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PM: Speak in one voice in opposing war in Iraq

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysians should speak in one voice in opposing the United State-led invasion of Iraq and the intention to assassinate Iraq President Saddam Hussein.

He said the Government would table a motion on the matter at the on-going Parliament sitting and hoped the Opposition parties would support it.

"We hope there will not be differing views or stand on this between the Government and the opposition parties.

"We might have contradicting views on other matters but we must be together in opposing the war against Iraq," he said after chairing the Umno supreme council today.

Dr Mahathir also expressed hopes that those taking part in the debate on the motion would confine their arguments to the Iraq issue.

"The objective is to make a stand of Malaysians representing all parties on the war on Iraq," he said, adding that other issues, especially the privately-run People's Religious Schools or Sekolah Agama Rakyat, should not be roped in during the debate.

On whether the war on Iraq would have an immediate impact on the country's economy, he said there would not be but it was bound to happen.

He said the Government would take the necessary measures to cushion the impact and a thorough study would be conducted to enable the country to overcome the impact.