

# PM: Hold dialogue on nuclear proliferation

**(STAR 16 OCT 2002)**

KUALA-LUMPUR: An international dialogue should be held to assess the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation and the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The Prime Minister said the discourse should look at the linkages between proliferation and disarmament, and the most effective way of addressing the problem.

"We have a duty to the world to urgently pursue such a dialogue," he said yesterday at the International Nuclear Conference 2002 being held at the PWTC.

Dr Mahathir said nations should not be blinded by narrow national interests in opposing the dialogue.

"The assessment should be conducted on a non-partisan and objective basis to avoid any unilateralist tendency, and a judgment made to address the problem of nuclear non-proliferation and export control," he said.

He said the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Conference or the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva should provide the avenue for such a dialogue.