

# Quit report: PM wants details

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he had asked Wisma Putra to get the details on why Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic had decided to resign.

Dr Mahathir said he had asked Wisma Putra officials to contact Silajdic or other Bosnian leaders on the matter.

He was commenting on news report that Silajdzic had decided to resign and on the split within the Bosnian government.

It was reported that Silajdzic, who took up his post in November 1993, had decided to quit following his

dispute with Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbey.

Asked whether Silajdzic's resignation would adversely affect efforts by Malaysia and other nations to help Bosnia in the war against the Serbs, Dr Mahathir said:

"We are not certain on the situation there, I have asked Wisma Putra to get the details," he said after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting here today.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, expressed Malaysia's hope for all quarters in Bosnia to unite in facing aggression by the Serbs.

Asked on his recent meet-

ing with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who paid a courtesy call on him yesterday, Dr Mahathir said he had explained to Christopher Malaysia's views on the war in Bosnia.

Asked on Christopher's request for Malaysia to give the final chance to the United Nations Protection Force (Unprofor) to do its job in Bosnia, Dr Mahathir said he was puzzled as to what the former meant.

"We consider it strange...after sending one group of troops, there should be another group to protect the first group.

"We fail to understand the existence of the Rapid Reac-

tion Force to help the peacekeepers...it is like play-acting."

Dr Mahathir said he had also told Christopher to request President Bill Clinton not to veto the decision of the US House of Representatives and Senate to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia.

On the hope expressed by Christopher that he would attend the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation meeting in Osaka, Japan, in November because Clinton wished to meet him, Dr Mahathir said his reply was that he had yet to decide.

"If I go there and he (Clinton) goes there, we will meet," he said.