

PM: Terror war has caused alienation

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PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi says many of the actions of big powers in their campaign against terrorism clearly violated international laws and the norms of civilised conduct.

The prime minister said this had caused the ranks of international terrorism to swell.

“Unfortunately, instead of tackling the root causes, the actions of such big powers have caused alienation in critical segments of the international public,” he said in his address at the opening of the Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating

Bureau (NAM-CoB) ministerial meeting at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre yesterday.

Abdullah said the results of the campaign had been “patchy at best as the adversaries are as nimble as they are ruthless”, and they proved to be elusive and resilient, remaining a constant threat to the peace and tranquility of the world.

“I have always maintained that military action alone will never be sufficient to defeat terrorism. Terrorism must not be dealt with in an arbitrary, selective and cavalier manner,

but holistically,” he added.

Abdullah, who is NAM chairman, said the movement must adjust to the needs of the new world without having to abandon its fundamental principles.

“This is particularly important now when the disarmament agenda has been effectively sidelined, with no progress being made in the past decade,” he said.

“NAM must oppose the introduction of new and dangerous military doctrines, including on the use of tactical nuclear weapons, which are being floated by some quarters.

“We must strongly oppose any attempt to lower the threshold on the possible use or threat of use of these weapons.

They would seriously undermine global disarmament efforts, with all its attendant risks to international security.”

While commending the 114-member movement for

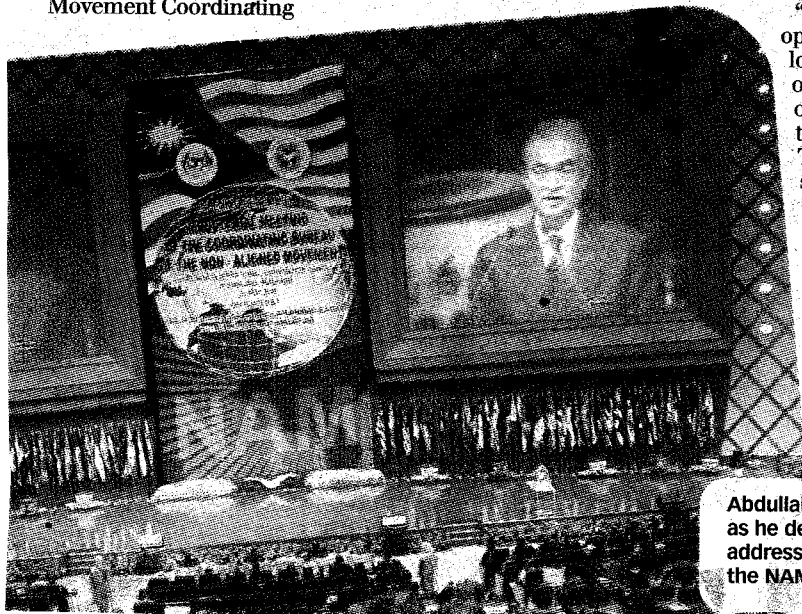
being generally united on broad matters of principles of importance to NAM, he said the movement was sometimes unable to use its numerical strength to its best advantage.

“We could have made a better impact on the reform and restructuring of the United Nations, on the 2005 Millennium Summit outcome and on the Millennium Declaration but we did less than what we could have done,” he added.

Abdullah also said to maximise their collective potential, NAM and the G-77 (less developed nations) and China must cooperate more closely by pooling resources.

“Our concerns and our voice on issues of importance to us must be raised and heard in the councils of the rich and powerful, such as the G-8 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States)”

On Palestine, Abdullah said the Palestinians must be saved from severe deprivations following the action by donors to stop the flow of aid to the Hamas government. The quartet of peace brokers - the US, European Union, United Nations and Russia - must not support any unilateral measure taken by one party to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict at the expense of the other, he said.



Abdullah is seen on screens as he delivers his keynote address at the opening of the NAM-CoB meeting