

# Anti-war stance

SUN 21 FEB 2003

KL against using it  
to resolve conflicts,  
says Mahathir

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Issues on the possibility of war in Iraq and opposition to war as a means to resolve conflicts are the main points Malaysia wants to make at the 13th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit.

Malaysia wants to state its stand that it disagrees to resorting to war to resolve conflicts between countries, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The prime minister said Malaysia also disagrees to killings as a way to pursue the politics of a country, reports Bernama.

"We also do not agree to pre-emptive actions because (actually) nobody has the right to claim that his country is in danger and so he has to launch pre-emptive strikes on a country which is suspected to attack his country," he told a media conference after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting.

Mahathir was responding to a question on issues to be raised by Malaysia at the six-day summit which started yesterday with the Senior Officials' Meeting.

Asked if the mammoth demonstrations worldwide will help prevent a war in Iraq, he said the United States will surely say the

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protests do not reflect the majority view.

"From the demonstrations throughout the world ... and these are the biggest ever demonstrations, a show of opposition by the people ... but of course, the US can claim that these do not reflect the total opinion of the people.

"However, when Malaysia had a demonstration by 200 or 300 people, they were suggesting that this government (the Barisan Nasional government) should resign because the people do not like us.

"Now that millions are demonstrating against them, they do not talk in the same way," he said.

Commenting on reports that the Palestinian leadership had sought Malaysia's help to enable President Yasser Arafat to attend the NAM Summit, Mahathir said: "We can help, but we fear ... whether he can go back or not.

"We know that Israel's intention is to banish Arafat from his country," he said.

The Palestinian authority had asked for Mahathir's help, in his capacity as the incoming NAM chairman, to negotiate with the United States to enable Arafat to attend the summit.