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1997 24 93

# West may retaliate against decision, says Dr M

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LANGKAWI, Sun. — The Western powers may retaliate against Malaysia's intention to sell arms to Bosnia Herzegovina but "we strongly believe that every country has the right to defend itself", Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said while the United Nations was actively preventing the Bosnians from protecting themselves, they (UN) were encouraging the Serbs to attack and occupy Bosnian territory.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was willing to sell arms to Bosnia in the light of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) declaration that the UN arms embargo on the country was invalid.

The OIC declaration was issued after a meeting of Foreign Ministers of eight member countries, including Malaysia, Nato member Turkey and Iran who form an OIC "contact group" on Bosnia.

Others which attended the Geneva meeting were Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Egypt.

Asked today whether the decision would provoke the Western powers to retaliate against Malaysia, the Prime Minister replied: "Maybe they will, I don't know. Well, we will see."

"But the fact remains that the UN guarantees that every country has the right to defend itself.

"In the case of Bosnia, the United Nations are actively preventing the Bosnians from protecting and defending themselves.

"They are also encouraging the Serbs to attack and occupy Bosnian territory," he told reporters after visiting several on-going projects here.

Dr Mahathir said it was obvious that the UN was allowing the invasion of Bosnian territory by the Serbs to present a *fait accompli*.

"They would then say they could no longer do anything except to accept a *fait accompli*," he added.

The Prime Minister was also unhappy with the UN for not allowing Malaysia to increase the firepower of its peacekeepers in Bosnia.

"They turned down our request to supply heavy weapons to our troops but they allowed the Nato troops to be equipped with heavy weapons to save themselves and not the Bosnians.

"This is another injustice practised by people who have been frequently talking about human rights. What are human rights? What are our rights, I want to know," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the attitude of the Western powers towards Bosnia showed as if they were conspiring with the Serbs to slaughter the Bosnians.

"While the UN does not allow the Bosnians to be armed, they also do not

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# 'UN leaders should be thrown out'

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allow the Bosnians to be defended," he added.

Asked to comment on the stripping of veto power from special UN representative Yasushi Akashi on Nato air strikes over Bosnia by Western nations attending the international crisis meeting on Bosnia in London, Dr Mahathir said: "I think he should be thrown out completely. Both he and (UN secretary-general Boutros)

Boutros-Ghali and all the others.

"They have been telling lies and trying to defend the Serbs," he added.

On a suggestion that countries unhappy with the manner UN was handling the Bosnia issue quit the world body, the Prime Minister said:

"The UN is one thing but the people who are in the wrong are the people who are running the UN and

those who have the veto powers."

"As much as Haris (Silajdzic, the Bosnian Prime Minister) said, it is not the people of Britain to be blamed but the Government of Britain which is not willing to take any risk because to them most importantly they should be able to win election," he said, adding that the British Government was afraid of becoming unpopular.