

PM: Nuke weapons should not be allowed

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reiterated Malaysia's stand on nuclear weapons, saying that no country should be allowed to have them.

"No country, whether small or big, already in possession of nuclear weapons or not, should have nuclear weapons," he told reporters after opening the Kuala Lumpur/Selangor Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry building here.

Dr. Mahathir was asked why certain countries were allowed to possess nuclear weapons while others were barred from doing so.

"Why is it that Israel can have nuclear weapons but its Arab neighbours ... Iraq, cannot? This is not right.

"By right, Israel should not have nuclear weapons, and this also applies to Iraq, the United States, Britain and certainly France," he said.

He said at least China conducted nuclear tests in its own country but France considered its testing to be safe as it was conducted in another country.

Dr Mahathir added that France had resorted to storming the *Rainbow Warrior* manned by anti-nuclear activists in order to protect France's move to test nuclear weapons in the South Pacific.