

Dr M: Putin invited to gain insight

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CYBERJAYA: The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has invited Russian president Vladimir Putin to attend the summit to have a better picture of Islam and Muslims, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

On what message the OIC would send to Putin about the killing and oppression of Chechens, Dr Mahathir said the OIC members were expected to give their views on the matter.

"He will listen to the views expressed. I don't know what they

are going to say.

"We invite him because we want him to know what Islam is all about and what Muslims are like," said Dr Mahathir, who said the OIC summit would discuss the present situation in the Muslim world.

He said this yesterday after the official launch of InventQJaya, the country's first mega research and development laboratory here. The 28,000 sq metre facility is a government-backed venture with US-based Reveo Inc.

Putin, who would attend the sum-

mit as a special guest of Malaysia, would arrive on Thursday, in time for the start of the summit-level meeting, where he is expected to make an address.

On the attack in Syria by Israel, Dr Mahathir said it was an Israeli act to force the hands of the United States.

"To force the hands of the United States, Israel invades Syria and now the Americans will have to support it, otherwise the candidates for presidency in United States will lose the Jewish votes."