

# Dr M: Renewed sanctions against Iraq grossly unfair

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described as "grossly unfair" the UN Security Council's decision to renew sanctions against Iraq despite Baghdad's formal recognition of Kuwait.

He said the Security Council should revert this decision as the action amounted to torturing the innocent Iraqi people, who had suffered enough.

The council, he noted, appeared to be trying to impose a lot of hardship on the Iraqis so that they would be forced to overthrow President Saddam Hussein.

"This is very unfair because the people of Iraq have suffered enough," he told a Press Conference at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport here on his return from the Apec leaders' meeting in Bogor, Indonesia.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on the decision of the 15-member council

which met in an informal session in New York yesterday after Iraq met a key condition for lifting the four-year-old sanctions by formally recognising Kuwait as a sovereign nation.

He said since Iraq had recognised Kuwait, the Security Council should lift the sanctions against Iraq imposed after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

He questioned the motive behind the Security Council's move to renew the sanctions.

"What do they (Security Council) want out of Iraq — to remove Saddam Hussein?" he asked.

"If that was the case, why don't they (Security Council) do it?"

He said it was unfair for the Security Council to continue imposing the sanctions against Iraq "just because they wanted Saddam to be ousted."

Dr Mahathir was met on arrival by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar

Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister, who was accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, left for Jakarta on Monday to join 17 other leaders from Asia-Pacific countries for the meeting yesterday.

While in Indonesia, Dr Mahathir called on President Suharto and held bilateral talks with several other Prime Ministers including Paul Keating of Australia and Julius Chan of Papua New Guinea.

The one-day Apec leaders' meeting came up with the 11-point Bogor Declaration charting out trade liberalisation for the region, which accounts for over half of the world's economic output.

Apec groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.