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NAM's immediate struggle is to outlaw war, says Dr M

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Non-Aligned Movement's immediate struggle now was to out-law war before the struggle for justice and freedom could be won.

The Prime Minister said: "We must remove the threat of war first. With this Sword of Damocles hanging over our heads we can never succeed in advancing the interests of our countries.

"War must therefore be made illegal. The enforcement of this must be by multilateral forces under the control of the United Nations. No single nation should be allowed to police the world, least of all to decide what action to take, when."

In his speech to declare open NAM's 13th summit, Dr Mahathir said globalisation must not be confined to the exploitation of the wealth of the earth only. It must include the multilateral protection of countries threatened by war or hegemony.

If it was right for an international agency in a globalised world to oversee human rights, business practices and the kind of democracy practised by countries, then a truly international agency beholden only to the UN General Assembly should oversee the military budget of all countries, big and small.

Trading in arms must come under UN supervision. Brutal ethnic cleansing must be stopped by a multinational standing army.

"Again I would like to say that NAM must struggle to outlaw war. NAM must struggle to outlaw nuclear weapons. NAM must struggle to stop the research and development of more and more lethal so-called conventional weapons. NAM must struggle to control the arms trade.

"We must work for a new world order, where democracy is not confined to the internal governance of states only but to the governance of the world. We must work for the revival of the United Nations and multilateralism. We must work to do away or modify the powers of the victors of a war fought half a century ago.

"We know we are weak. But we also know we have allies in the North. They too want the abolition of wars, the slaughter of people for whatever reason. They may not agree with us in everything. But in the opposition to war very many will be with us. They are ready to oppose their warlike leaders. We must work with them," he said.