

Heed the people's wishes, West told

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Leaders of Western powers should heed the voices of their own people calling for the lifting of the United Nations arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"Generally, the people in America support the lifting of the (UN) arms embargo and most people in Europe also support the move."

It was only their Governments that were not in favour of the move despite the atrocities being committed by the Serbs, he told Bernama after making a farewell call on Mongolian Prime Minister Puntsagiin Jasrai at a hotel here. Jasrai arrived here on Wednesday for a four-day official visit.

Commenting on the overwhelming vote by the United States Senate on Wednesday to require President Bill Clinton to lift the arms embargo, Dr Mahathir said the problem was that the US administration was opposed to the move.

"Has he lifted the arms embargo?" he asked. The US Senate voted 69-29 to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia.

The four-year-old arms embargo has rendered the Bosnian people virtually defenceless against the onslaught of the Serbs.

In **Bandar Seri Begawan**, S. Jayakrishnan reports Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as saying that the US Senate's decision reflects the wishes of many people both in the US and Europe and should not be regarded as an independent stand.

He said the decision also showed that the Organisation of Islamic Conference's position to assist the Bosnians was not an independent stand.

"Other countries, whether in Europe or the US, also share the same view that the arms embargo on Bosnia should be lifted and this is proven by the passage of the Bill in the US Senate."

Abdullah was speaking to reporters after meeting Nguyen Manh Cam and Kasem S. Kasemseri, his Vietnamese and Thai counterparts respectively, at the Assarraa guesthouse.