

12 NOV 1998

PM HOPES IRAQ WILL NOT BE ATTACKED

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad hopes that Iraq will not be attacked over the United Nations arms inspection issue.

"I hope there is no attack. I hope people will sit down and talk to each other," he told reporters after launching the new Proton Perdana V6 and Satria GTi 1.8L here.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was against physical assault on anybody, whether it was an individual or a country.

He was responding to a question on the planned military strikes by the United States and Britain to punish the Gulf nation for its standoff with the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) responsible for eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Reports today said American forces have begun to converge on the Gulf as Iraqi President Saddam Hussein remained defiant on further weapons inspections despite a Security Council appeal.

-- BERNAMA
MAM ARA YBY