

Abdullah: Malaysia to send medical team to Iraq

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Malaysia will send a medical team to Iraq and will be involved in the reconstruction of post-war Iraq, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said sending a peace-keeping force was not on the cards as the move would cost a lot of money and Malaysia could not afford it at the moment.

"We can send a small team of medical personnel to provide treatment," said Abdullah in an interview over CNN tonight.

When suggested that Muslim countries should come forward to send peace-keeping troops, Abdullah expressed hope the Middle East countries would do so.

He said even if Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi asked for troops to be sent to the war-torn country, Kuala Lumpur would have to consider the request carefully.

On the Israel-Palestine conflict, Abdullah said when he meets US President George W. Bush, he would suggest that the Quartet (the United Nations, the US, Russia and the European Union) stick to the roadmap and bring a quick resolution to the problem there.

Abdullah said he hoped Bush would persuade the Israelis to adhere to the ruling by the International Court of Justice to tear down the wall along the West Bank.