

Dr M: No guarantee Bosnians 'safe from Serbs

SHAH ALAM, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Bosnian Muslims will continue to live in fear as long as they are not in a position to defend themselves.

"There is no guarantee that the Serb terrorists will not terrorise again," he told reporters when asked to comment on the Geneva peace agreement achieved by the warring factions in the former Yugoslavia which calls for the establishment of Serb territory within Bosnia.

Dr Mahathir said the fact was that although the Bosnian Muslims had consented to the agreement, giving 49 per cent of the land (to the Serbs) represented a gift to the terrorists (Serbs).

This, he said, was despite the fact that the United Nations had always maintained that aggressors should not be rewarded.

"But what we see is that they have agreed to present a gift to the aggressors by giving land to them.

"It appears that it (the agreement) is a move towards peace but as long as the Bosnians do not have the ability to defend themselves, they will live under fear and there is no guarantee that the Serbs will not commit aggression again.

"What is happening now is that they are rewarding the aggressors with land," he said, adding that the world knew that the Bosnian Serbs had only about 30 per cent of the land before.

Dr Mahathir said he could not understand the attitude of Russia ignoring the atrocities committed by the Serb terrorists.

Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian Foreign Ministers issued a statement after the United States sponsored Geneva talks that Bosnia would consist of two entities — the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska.