

# PM: Too much focus on security but not on causes of terror

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HYDERABAD: There is now too much focus on security and defence globally following the Sept 11 attacks in the United States and not enough attention to the causes of terrorism, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said the world could not fight terrorism that way as it could not be known where and when the terrorists would strike.

The Prime Minister reiterated that the terrorism problem was not being handled properly, adding that unless the causes were identified and eliminated, the fight against terrorism would not see any progress.

Asked whether Malaysia would pressure certain countries to do more in the fight

against terrorism, Dr Mahathir replied that being a small country, it was not in the position to apply pressure on anyone.

"But we do express our views on the problem and whether people listen to us or not is a different matter.

"But we believe that we give comments based on the truth," he told reporters at the end of his two-day official trip to Andhra Pradesh.

On the US plan to attack Iraq, Dr Mahathir said such a move would not be productive as it would merely increase the animosity between the Muslims and the Europeans and Americans.

"It will not contribute towards the fight against terrorism," he added.