

War on Iraq spells bleak future: PM

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TOKYO: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has warned that an attack on Iraq may unleash the wrath of Muslims and spell a bleak future for the world.

"Frankly, I think it (the war against Iraq) is counter-productive, you may get oil but you will earn the hatred of 1.3 billion Muslims forever," he said yesterday. "I do hope that the war does not take place but if it does, then you can be assured of a very bleak future for the world order."

Mahathir said this during a question-and-answer session at a seminar here commemorating the 20th anni-

versary of the "Look East" policy adopted by Malaysia.

He said the world was not handling the terrorism issue properly and its future would be affected by this anger.

"The anger of Americans of being attacked the way they have not been attacked before and the anger of Muslims because they feel they have unjustly been condemned. So the future is not so good at the moment."

He said that in this climate, people would not feel safe anywhere.

Mahathir said that the world could not fight terrorism by expanding military strength because it would not

know where and when the terrorist would strike.

Saying that the strategy taken to fight against terrorism was wrong, he stressed that in fighting against terrorism, one needs to understand the root causes and eliminate them first.

On pre-emptive attacks, Mahathir asked what was there to stop other countries from doing the same without going to the United Nations.

"The world will become crazy and there will be assassinations, unmanned planes will be used to bomb and kill people and the world will be in a state of perpetual turmoil."—Bernama