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Resounding no to US hegemony

IN moving a motion in the Dewan Rakyat to strongly condemn the unilateral military aggression of the United States and its allies against Iraq, the Prime Minister is not only asking members of the House to add to the crescendo of voices all over the world that have denounced this unjust and immoral war. It is not even a "war", as Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said. It is a cold-blooded massacre of a weakened nation by a superpower.

This war is like no other. It is about more than just Iraq. It will shape not only the future of the Middle East but also the whole world.

By attacking a nation that has not attacked them, and that does not pose an immediate threat to international peace and security, and by invoking the doctrine of "pre-emptive war" to justify the aggression, the Bush administration and its allies have not only breached the principles of international law and violated the United Nations Charter, they have also severely damaged the multilateral norms and structures that have prevailed over the last 60 years.

If international affairs were to be conducted with a blatant disregard for international law and UN authority, and subject to the unilateral doctrine of "regime change" in the name of democracy, human rights and freedom as defined by an imperial power like the United States then, as Dr Mahathir pointed out, no nation is safe.

The world will then be subjected to a repetition of the expansionist colonial wars of the 19th century. This is why Dr Mahathir tabled a motion calling for the destruction of all weapons of mass destruction, opposition to war as a means of resolving international conflicts, and resistance to unilateral acts of aggression.

America's attempt to impose its will on an unwilling world is opposed by many nations, big and small, as well as by the antiwar movement.

The motion before the Dewan Rakyat, therefore, not only asks members of the House to speak out against the infamy of the impending decimation of Iraq, but also to lend their voices in support of the worldwide movement of governments and ordinary people who are standing up for peace and democracy, and against the American drive for hegemony.