

# US will attack Iraq 'for face'

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**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN:** The United States will wage a war on Iraq because President George W. Bush has pushed himself into a corner without any "face-saving" option, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"I feel that the US will definitely attack Iraq. War will break out because Bush said he will attack Iraq even if the United Nations do not agree.

"By saying this, Bush has now pushed himself into a corner. He will have to attack Iraq or else he will lose face.

"Bush will now do anything to (justify an) attack on Iraq. This war will affect the whole world," he said yesterday at a dialogue with Malaysian businessmen and professionals at a luncheon here.

Dr Mahathir, who was here for a two-day official visit, said

a US attack on Iraq would make the world unstable and unleash even more terrorist attacks by those angered by this sort of arrogance.

He said a war would also bring about dire consequences on the whole economy, and Malaysia would not be spared.

"Malaysia is a trading nation. Our trade is equal to 200% of our GDP. Our trade with the US amounts to 20% of the total trade volume overseas."

Dr Mahathir noted that money from many Muslim countries were mostly invested in bonds and savings in US banks and this money might have helped to finance aggression against Muslim nations.

"So we cannot fault others. We are the ones keeping our money in the US which indirectly helps to fund wars against Islamic countries."