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#### Anti-war stance for declaration

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KUALA LUMPUR. Mon. - The Kuala Lumpur Declaration to be issued at the end of the 13th Non-Aligned Movement Summit will reflect the group's anti-war stance as a means of resolving international conflicts, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Asked for a hint on the contents of the declaration, the Prime Minister said: "It will certainly be about our anti-war stance, that war is not a solution to international conflicts."

He was speaking at a Press conference after witnessing a full rehearsal of the opening of the 13th NAM Summit at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Dr Mahathir said attaining world peace would also be the focus of Malaysia's chairmanship of the movement.

"We do not agree to war as an instrument for settling disputes between nations," he said.

On South African President Thabo Mbeki's endorsement of Malaysia as the next chairman of NAM, Dr Mahathir said he was confident that Malaysia was capable of leading the movement for the next three years.

Asked whether Malaysia's proposal for an informal meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to be held a day after the NAM Summit would clash with the Arab League emergency meeting on Iraq, Dr Mahathir replied in the negative, adding that the Kuala Lumpur meeting, scheduled for Feb 26, would take place the day before the Arab League gathering.

It was reported that the Arab League proposed to hold summit meetings from Feb 27 to March 1 in Egypt with the first "extraordinary" sessions focusing on Iraq.

On the report that the US and Britain had softened their stand on Iraq, Dr Mahathir quipped: "But we want to see how soft is the soft stance."

He said Malaysia was mystified by the American attitude on disarming Iraq.

Elaborating, he said Iraq would be on the losing end when the United Nations inspection team reveals its findings on the country's alleged weapons of mass destruction.

"Iraq is going to get it because if (the inspection team) does not find (evidence of Iraq building weapons of mass destruction), that means Iraq is hiding them.

"So it is very difficult. Obviously Iraq, in order to avoid war, must produce some weapons of mass destruction, then only will (the US) be satisfied."

However, Dr Mahathir said, if such proof were unearthed by the inspection team, the US would say, "there you are, we told you".

"I cannot understand this. Even if you extend the inspection for one or two years, they want to make sure at the end, they will find (weapons of mass destruction) because they believe Iraq has them."