

# Whipping up support

Not 15 APR 2002

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun — Umno Youth will be in the frontline to encourage the grassroots to support the struggle of the Palestinian people, said its chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein.

Hishammuddin said Umno Youth has a vital role to play in consolidating the support of the people and to organise fund-raising campaigns for the fund.

“The movement will be firm and brave in voicing our stand on matters relating to the Palestinians. We want the world to acknowledge our voice as the voice of an Islamic nation.

“But for this to be successful, it needs grassroots support. We will be going round the States to help set up the fund for the Palestinian.

“We will mobilise our resources. This is our pledge to the Palestinians. This will show to all that we are not merely giving empty rhetoric,” he said when opening the

Pemuda Bukit Bintang delegates’ meeting yesterday.

Malaysia had set up a fund to help the Palestinians who are going through immense suffering at the hands of the Israeli military.

Called the “Palestinian People’s Humanitarian Fund”, it is aimed at channelling humanitarian aid to those facing severe hardship following the escalation of Israeli atrocities.

Hishammuddin also hit out at Pas for calling the movement a hypocrite when it (Umno Youth) did not send the memorandum calling on the international community to stop the relentless slaughter of Palestinians by the Israelis to the US embassy.

“This is such a stupid statement. Need we remind them that the Organisation of Islamic Conference countries wants Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to use his good offices to get in

touch with President George W. Bush?

“Umno Youth had submitted the memorandum to Dr Mahathir as he is expected to meet Bush himself to convey our disappointment with Israel”

Hishammuddin said the movement would organise a gathering in Johor Baru on April 21 in support of the Palestinians.