

Jews stage protest against PM's speech

BY JOHAN FERNANDEZ

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NEW YORK: About 100 people carrying banners and placards held a peaceful protest outside the Malaysian Mission and Consulate-General at the 43rd Street East here on Thursday.

The group, mainly Jews from the former Soviet Union and mostly senior citizens, were protesting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech at the 10th Organisation of the Islamic Countries (OIC) Summit in Kuala Lumpur last week where he said the Jews ruled the world by proxy and got others to fight for them.

They began gathering from 5pm in almost freezing temperatures in

an area in front of the mission that had been cordoned off by police.

They sang songs and listened to speeches by various Jewish leaders condemning Dr Mahathir's speech as anti-Semitic.

Malaysian parliamentarians who were here to attend the UN General Assembly were seen talking to some of the demonstrators and taking photographs.

The two-hour protest ended without any incident.

Malaysia's permanent representative to the United Nations Datuk Rasdam Mohd Isa said the mission was informed of the protest by the authorities.

"It is within the laws here for people to hold a protest," he said.