

**UMNO : A CHRONOLOGY OF
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
(1988)**

VOLUME 1

ECONOMIC RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

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UMNO : A CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

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In the events that have marked the political history of Malaysia since 1945, the declaration by the High Court on February 1988 that UMNO was an illegal organisation triggered a series of developments that have been both significant and to some extent politically destabilising. This declaration by the High Court will certainly be viewed as a major event affecting the course and shape of the evolution of the Malaysian political process. While it is too early to predict the exact impact that this event has had or will have on the course of Malaysia's political history, it is too important to be left unstudied or unchronicled until subsequent academic analysis and study.

The primary purpose of this study is to provide a documentation in chronological order of all political developments relating to UMNO from the date of the High Court declaration that UMNO was an illegal organisation, i.e 2nd February 1988 to 11th May 1989, when UMNO celebrated its 43rd anniversary since its founding. It is hoped that this chronology will provide a basis for interested scholars and analysts to study and analyse the impact and significance arising from the developments generated by the High Court declaration on UMNO's status on 4th February 1988. The chronology has been extracted from the major news sources.

JUNE, 1989.

EDITOR
ECONOMIC RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

UMNO: A Chronology Of Political Developments

2/2/88 (NST - 3/2/88)

Lawyer, Raja Addruse said that the attitude of UMNO Secretary-general Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid in not taking steps to deal with complaints brought before him gave party members the right to come to court.

Raja Aziz, counsel for the 11 plaintiffs, was replying to submissions raised last week by Mr. G.Sri Ram, counsel for Datuk Seri Sanusi and four other defendants, on "issues to be tried" at the hearing of the action brought by the UMNO members.

The 11, who filed their action on June 25 last year, named as defendants Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and the secretaries of six UMNO divisions - Jelutong and Nibong Tebal (in Penang); Pasir Puteh, Machang and Rantau Panjang (in Kelantan); and Pekan (Pahang).

Apart from asking that the general assembly be declared null and void, they are also seeking to declare the divisional delegates' meetings for election of delegates to the general assembly, unconstitutional and ultra vires the party constitution.

3/2/88 (NST, 4/2/88)

The High Court was told today that giving relief sought by 11 UMNO members challenging the validity of the party's last April 24th general assembly and election would "strike down the act of wrong-doers" in establishing branches without the approval of the Registrar of Societies.

Their lawyer, Raja Addruse, said if the court were to dismiss their action and did nothing more, it would virtually be approving the existence of unapproved branches.

Alternatively, he said, if the court looked upon UMNO as an unlawful society and on that ground, declared that they (the plaintiffs) were not entitled to succeed because UMNO is an unlawful society.

4/2/88 (NST, 5/2/88)

The High Court had ruled today that UMNO was an unlawful society because of the existence of the 30 illegal branches. At the same time, the

court dismissed the claim by the 11 to have the court declare last year's party general assembly null and void.

The judge had refused the reliefs sought by the 11 and declared that UMNO was an unlawful society when its 38th general assembly and election took place last April 24th.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Dato' Harun M.Hashim had said: "Very sadly, I have to make a finding in law that, at the material time, UMNO was an unlawful society."

He said he did not have to declare the assembly and the election null and void because "it was a nullity all the way".

"What happened in 1987 is a nullity. Therefore, the claim by the plaintiffs is dismissed," he had said when delivering an oral judgment.

One of the questions raised during the hearing was what is the effect in law of branches in UMNO having been established without the approval of the Registrar of Societies contrary to Section 12 of the Societies Act 1966.

In his decision, Mr. Justice Harun said when a society established a branch without the approval of the Registrar, not only was the branch deemed to be unlawful but also the parent society.

He said the law was clear. "If the facts show that UMNO has established branches without the approval of the Registrar, it seems to me that UMNO itself is an unlawful society."

The 11 sued former UMNO Secretary-general Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and the secretaries of six former UMNO divisions - Jelutong and Nibong Tebal (in Penang), Pasir Putih, Machang and Rantau Panjang (in Kelantan) and Pekan (Pahang).

They also asked for an order compelling UMNO and Datuk Seri Sanusi to make arrangements for a fresh delegates' elections and a fresh UMNO general assembly and election to be held after that.

The plaintiffs, among other things, claimed that 30 unregistered branches had sent delegates to the divisional elections and that the elections of the divisional delegates to the assembly was invalid.

Members of UMNO which was declared unlawful by the court, were today reminded not to hold any meetings, organise party activities or engage in financial transactions for the party.

The MCA will continue to support the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, party president Datuk Dr. Ling Liong Sik said today. He was confident that Dr. Mahathir could overcome the "small difficulty" he is facing.

