

Bosnia: PM criticises West for cowardly act

By S. Jayakrishnan

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today criticised the West for its "cowardly act" and hypocrisy over the raging conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He hit out at the Western powers for doing little in the war-torn country and said they were retreating when people were being slaugh-

tered.

"It's clear that all this talk about human rights by the West is so much nonsense.

"Please report that in your Press...the last time I said this you were too careful not to hurt the feelings of those people...its all hypocrisy (by the Western powers in Bosnia)."

He said this when asked by reporters if the Govern-

ment had submitted the names of the two Malaysians invited by the Bosnian Government to sit on the proposed Bosnian Board of Reconstruction and Development.

Dr Mahathir added that the Government had not and that it was much more concerned about what was happening in Bosnia.

He was speaking to reporters at a Press confer-

ence after launching the Upgrading of the JARING (Joint Advanced Research Integrated Networking Project) at the Mimos office in Exchange Square in Damansara Heights here.

Bosnian Prime Minister Dr Haris Silajdzic had asked for two Malaysians to sit on its Board of Reconstruction and Development during discussions with Dr Mahathir on his official visit

here on Oct 26.

One of the Malaysians will serve as director of strategic planning while the other will be an ordinary member.

Dr Mahathir said the Western powers in Bosnia-Herzegovina were there to defend the Bosnians but instead they had done nothing.

"And they are talking

about withdrawing their troops...its a very cowardly act.

"You are there supposedly to save people and when people are attacked you withdraw and leave people to be slaughtered.

"And yet they talk about human rights in Malaysia and human rights in other countries...I think its better if they shut up," added a visibly upset Dr Mahathir.

(P) Dr. M.