian Government but expressed concern over possible withdrawal of Nato forces.

The Prime Minister said the move was timely and appeared to be in line with the concept of human rights espoused by US President Bill Clinton.

"We welcome the US decision. What is the point of denying the Bosnians arms supplies with which they can defend themselves? What we are concerned

about is the possible withdrawal of Nato forces from Bosnia-Herzegovina. If that were to happen, we will be left all alone to defend ourselves."

Dr Mahathir said this at a Press conference after he officially opened the Usahasama Proton-DRB Sdn Bhd (USPD) production facility at the Automotive Manufacturers Malaysia Assembly Plant here.

He was commenting on a report today that the Clinton administration had broken with its European allies and directed the US military to stop enforcing the arms embargo beginning today.

Responding to a question, Dr Mahathir said he was not questioning Clinton's sincerity over the move but that it was in accordance

with Malaysia's position on Bosnia.

Dr Mahathir said: "I am not questioning Clinton's sincerity. We cannot ascertain what is in someone's heart. What his intentions are we don't know. What we know is that his actions are consistent with our stand and we appreciate the gesture."

Dr Mahathir said he had been told that Unprofor (the United Nations Protection Force) had so far only watched as the Serbs killed the Bosnians and retreated in the face of Serbian aggression.

"Unprofor merely watches Serbs killing the Bosnians and they just retreat from the area. So what is the point. Let the Bosnians have their own arms to defend themselves."

"It is not for them to use the

weapons against others but merely to defend themselves. To me this is not just. Many are not prepared to defend them...on top of that, we don't allow them (the Bosnians) to defend themselves. It's as if we are allowing others to perform murders in front of our own eyes. It's all hypocrisy...."

Dr Mahathir also said that Malbatt forces would continue to remain in Bosnia as long as their services were required by Unprofor.

"What we are concerned about is that Nato forces will withdraw from Bosnia to save themselves and we will be left behind. At the same time, we will need weapons to defend ourselves. So far, we have been told that we will not need heavy weapons."