

PM: The powerful not doing enough to resolve conflict

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IT is not difficult to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

But the task seems tough because certain countries are not willing to do what they can with their power, he said.

Abdullah stopped short of naming the United States in his speech and instead opted for "the powerful", which he accused of double standards and an unwillingness to act.

"The conflict remains unresolved because the powerful are not prepared to do the necessary to enforce, and apply equally on all sides, the relevant resolutions of the United Nations," he said at a plenary session on the second day of the World Economic Forum. The session was titled "Rules for a Global Neighbourhood in a Multicultural world".

Abdullah called the conflict the "single most important factor fuelling Muslim anger towards Israel and the West".

Although there was international law in place to provide peace, there were states guilty of aggression, invasion or occupation, he said.

Iraq is the latest example where the US unilaterally invaded the country because of sus-



Prime-Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (left) and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas attending the dinner hosted by World Economic Forum executive chairman Prof Klaus Schwab last night.

pected possession of weapons of mass destruction.

It never found them and the country spiralled into sectarian violence with hundreds dying almost every day.

"Muslims are acutely sensitive to the fact that millions of their brethren have been dispossessed, their lands occupied, their resources usurped and their dignity trampled," Abdullah said.

The military occupation and violence in Iraq must stop and this can be achieved with the help of Iraq's Muslim neighbours.

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference, now chaired by Malaysia, could also play its part, he added. An end to the conflicts in Palestine and Iraq would remove causes for mindless acts of terror.

But the international community must also do more to reduce the huge gaps in wealth, power and knowledge in the world as it sought enduring peace.

"Money spent on arms, for instance, should be channelled into activities that benefit that half of humanity which lives on less than US\$2 a day," Abdullah said.