An UMNO candidate can still contest the Tanjung Puteri State by-election here on a Barisan Nasional ticket even though the High Court yesterday found UMNO to be an unlawful society, the Election Commission said today.

The Government is not affected by the High Court ruling yesterday that UMNO is an unlawful society, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Yang Di Pertuan Agong granted an audience to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir at Istana Bukit Serene this afternoon, said State Government sources. However, the reason for the audience was not immediately known.

The decision by the High Court that UMNO is an unlawful society will not affect the position of Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad as Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman said today.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad accepts that "UMNO no longer exists" but is confident that the spirit of the struggle remains strong among the Malays.

BT (6/2/88)

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said the Government's position is not affected by the High Court ruling that UMNO is an unlawful party. He added that the status of the state governments also remain.

The MCA will continue to stand by UMNO and support the Barisan Nasional, MCA president Datuk Dr. Ling Liong Sik said yesterday. "We will continue to be loyal to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. I must state publicly that the MCA will not run away from a friend when it is in trouble," he added.

"The spirit of UMNO continues. Its image is untarnished even if you rub out the name or call it by any other name," Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said.

A prominent constitutional lawyer suggested yesterday that the Government put forward an amendment to the existing Societies Act which will allow for a provision to registrar an unlawful society.

He told the press yesterday he saw this as the only remedy for the party. Even if the proposal is passed by Parliament, he explained that there is no way the party can turn an unlawful action or meeting like the last UMNO general election into valid one.

6/2/88 (NST, 7/2/88)

All parties of the Barisan Nasional have declared their undivided support in the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

Leaders of the MIC, Gerakan, Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS), USNO, Sarawak United Peoples Party (SUPP), Sarawak National Party (SNAP), Parti Bangsa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) and the People's Progressive Party (PPP) said they would continue to support Dr. Mahathir as head of the Government.

7/2/88 (NST, 8/2/88)

Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim said he regretted recent political developments which resulted in a High Court declaration that UMNO was an unlawful society. He said this was a result of not only court action by 11 people but also by those who supported them either openly or secretly.

In Seremban, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak advised those who used to be members of UMNO to remain calm and patient while Dr. Mahathir and other Malay leaders decide on a solution.

In Kuala Terengganu, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Dr. Yusof Nor said recent political developments did not affect the position of the Government or that of Dr. Mahathir as Prime Minister.

In Johore Baru, Menteri Besar Haji Muhyiddin Yassin met Malay leaders at his residence, Saujana, to explain the implications of the High Court declaration.

Cuepacs pledges support for the Prime Minister.

Former Menteri Besar of Perak Datuk Seri Haji Wan Mohamad Haji Wan Teh has called on Malays to be patient and to lend their fullest support to the top leadership in overcoming the problems arising from the recent High Court decision.

9/2/88 (NST, 10/2/88)

Several Malay leaders today described the move by Tunku Abdul Rahman and "the group behind him" to register a new political party and called on them to abandon the idea in the interest of unity of the community and the stability of the nation.

10/2/88 (NST, 11/2/88)

The West Malaysia Malay Teachers' Union today pledged its full support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahatir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister En. Ghafar Baba to continue administering the country.

Cabinet Ministers today pledged undivided support and loyalty for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Ghafar Baba.

Three former Deputy Ministers, a former Menteri Besar and a veteran politician, who were linked with the group behind the move to form UMNO Malaysia, today denied their involvement in the move.

Former Deputy Transport Minister Datin Paduka Rahman Osman, former Primary Industries Minister Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, former Deputy Energy, Telecommunications and Postal Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin and former Selangor Menteri Besar, Datuk Harun Idris all expressed surprise that their names were among those in the application to register the new party.

BT (10/2/88)

Trade and Industry Minister Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz said it is likely that those in the rural areas will be confused with the latest developments (application to register UMNO Malaysia).

Bernama adds: A large number of ex-UMNO members has strongly criticised the move to form the new party as betrayal of the Malay race and said it would not receive the support of the Malay community.

Former Foreign Minister, Datuk Rais Yatim said the move to register UMNO Malaysia with the Registrar of Societies is not to set up a new party, but rather to reestablish UMNO.

11/2/88 (NST, 12/2/88)

UMNO, which was declared an unlawful society last week, has replied to a show-cause letter from the Registrar of Societies and is leaving it to her "to exercise her discretion".

Eleven State Assembly Speakers today pledged their support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Encik Ghafar Baba.

The Sultan of Pahang today expressed his sadness and regret over present political developments in the country.

