

11 MAY 2002

Mahathir-Palestine

DR MAHATHIR REITERATES MALAYSIA'S POLICY ON ISRAEL-PALESTINE ISSUE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in reiterating Malaysia's long held policy on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, said today that Malaysia has consistently called for a peaceful resolution to the conflict on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

In this connection, he said that Malaysia supports a two-state solution in which both Palestine and Israel would have the right to exist.

"We have insisted that negotiations are the only path to a peaceful resolution on this conflict and that military actions are no options for both sides," he said in a statement to clarify confusion arising from his remarks at the recent forum on Palestine.

Dr Mahathir had delivered a speech at the forum on "Palestine and Humanity" organised by the Dewan Bahasa and Pustaka and Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia here two days ago.

In his four-paragraph statement, Dr Mahathir said Kuala Lumpur supports all efforts towards finding a peaceful solution to the conflict, including the current important initiatives by the United States President George W. Bush administration as well as the Saudi peace plan.

President Bush's peace initiative include talks with Arab and Israeli leaders as well as close allies in Europe to try to resume the derailed peace process after almost 19 months of bloodbath which has claimed more than 1,600 Palestinian lives and about 500 Israelis.

The Saudi peace plan initiated by Crown Prince Abdullah Abdul Aziz calls for full Israeli's withdrawal from territories it occupied in the Six-Day War of 1967 and in return, Israel would be recognised by all the Arab League states.

In the statement, Dr Mahathir said that Malaysia condemned all forms of terrorism whatever the justification might be.

"Malaysia has condemned all forms of terrorism by militant groups or states on civilians as terrorism regardless of justification," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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