
PM: Decision on troops made earlier

ALOR STAR, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government's decision to deploy more troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina was made much earlier than the United Nations' decision to request other nations for more peacekeepers.

"We made the decision much earlier than the United Nations' request.

"We decided to send more troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina because we feared more Serb aggression following the threats by certain European countries to desert the Bosnians," he told reporters today after a brief visit to Holiday Inn Resort Pedu Lake in Pedu, about 90km from here.

Dr Mahathir was asked by reporters to comment on the

Cabinet's decision to increase its troop strength in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1,633 to about 3,000 men.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak yesterday said the Government had offered the UN another mechanised battalion and two mechanised companies.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia feared that the European countries were no longer

keen to help the Bosnians.

"Although they have been talking about human rights, their only priorities are their own human rights.

"When they decided to leave Bosnia, we made a decision to increase our troops and equipment.

"Since the United Nations has requested for more troops, that's fine, we will increase," he added.
