

APEC Summit: Cabinet to decide if PM will go

**By K.P. Waran and
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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The Cabinet which meets tomorrow will decide whether Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad should attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Osaka on Nov 19.

Dr Mahathir, who met Masajuro Shiokawa, a senior official in the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan and personal representative of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, said he would brief the Cabinet on his discussions with Shiokawa.

"The Cabinet will then make a decision," he said in response to reporters' questions after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting.

When asked whether there were any positive indications that he might go for the meeting, he said: "Wait for the decision tomorrow".

Dr Mahathir attended the last APEC Summit in Jakarta in 1994 but did not attend the Seattle meeting called by US president Bill Clinton in 1993.

It is learnt that among Shiokawa's agenda during his five-day trip to Malaysia was to convince Dr Mahathir to attend the meeting.

Dr Mahathir said the supreme council endorsed the resolution taken by 25 political parties last Thursday against nuclear arms and nuclear testing especially in view of the on-going tests carried out by France in the South Pacific.

He said the council was satisfied there was co-operation and that there was a common stand among political parties on that issue.

"I have also informed the supreme council that during the meeting among the political parties some had expressed the view that similar meetings should be held to discuss issues which threaten the nation or have an effect on the country," he said.

He added the council agreed that such meetings could be held to come up with a national stand on issues that affected the nation.

Last Thursday in a historic and unprecedented meeting, 25 political parties from the ruling Barisan Nasional and the Opposition stood united against nuclear weapons and the testing of such arms.

A memorandum signed by leaders of the parties strongly condemned France for its resumption of nuclear tests in the South Pacific in the face of worldwide protests calling it an immoral and highly irresponsible act — not only against the people of the South Pacific region but also against humanity.

Dr Mahathir said today that the memorandum would be submitted to France through its embassy here.