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Najib fully aware of IS menace

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CONFRONTING the threat of Islamic State will be a real test of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's mettle.

It is with a sense of relief that we have been given his pledge that the government will not be deflected from doing what it has to do to maintain the nation's security.

Najib hit the right note when he said: "I make no apology for taking every step to preserve that safety, and for making the security of

Malaysians, my first priority.

"We will not wait for an outrage to take place before putting all necessary measures in place."

The IS threat is serious.

We are fortunate that Najib understands the danger, and is not about to fight the war against terrorism as a vote-catching politician but, rather, as a statesman.

He is clear about his responsibility, and what a government has to do to fulfil its duty of protecting its citizens against armed insurgency.

Prevention is better than cure, and it is in that spirit that the

government, in the interests of national security and public order, passed the Security Offences Act, the Special Measures against Terrorism in Foreign Countries Act, the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the National Security Council Act.

Make no mistake. Malaysia has found itself, once again, at the sharp end in the fight for survival against an ideology far more lethal than Chin Peng's.

Once again, this will be a policeman's war, with the Special Branch, as professional as it has

always been, playing an important role.

Police will, as in previous emergencies, make that vital contribution to determine the security of Malaysians.

Najib recognises the need to strike a balance between the legal and moral obligation to protect civil liberties and the brutal reality of national security. This is as it should be.

Sacrifices will be required of us, and that includes extending our cooperation to the police in support of these security measures.

In 2004 Tun Hanif Omar, deputy chairman of the Royal Commission inquiring into police service, was given a one-on-one briefing by Scotland Yard's head of anti-terrorism in London.

I was privileged to attend this briefing.

I can assure you that by comparison, our laws appear to me to be too little, too late.

But then, I take terrorist threats seriously.

■ **TUNKU ABDUL AZIZ,**
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