

Dr Mahathir: We don't support war

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Malaysia today expressed hope that India and Pakistan would solve their current conflict through discussions and not by attacking each other.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia did not support war or confrontational means as options to settle disputes.

"I hope that they would go into discussions, and if the dispute cannot be resolved among them, then there should be a third-party involvement, as an arbitrator," Dr Mahathir said.

Asked if US or Russia should play peace-maker in the dispute, Dr Mahathir said it could even be the United Nations.

On the fate of Malaysians in both nations, Dr Mahathir said that

they should return if there were clear signs of a full-fledged war.

Meanwhile, the situation in Pakistan and India remained unchanged despite on-going diplomatic efforts to end the worsening conflict between the two nuclear-armed nations.

Malaysian High Commissioner to Pakistan in Islamabad, Datuk Sopian Ahmad, said today the situation remained the same amid the growing tension in the republic but there did not seem to be a turning point yet. The commission has advised Malaysians to leave Pakistan and preparations to evacuate have been made earlier.

"There are flights leaving the country on Malaysia Airlines for example, therefore there should be no

problem for Malaysians leaving Pakistan," Sopian said when contacted this morning.

There are currently 365 registered Malaysian residents in India and 330 in Pakistan.

Sopian said visitors were not advised to come to Pakistan right now and if Malaysians had plans to go there, the trips should be postponed.

"It is not advisable to come now for safety reasons as the situation here can be described as critical with mounting tension.

"Unless there are compelling reasons to come to Pakistan, all trips this way should not be made."

Sopian said the commission was closely monitoring the situation and would follow any directive to evacuate all Malaysians.