

Go after terrorists but not nations, says Dr M

By TAN KAH PENG

LONDON: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will tell his British counterpart Tony Blair that Malaysia is against labelling any country as terrorist during their talks at 10, Downing Street today.

"Go after the terrorists, but don't attack any country," he said on Saturday at the official residence of the Malaysian High Commissioner where he and his wife, Datuk Dr Siti Hasmah, had celebrated Hari Raya Aidiladha with the Malaysian community.

He said Malaysia disagreed with the accusation that certain countries were terrorist nations and instead wanted efforts focused in fighting terrorists and not invading "terrorist" countries.

"This is Malaysia's stand. I hope our actions will not arouse anger among Muslims," he told Malaysian journalists.

Dr Mahathir said while Israeli actions were not seen as terrorism, the reaction of the Palestinians to safeguard their territory was considered terrorist acts.

Israeli action is increasingly being seen in Europe as heavy-handed, with many analysts noting a growing disenchantment with the hawkish leadership of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, both at home and abroad.

"It is important to know what is the meaning of terrorism and who is a terrorist. We consider whoever commits a terrorist act as a terrorist," said Dr Mahathir.

On his recent historic trip to the Antarctica, Dr Mahathir said he met the Malaysians carrying out research there using the facilities of New Zealand and Australia.

He said Argentina would allow Malaysia to use its facilities there for research, adding that the country might set up research facilities in the Antarctica despite being a tropical country.