

SAMY VELLU SUSPENDS GOVINDARAJ

By K.T. ARASU
KUALA LUMPUR, Sat — MIC vice-president V. Govindaraj was suspended today for a year from the party for "taking the law into his own hands, misbehaving and deviating from the right path."

The decision and the tough words came from party president Datuk aamy Vellu to his one-time protege with the curt remark; "He can sit with the Barisan Nasional MPs in the Dewan Rakyat, he can join the Opposition ... it's up to him."

The suspension is a se-

rious blow to the political future of Mr Govindaraj, previously a Parliamentary Secretary, who is MP for Port Klang and Selangor MIC chief. He is the second Selangor MIC official to be suspended this week. Last Saturday, state party treasurer M. Shanmugam was also suspended for a year.

The suspension order relieves Mr Govindaraj of his duties as party vice-president, Selangor chief and Batu Caves MIC branch chairman.

"I gave him (Mr Govindaraj) many opportunities

to reform, but he did not, and instead he assumed I was weak," said Datuk Samy Vellu of his friend of over 30 years who had lived with him and shared many experiences before.

Datuk Samy Vellu said Mr Govindaraj had been suspended because:

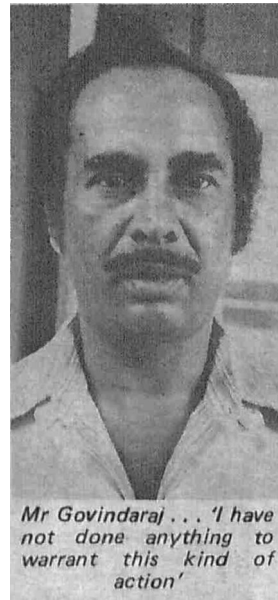
- As state party chief he had fallen short in several financial responsibilities;
- He had acted contrary to the directives of the central working committee;
- He had lied to the party's disciplinary committee and headquarters on a matter relating to a political

party acting against the MIC;

- He had written to the Prime Minister to damage the image of the MIC; and
- He had generally shirked his responsibilities as party president and Selangor MIC leader.

But Datuk Samy Vellu said the suspension was aimed more at putting Mr Govindaraj back on the "right path" than punishing him.

Mr Govindaraj, who was given the suspension letter by MIC secretary-general M. Mahalingam at party headquarters today, has 14



Mr Govindaraj . . . 'I have not done anything to warrant this kind of action'

days to appeal to the central working committee which meets on April 10.

Selangor MIC vice-chairman P. Krishnan has been appointed acting state chairman and has been given a week to submit the state's accounts for the last two years, "failing which he will suffer the same fate," said Datuk Samy Vellu.

Seven party members have been suspended since Datuk Samy Vellu took over as president in 1979. He said action against another member in the Hilir Perak division is expected to be taken next week.