

# PM: We want a permanent political solution

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Besides his meeting next week with American President George W. Bush, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has also written to other world leaders seeking their support to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

This, the Prime Minister said, was part of the Government's efforts to help find a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Whether or not these efforts resulted in positive results would not be immediately known, Dr Mahathir said.

"But I know for sure we will continue to seek a permanent political solution to the conflict, even if it takes us one year, 10 years, 50 years or more," the Prime Minister said tonight.

Dr Mahathir was addressing about 3,000 people at a *Syarah-an Perdana* on 'Palestine and Humanity' organised by Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka. Pas president Datuk Fadzil Mohd Noor was the other speaker at the event.

Speaking off the cuff, Dr Mahathir said it was important to define who were the real enemies of the Palestinians. Once this was done, it would be easier to seek realistic solutions to the conflict.

The Prime Minister said it was erroneous to regard all Jews as enemies of Palestine since there were Jews who did

not agree with the stand of the Israeli Government. By the same token, there were also Christians and people from many other countries who disagreed with Israel.

Therefore, it would be pointless for anyone to criticise all non-Muslims and non-Jews as anti-Palestine, Dr Mahathir said. There were people and governments from Europe as well as Americans who were supportive of the Palestinians.

"For many years and decades, Muslims have not been united. But it is important now for Muslims and Islamic countries to forge unity.

"We may not be able to unite the whole Islamic world but unity between some of us is a positive step towards achieving our cause," he said.

Fadzil called on Muslims and international community to stop the genocide.

The international communi-

ty, he said, including world bodies such as the United Nations, should not allow themselves to be the proxy of any of the world powers.

Condemning the dissolution of the UN team to investigate the killing of Palestinians in Jenin, Fadzil said the decision had hurt the credibility of the world body.

"As what Dr Mahathir has said, the UN is an ineffective body."