

# Key to peace

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## Mid-East conflict must be resolved first, Dr M tells Bush

■ By YAP LENG KUEN

SHANGHAI: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told US President George W. Bush yesterday that international terrorism could not be easily overcome unless the Middle East crisis was resolved.

"I explained to him (Bush) the need to remove the causes of terrorism and I singled out the problem in Palestine (which is) the most important cause," said Dr Mahathir at a briefing for the Malaysian media after the meeting yesterday.

"President Bush said he has been urging them to settle their conflict. He accepts that there should be a Palestinian state and also an Israel (which is) something that the Palestinians must accept.

"He says the problem is that every time they try to get people together, somebody goes and spikes the whole thing by assassinating somebody or exploding bombs.

"So it's difficult but he thinks that it must be resolved, the question of the Palestinian conflict," said Dr Mahathir.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the issue could not be settled overnight but only a resolution of

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