

Rao: Third World must make its voice heard

By Patvinder Singh

Petaling Jaya, Fri: India's Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has asked developing countries to make their voices heard in the restructuring of the UN to prevent a "quick fix" outcome of the deliberations.

He is of the opinion that the general assembly must be allowed to play its role while the composition of the security council must reflect present realities, particularly the large number of developing countries who have no voice in this forum.

In his address on *The Post-Cold War Scene: A Blueprint for the Future* at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs, he said representation in the decision-making bodies of the UN, particularly the security council, has been frozen in its Cold War form.

"Now that the world has changed, we must look at this structure afresh.

"How long must we delude ourselves that the decisions imposed by some national interests are equally good for all of us?"

Rao said Malaysia and India, as believers in non-



Rao answering questions from the floor after his talk. On his left is Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Badawi. — SUNpix by A. ARUMUGAM

alignment, have proved to the world that neither political power plays nor differing ideologies will determine the future of the human race.

He also pointed out that universal disarmament must be one of the major elements in the long-term post-cold war blueprint, adding that it is difficult to understand the argument that the security of the world could only be safeguarded by those who have

nuclear weapons.

Rao lamented attempts by nuclear weapon states to introduce increasingly intrusive mechanisms into peaceful nuclear programmes of non-weapons states under the guise of non-proliferation.

"India is fully in accord with the goal of non-proliferation, but wants, like many other countries, non-proliferation restraints to be truly and universally applied without discrimi-

nation," he said.

He said that the sanctions on missile technology imposed on space programmes deny developing countries technologies that would have a large impact on their economic and social development.

He praised Asean for showing the way to successful multilateral engagement through the establishment of concentric layers of multilateral cooperation.