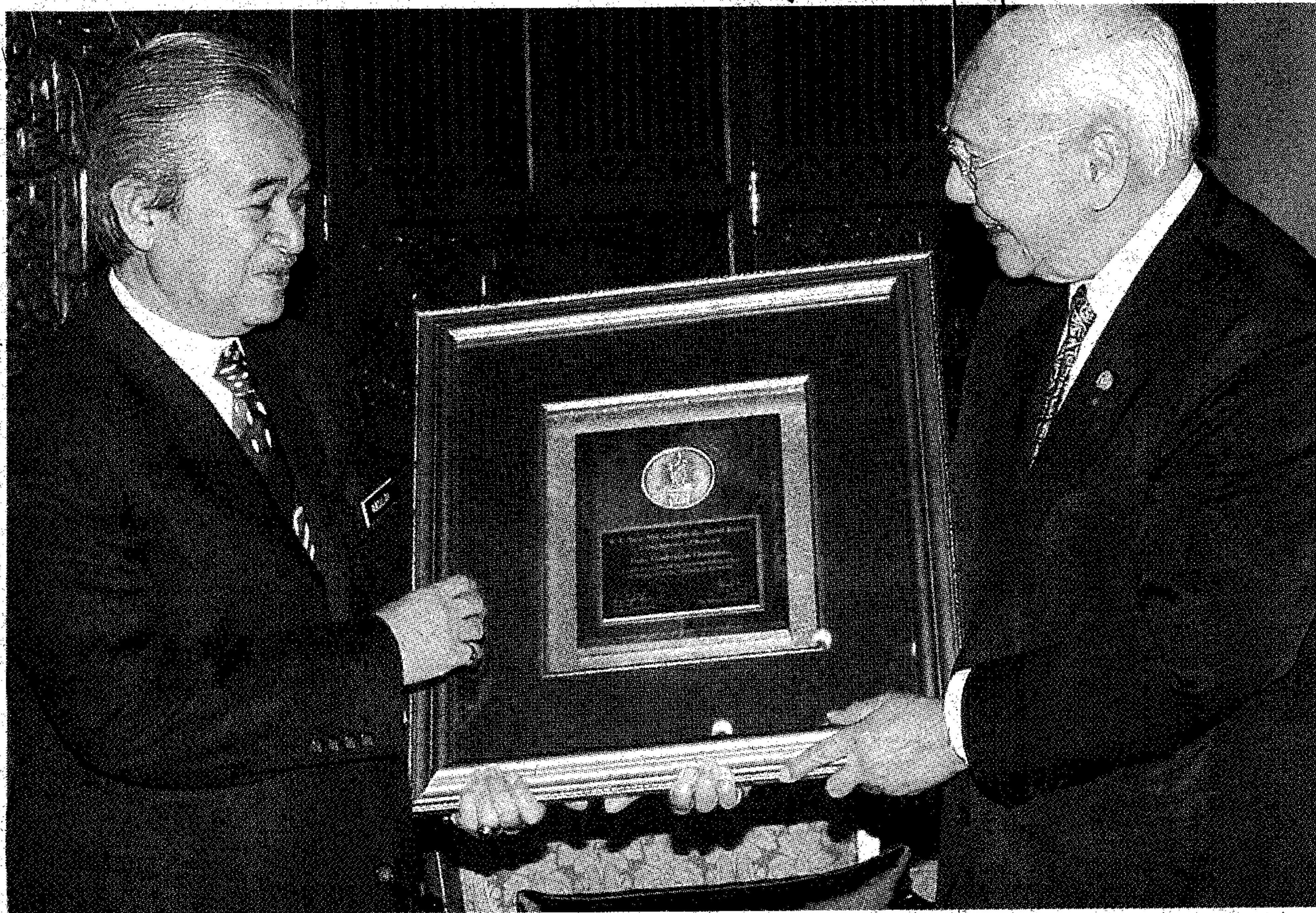


Award for help in war on polio

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (left) receiving the Polio Eradication Champion Award from past Rotary International president Bhichai Rattakul at his office in Putrajaya yesterday. — Bernama picture

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has been awarded the Polio Eradication Champion Award by Rotary International.

It is in recognition of Malaysia's commitment and contribution to polio eradication.

Past Rotary International president Bhichai Rattakul, a former Thai deputy prime minister, presented the award to Abdullah at

the prime minister's office here.

In 2004, the Malaysian government contributed US\$1 million (RM3.4 million) to the World Health Organisation in support of global efforts to eradicate polio.

The contribution made Malaysia the first country in the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to contribute to polio eradication.

Following in Malaysia's foot-

steps, many OIC nations have contributed to the fund, and the amount from OIC countries now stands at US\$8.6 million.

The Polio Eradication Champion Award was established in 1995 to recognise governments and world leaders who had made outstanding contributions towards the goal of eradicating polio.

Other world leaders who have been honoured with the award in-

clude former US president Bill Clinton, former British prime minister John Major and former United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is spearheaded by the World Health Organisation, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United Nations Children's Fund. — Bernama