

Palestinian attitude in its foreign policy. Though many claim that Islam has never been an overriding factor in Malaysia's support of the Islamic cause, its role in this respect is indeed, highly commendable.

It is hoped that in the near future Malaysia will engage more constructively in the Islamic issue, especially by giving the religious dimension top priority. This aspect of religiosity should, no doubt, be seriously taken into account since Islam is the main political force in Malaysian politics. It is only with the full realization of the direct relevance of Islam that the Islamic issues could be resolved comprehensively. The ideals of Islamic brotherhood and solidarity, if understood properly, would motivate Muslims in Malaysia and elsewhere to assist their brothers all over the Islamic world. It may be presumed that Malaysia in the foreseeable future place a greater emphasis on Islam in its International relations.

This will certainly be so when the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) assumes greater importance and the concept of universal Islamic brotherhood is fully comprehended by all Muslims. Malaysia, where Islam plays active role in the national life, could accelerate its commitment to the Ummatic cause through sending volunteers to the battle ground, and by joining UN-peace keeping troops that may be sent to the area to help in resolving the problem. In addition, Malaysia, with its pioneering role in the Third World, is expected to continue to persuade the UN to ensure the implementation of resolutions on the crisis, and to urge all member-states of the OIC to forge a united front to help solve the Islamic issues.

Remarkably, the OIC ranks high on the list of Malaysia's foreign policy undertakings. Being a Muslim country, Malaysia is obliged to support the Islamic cause. To ignore this obligation will not only erode her Islamic credentials within the community of Islamic nations, but also domestically among the Malay-Muslim sector of the populace. The latter could affect significantly the legitimacy of UMNO as the protector of Islam and Malay-Muslims in the country. As such, the Malaysian government had, and will continue to play an active role concerning the Islamic issues to ensure the well being of the *Ummah* at large, and its own survival at the national level.