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PM only being frank and forthright

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IT is hard to believe that anyone who heard Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech at the Organisation of the Islamic Conference summit, or read the text in its entirety could have faulted it in any respect.

Dr Mahathir, speaking to fellow Muslims, was forthright, frank and unforgiving about the weaknesses and helplessness in the Muslim world that had led to their humiliation and oppression.

The injustice and sufferings that have been inflicted on the Palestinians, the pulverisation and occupation of Afghanistan, to flush out a yet-to-be-found Osama bin Laden, the unilateral invasion and occupation of Iraq to purportedly disarm Saddam Hussein, and the brazen threats to take, or the connivance of, pre-emptive military action by the US or Israel against unfriendly Muslim nations suspected of harbouring terrorists are all facts that are now unfolding in front of us.

His reference to the Jews was in respect of the obscenely one-sided Israel-Palestine conflict and the inordinate influence they have in American foreign policy in respect of other areas of conflict with Muslim nations.

In the face of all these seemingly insurmountable adversities, he advised his fellow Muslims against violence. Instead, he exhorted them to put to good use their wisdom, knowledge and resources.

If non-Muslims, or Muslims who have their own agenda, choose to contort what Dr Mahathir said, so be it. Malaysia has no reason to apologise for his words.

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