

Dr Mahathir: Attacks will not resolve anything

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Malaysia does not agree with the United States and Britain's attacks on Afghanistan as they will not help eradicate terrorism.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the attacks would not resolve anything as terrorism was not just concentrated in Afganistan but found elsewhere in the world too.

He said Malaysia was not going to support any party in the ongoing issue.

Speaking to reporters at the Parliament lobby, he said: "Our stand is that we feel efforts must be taken to find the reasons why these terrorists chose to resort to violence in the first place (See Page 7).

"We, on our part, are not going to do anything or support anybody in this matter.

"As far as we can see, they (US and Britain) are not attacking the Muslims. If they are, then there are Muslims all over the world and they should be attacking all of them."

Dr Mahathir said that if at all Malaysia had to resort to violence, it would only do so if someone had acted similarly against it first.

"However, I would support the US if it resorted to violence against Israel as it (Israel) is killing many innocent Palestinians," he added.

He said this when asked about Malaysia's stand on the attacks against Afghanistan.

Dr Mahathir said the US and Britain's stand was that they were attacking those they believed to be terrorists.

On a report that Washington sent to Malaysia linking Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda movement

☐ PLEASE TURN TO
PAGE 2, COL 4

PM: I have not seen report personally

☐ FROM PAGE ONE
Nst - 9 OCT 2001

to the Sept 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Dr Mahathir said he had not personally seen the report.

"The report was only seen by my Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and he had told me that there was proof and I agree with my Minister," he said.

Asked if there were requests from the US to freeze assets of anyone here allegedly having links with the al-Qaeda movement, he said the Government had carried out detailed checks and there were no such accounts.

On whether the Government expected any form of violent demonstrations here in protest against the attacks on Afghanistan, he said the Government did not allow violence in the country.

"However, the handing over of memorandums is permissible, as long as it is done peacefully," he said.