

Our proposals now accepted

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Dr Mahathir: We seem to have been vindicated

From Hardev Kaur and Rupa Damodaran

MALAYSIA is happy that the numerous proposals it had made earlier are now being accepted around the world.

These include capital controls, detention without trial and bailouts of distressed companies.

"We seem to have been vindicated in every action we have taken, including currency controls which are now accepted," Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told Malaysian journalists.

"So we can feel very happy in Malaysia that many of the things that we proposed some time ago, and were rejected to a point that some newspapers even said we did not know anything about finance, are acceptable today."

Replying to a question, he said Malaysia's decision to take action against people who disrupted peace and "detention without trial" was now accepted.

On his proposal for an international conference on terrorism, Dr Mahathir said the response from the leaders with whom he had bi-

lateral meetings had been "quite positive". Most of them felt that there was a need to define terrorism before taking global action.

Earlier, he had met Russian President Vladimir Putin who also agreed on the need to deal with the root causes of terrorism. Putin said he was favourably inclined towards Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Meanwhile, AFP quoted a senior US official as saying that the leaders of Singapore, Peru and Brunei lined up yesterday behind the US war on terror in separate talks with President George W. Bush.

"All three expressed their support to the president for his leadership and pledged to do what they can," the official told reporters following the talks on the margins of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit.

Bush met Brunei's Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah, Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo and Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong as part of a blitz of bilateral meetings.

"There was no specific offers made, other than ... the discussion of intelligence."