

Our stand on Palestine comes clear

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Malaysia's position in the world, including its stand on the Palestinian issue, is becoming more noticeable following Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Vatican City last week.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Bernard Dompok who said this today added: "I think the visit has brought home to the Vatican that we are a progressive nation with

people from diverse cultural and religious origins living in harmony."

He was speaking after the opening of the Seventh Annual Asia Oil and Gas Conference by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Dompok was commenting on the Prime Minister's meeting with Pope John Paul II.

Dr Mahathir's visit to the Vatican was the first by a

Malaysian head of government.

Dompok said the Vatican would like to see a third party intervention to stop the Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

In **Kota Kinabalu**, *Jawinder Kaur* reports DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang as saying the recent meeting between Dr Mahathir and the Pope should mark the beginning of a commitment by Malaysia to promote inter-religious dialogue.