

Dr M calls again for reform of UN, Security Council

IN a call consistent with his previous statements on the subject, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad urged fellow-members of the Non-Aligned Movement to insist on the democratisation of the world's multilateral system, including the reform of the UN Security Council.

Dr Mahathir said that while South-South relations were significant, NAM members should not ignore or downplay their historical political solidarity at the international level.

NAM, the Prime Minister said, should not be reduced to being a forum to seek support for its members' candidature.

"This movement has traditionally championed the cause of a just and equitable world order. It has vigorously pursued egalitarianism and social justice in addressing the asymmetries in the multilateral system.

"The democratisation of the multilateral system, including the reform of the Security Council, has remained important objectives of this movement," Dr Mahathir said in his speech at the movement's 11th Summit here.

Dr Mahathir said: "For the first time, the major powers are equally anxious to have these reforms, although for different reasons. It is important, therefore, that the South articulate its own agenda for reform of the multilateral system.

"The restructuring of the system should be designed to facilitate a comprehensive multilateral framework which will strengthen global peace, security, economic growth and development.

"The institutional structures that deal with issues of war and peace, growth and development need to be reformed taking into ac-

count the interests of developing countries.

"We must ensure that the tragedies of Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia and Cambodia are not repeated. The present UN and the Security Council cannot be entrusted with the task of forestalling such tragedies."

The Prime Minister said that in Bosnia, more than three years of brutality and massacres by the Serbs were tolerated while the UN and Nato argued over who had authority.

"But for the demand by the American Congress and Senate for the arms embargo against Bosnia to be lifted, and the need for the Government of the United States to justify its policies, we would not have seen the kind of action which forced the Bosnian Serbs to finally agree to settlement by negotiations," he said.

Dr Mahathir said "De-

spite the delay, the US Government should be congratulated for forcing Nato and the UN to act finally. The UN and the Secretariat have been more of an obstruction to peace than upholding the principles of the UN.

"Clearly, the UN, its Secretariat and, in particular, the Security Council must be reformed if the world is to be made safe from the kind of gross injustices we see everywhere today."

In conclusion, the Prime Minister said: "As we prepare to leave Cartagena, we must rededicate our collective determination to promote our common agenda. Our struggle for a better and more equitable world and a secure future premised on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter is far from over.

"We need to soldier on with unabated zeal and resoluteness of purpose if we are to realise these goals."