

# Malaysia wants no restrictions on NAM membership

MALAYSIA yesterday made it clear to the 113 members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) that it will strongly oppose any attempt to block the entry of aspiring members into the movement, be it as members, observers or guests.

Permanent Representative to the United Nations Tan Sri Razali Ismail registered Malaysia's strong stand at the first day of the senior officers meeting at the 11th NAM Summit here yesterday.

"We do not see any justification in the objection raised by Zimbabwe on the application for membership by Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We also see no reason as to why North Korea should object to Japan's application for guest status and why Cyprus should object to Macedonia's application for observer status," he told Malaysian journalists at the end of the first day meeting.

Certain Arab countries



**11th NON-ALIGNED  
MOVEMENT SUMMIT IN  
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have also objected to Costa Rica's application for membership as the latter had recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Razali said Malaysia was of the opinion that such matters should not delay discussions on the more serious issues.

North Korea is against Japan's admission as a guest to the movement due to Japan's aggression and atrocities during the Second World War.

Zimbabwe is now strong-

ly objecting to Bosnia-Herzegovina's application to join NAM although the reasoning is that Zimbabwe wants the problems in the former Yugoslavian state to be solved first.

But many believe that Zimbabwe's objection was more because of its long-standing relationship with the former Yugoslavia.

"Malaysia feels that NAM must begin to mature and evolve itself to accept that the concept of consensus does not allow or place the movement in a position where the majority's decision can be vetoed by a few resisting countries," he said, adding that Malaysia's stand was supported by many countries.

Razali said in the case of Japan, it was very clear that almost every country was in favour of Japan's application for guest status.

"We do not believe in the dictatorship of the minority. This point was made very clearly," he said.

Razali expressed disap-

pointment that the Colombian chairman refrained from making a conclusion that a majority of the members wanted to accept the application of these countries.

"The chairman should have applied professional integrity. Instead, he (Julio Londono Paredes) decided to ask for more time," he said.

Meanwhile, the Press has been barred from entering the convention centre where the meetings are held.

Reporters, confined to the Press centre, were unable to meet delegates for comments because of the tight security.

Non-Spanish speaking journalists have been facing difficulties in obtaining translated documents in time.

Most of the documents are only available in Spanish. Even the documents of the meeting are prepared in Spanish and later translated to English, which is time consuming.