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Malaysia confident of Security Council seat

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Malaysia is confident of securing a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council for the 1999-2001 term, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said many countries had said that they would support Malaysia's bid to secure a seat in the 15-member council.

Speaking after attending the MCA open house at the party's headquarters in Jalan Ampang, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia wanted to voice the views and opinions of the majority in the Security Council.

"That is the reason we are bidding for the seat," he said.

On Monday, Colombian Foreign Minister Dr Maria Emma Mejia Velez had said her country would support Malaysia's bid for a non-permanent seat in the Security Council.

She expressed confidence that Malaysia would be able to play an active role in the council.

Malaysia, which has made it known that it will bid for a seat for the 1999-2001 term, was a non-permanent member of the powerful Security Council in 1965 and served a full two-year term in 1989-1990.

In 1965, Malaysia was elected for a split two-year term with then Czechoslovakia.

To another question, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had yet to consider a proposal that the Prime Minister should head the Non-Aligned Movement after the expiry of the term of South African leader Nelson Mandela.

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