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Appeal by Arafat to Dr M `significant'

PALESTINE'S cry to Malaysia for help shows that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is a Muslim leader who can be depended upon, a backbencher told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Datuk Mohd Zin Mohamed (BN-Shah Alam) said Dr Mahathir had displayed such leadership that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat did not turn to the Arab member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Datuk Mahadzir Mohd Khir (BN-Sungai Petani) then asked why Arafat did not call Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang or Pas spiritual leader Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat for help since they were leaders of an Islamic party.

His tongue-in-cheek question was criticised by Husam Musa (Pas-Kubang Kerian) as childish and petty.

Mohd Zin explained that Mahadzir was trying to show that Dr Mahathir was acknowledged as the only Muslim leader in the world who could be counted on.