

PM to raise Mideast conflict at meeting with Bush

By IAN MCINTYRE

LANGKAWI: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who will be meeting US President George W. Bush next month, will raise the Israel-Palestine conflict in their discussions in Washington.

Confirming reports that he would visit the United States, Dr

Mahathir said he was accepting the invitation, scheduled for between May 12 and 14.

He said he had promised Palestinian Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi during their meeting last week that he would raise the Palestinian viewpoints to Bush.

On the Palestine crisis, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had

appealed to the international community to make an effort to pressure Israel to stop its attacks on the Palestinians.

“But Israel seems to be stubborn and arrogant to the extent that it has refused to meet the representative of the European Union,” he told reporters after a three-day visit to the island.

Asked how Malaysia could help

Palestine, Dr Mahathir said: “We can only apply pressure, we can’t go to war.”

“Besides the Palestinian issue, Dr Mahathir said the meeting would also provide an opportunity for him to explain the stand of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in efforts to fight terrorism.

He said the invitation was also a

good opportunity for him to explain Malaysia’s stand on terrorism.

“It’s good that he has invited me. I can give my views on various issues to Bush,” he said.

On reports of corruption in Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM), he said the relevant authorities would have to investigate the matter to ascertain the truth behind such allegations.

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