

Sre



PRIME MINISTER

I promised to let you have 'The Times' extract describing Dr. Mahathir's speech at the NAM Summit yesterday on Afghanistan. The extract is reproduced below. I would not advise that you refer to this in your speech - my guess is that this would leave Dr. Mahathir to make some balancing reference to underline his non-aligned credentials.

Extract from 'The Times'

Malaysian onslaught: In a surprisingly strong attack on the Soviet Union, Malaysia yesterday called on the summit to condemn the "dishonourable invasion of puny Afghanistan". If it shrank from doing so "fear would stalk the little nations with predatory neighbours".

The criticism by Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, was unusual in its bluntness. An attack on the Soviet Union by name is rare.

Malaysia is a country that believes words should not be minced, and that the non-aligned movement's credibility suffers by resorting to watered-down declarations. A number of countries are impatient at the movements' failure to name the Russians in the past.

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