

11 JUN 2002

Mahathir-UN

UN MUST RESOLVE INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

By: Mahrus Ibrahim

GENEVA, June 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Tuesday all international issues should be resolved by the United Nations and not by any particular grouping.

"Issues, whether on trade and security, should be left to the international community, which is the United Nations, to discuss and determine what action to take," the prime minister said at a news conference at the United Nations building here after delivering a keynote address at the 90th session of the International Labour Conference.

He was asked to comment on the coming G8 meeting of the world's industrialised countries in Canada which was likely to set terms on security measures to be taken following the Sept 11 attacks on the United States.

Dr Mahathir said that in the Palestinian issue, the United Nations should also play its role in separating the combatants.

However, he said, the United States, being the most powerful country, could help find peace in the region.

Dr Mahathir said another matter which should be left to the UN was the issue in Kashmir.

He said that by holding the Organisation of Islamic Conference meeting in Kuala Lumpur next year, Malaysia hoped to seek an understanding of its perceptions on what was happening in Palestine and other parts of the world.

The prime minister said Malaysia's stand on the Palestinian issue was clear in that it wanted Israel to retreat to its borders and for Arab refugees to return to their land.

"Nobody has the right to invade another country, even in the name of defence," he said.

On Malaysia's definition of terrorism, Dr Mahathir said the country's view was to condemn all forms of terrorism.

He said the failure of Muslim countries to have a common definition of terrorism was due to some mitigating factors, especially on Palestine.

"The Palestinians have have no choice. They have nobody to help," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said it was not logical for Israel to retaliate "by killing 10 Palestinians for every Israeli killed."

On the threat of militants in Malaysia, he said the government had to take measures to stop them from carrying out their horrendous acts.

-- BERNAMA

MAI JK