

■ **PM's caution:** Iraq and Palestine still central to problem

# Terror threat still potent

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues.** — A new generation of terrorists will be spawned and anti-Americanism will persist until Iraqis regain full control of their country and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is resolved, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said the United States and its major allies must address these two key and unavoidable issues.

“Alarming, some of our post Sept 11 actions are alienating and radicalising even more people and breeding a new generation of terrorists in the Arab and Muslim worlds,” he said at the Asia Pacific Roundtable today.

He noted that post-war Iraq “looks more and more hopeless by the day,” with al-Qaeda-linked terrorists beginning to operate there and people worse off than before the war.

“We have opened a Pandora’s box and we are now in a bind in Iraq,” he said.

He also warned that the abuse and humiliation of Iraqi prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan “will not be easily forgotten or lightly forgiven”.

“The hatred they sow among the victims, nations and people will come back to haunt us,” he said.

Abdullah is also chairman of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the Islamic world’s largest grouping.

He said that if full sovereignty is to be granted to the Iraqis, they must have full control over politics, the economy and security. Also, foreign forces could only remain in Iraq at the pleasure of the Iraqi Government.

Abdullah said that Iraq had taught the world the pivotal and indispensable role that the UN plays in international affairs.

“We must cease to vilify and undermine it, for when it has failed it has been due more to the machi-