

# UN must resolve Iraq and Palestine issue, says PM

**TOKYO:** Japan has agreed with Malaysia that the United Nations must be entrusted with a genuine role to resolve questions on Iraq and Palestine.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his Japanese counterpart Junichiro Koizumi agreed that getting the world body to take over the process would be acceptable to all parties.

The two leaders met at Koizumi's office when Abdullah, who is here to

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attend the 10th Nikkei Conference, called on him yesterday.

"I told him that it was Malaysia's view that there was a lack of trust, and the attitude in Iraq was such that only the UN taking over would be acceptable," Abdullah said.

Abdullah also told Koizumi that the powers given to the Iraqi transitional government "must be meaningful to the people of Iraq".

"The transitional government must be the government to decide on the

sovereignty and security of Iraq. If they do not have this power, then it is meaningless.

"The people of Iraq must be convinced of the sincerity of the UN, United States and its allies towards the transitional government," he added.

On Palestine, Abdullah said Koizumi also agreed with Malaysia's position that both sides in the conflict must return to the roadmap for peace.

"There must be no unilateral action by either side, otherwise it will sabo-

tage the roadmap.

"We need to go back to the roadmap with the UN as the mediator," he said.

On bilateral ties, Abdullah said Koizumi brought up the matter of the technology university that the two countries agreed would be set up in Malaysia.

"I told him that we are committed to the setting up of the university but the cost of construction and setting up of the university must be within our financial means," Abdullah said.