

Dr M: Give peace a chance

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KUALA LUMPUR: "Give peace a chance to solve problems" was the message Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad sent out at the Peace Rally at Bukit Jalil Stadium here last night.

He said Malaysians' struggle for peace would not be confined to (yesterday's) rally but would continue until the "thinking that killing was the means of solving problems changed."

"We will join the peace-loving people in other countries to continue this noble struggle and there are millions of such people in every country.

"It is an important struggle, we have to stop using war and killing people to resolve problems," the prime minister told the 200,000-odd crowd.

He said he feared that the superpowers would not stop even after going to war with Iraq, and would go after North Korea, Iran and other countries.

He said it was American journalists themselves who claimed that the US was out to attack Iraq in order to lay their hands on Iraqi oil and he feared that the war would cause a world disaster as the Iraqis would ignite their oilfields.



People's Alliance For Peace Malaysia
Perikatan Keamanan Rakyat Malaysia

"This will pollute the world and it will eventually reach Malaysia," said Dr Mahathir who hoped the prayers recited by people of all religions at the stadium last night would avert a war on Iraq.

Dr Mahathir called on developed countries to respect the freedom of countries and stop the slaughtering of the people to ensure the dominance over the world, as well as the voice of the world.

He said developed countries were using primitive means despite claiming that they were very intelligent and cultured.

"The Westerners claim to have a great civilisation but they behave like Stone-Age people whenever they are confronted with problems.

"They kill people and overthrow governments to achieve

their goals."

He said the root cause of war and terrorism in today's world was the unresolved Palestine issue and the atrocities committed by the Israelis against the Palestinians.

"Although the developed countries ignored this issue, there are many who sympathised with the Palestinians," he said, adding that Malaysians wanted Palestinians freed of oppressions.

He also pointed out that Americans themselves were against their Government's stand in going to war with Iraq.

Earlier, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, who is the patron of Malaysians for Peace, said the people who had turned out in such large groups had done so without fear or favour for a common course - world peace.

"Tonight we are gathered regardless of race and religion and demand for peace.

"We want to say no to war in Iraq, we want to free the Palestine people, say no to weapons of mass destruction, which include weapons of mass destruction possessed by Israel and the US.

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