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GOOD TO GIVE ASEAN PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 27 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that giving Asean a permanent seat in the UN Security Council can help balance its attitude.

The Prime Minister said it would be good if Asean could be a member of the Security Council permanently.

Asean member countries could rotate the seat among themselves, he told reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang, near here, on his return from a three-day working visit to Japan.

He said this when commenting on a statement that France was open to the idea of Asean having a permanent seat in the Security Council.

French Ambassador to Thailand Gerard Coste was quoted by the press today as saying that the matter would be one of the issues to be raised at the Asia-Europe meeting in Bangkok on March 1 and 2.

The Prime Minister also said Malaysia would assist Bosnia in any possible way, whether through military cooperation or reconstruction efforts.

On his visit to Japan, Dr Mahathir said there was a great deal of possibilities for cooperation and joint ventures between Malaysia and technologically advanced Japanese companies, including small-scale industries which produce components and multinationals like Sony.

Dr Mahathir, among other things, surveyed the components industry and visited Sony to look for the latest inventions to be used in the construction of a multimedia super corridor in Malaysia.

He also called on Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. -- Bernama  
AFY YBY