

24/07/2001

Take on Palestinian refugee doctors

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WE REFER to the report "Bid to increase intake of medical students" (NST, July 18) quoting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as saying that if they posted government doctors to rural areas, they'd resign.

In the 1950s, Egypt faced the same problem of doctors clustering in towns. This was solved when President Nasser brought in a law making entrance into any medical faculty conditional upon the applicant signing an agreement to serve the Government for five years; as government doctors they could then be posted to the remotest villages.

Under the present circumstances, understandably, the Government goes on employing foreign doctors. We would, therefore, plead for the acceptance of Palestinian doctor-refugees living in Lebanon.

Being refugees, they could only be trained where they may obtain scholarships - from the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries. It is now hoped that those degrees may be recognised and those Palestinian doctors accepted for service in Malaysia.