

# PM happy with denial from US

STAR 17 MAR 2002

MOSCOW: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is glad that the United States has denied accusations that Malaysia is a launch pad for terrorism.

The Prime Minister said Kuala Lumpur had always taken action against potential terrorists for its own interest and would help other countries if it helped serve their purpose.

"I'm very glad they have now discovered that the accusations levelled against

us are inaccurate. Of course, I am very happy.

"As (the United States) had said what we have done, we have done even before Sept 11, which means we are doing these things on our own.

"We are against terrorism and we will act against potential terrorists because it is for our own interest.

"If it coincides with the interest of the United States or other countries, we have no problem with that," he

told a press conference yesterday at the end of his four-day official visit to Russia.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's director Robert S. Mueller remark that a report in *Newsweek* magazine that Malaysia was a launch pad for terrorism was inaccurate.

The Prime Minister hoped that the magazine would report correctly on what was happening in Malaysia.