The Sultan said nobody anticipated that this would happen, particularly after UMNO had existed for 41 years and the Malays and other races had been living in peace and prosperity under an UMNO-led Government since merdeka.

"For us, UMNO is the only party capable of leading the people towards unity. Any effort to jeopardise this will not get the support of the Malays," he said.

MP for Tasek Glugot, Datuk Mohamad Yusoff Latif today confirmed that he is the permanent chairman of the pro-tem committee of UMNO Malaysia.

BT (12/2/88)

The Barisan Nasional (BN) will appoint a temporary chairman and Secretary-general to take over both Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad's and his deputy En. Ghafar Baba's posts in the

council. Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad is Barisan chairman and En Ghafar Secretary-general.

Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said yesterday UMNO has replied to the 'show-cause' letter sent by the Registrar of Societies as to why the party should be deregistered.

The letter from the registrar was received last Saturday and a reply was submitted on Monday.

On the application to set up a new party called "UMNO Malaysia which former Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman as president, En. Ghafar said government leaders were not consulted on the matter.

He said all UMNO's assets have been frozen. The Official Assignee will evaluate the value of the assets.

Malay intellectual Prof. Syed Hussein Alatas urged the people linked to the formation of the new political party called UMNO Malaysia yesterday to openly declare their stand.

He said in a statement in Johore Baru the Malays needed to have a clear picture of the intention and stand of those named in the formation of the proposed party's pro-tem committee led by former Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman. "What has to be made clear is whether or not they support the Tunku's effort," he said.

"Those supporting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad have come out with their stand and had not prevaricated or kept mum. As such, Tunku's supporters should do the same, because the Malays should not be confronted with a leadership that is indecisive, inconstant and mute."

Prof. Syed Hussein also urged the secretary of the protem committee, Datuk Rais Yatim, to distribute to the public a list of its members as is the practice whenever a new political party is set up.

Welfare Services Minister Mustaffa Mohamad expressed regret at the attitude of a group which he described as opportunists and which he said, is prepared to use Bapa Malaysia Tunku Abdul Rahman for its personal interests.

"I feel very sad when a person whom I have admired and adored (Tunku Abdul Rahman) has been used," he said and hoped that the Tunku would re-consider the move to set up of the party in the interest of the Malay race.

Eleven speakers of state assemblies pledged support for the present government leadership before Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Encik Ghafar Baba in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

2/2/88 (BT, 13/2/88)

All members of parliament and state assemblymen formerly from Penang UMNO urged Tunku Abdul Rahman yesterday to withdraw from leading a new party seeking registration under the name of UMNO Malaysia.

Former Prime Minister Tun Hussein Onn has confirmed his involvement in a new party to be set up called "UMNO Malaysia" but stressed that his action is not aimed at causing chaos in the country.

"We must strife (to save UMNO) and all these efforts be carried out with good intention ... It's impossible that I and Tunku (Abdul Rahman) wish to betray UMNO, the Malay race and cause chaos in the country," he said yesterday.

This is the first time that he is commenting on his involvement in the proposed party of which the Tunku is pro-tem president. In the list of the party's pro-tem committee, Tun Hussein is named as deputy president.

"If UMNO is unlawful today, we must find ways of legalising it," he said.

Tun Hussein said he did not know anything about the committee when it was first announced by the Tunku in Penang and was only informed of it after the announcement had been made.

"I accepted it because there's nothing wrong in it. Perhaps the error was the hurry in which the Tunku announced the pro-tem committee but his intentions were good and what's wrong with my participating in it?" he asked.

Tun Hussein also said it is not possible that he and the Tunku can be made use of.

"No one can buy me," he said.

He said that his and the Tunku's aims are sincere and once the party is registered, "(the rest can) carry on. (We are) not asking that I be made deputy president or the Tunku the UMNO president."

Meanwhile, Member of Parliament for Shah Alam Datin Paduka Hajah Rahmah Osman confirmed yesterday her involvement in the proposed party called 'UMNO Malaysia.'

"I stand by my colleagues in the UMNO Malaysia pro-tem committee."

Former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam said in the interest of preserving unity, the Malays should ensure that the struggle initiated by UMNO's past leaders on May 11 1946 continues.

"The question of individual survival should be set aside. What is more important is the survival of UMNO," he said in Segamat yesterday.

He said he was not involved in any other action apart from efforts to restore UMNO's integrity. This is Datuk Musa's first comment on the problem faced by UMNO since the legality of the party became an issue. he said since the court decision, he had deliberately kept silent except to make statements urging party members to be responsible, calm and patient.

13/2/88 (NST, 14/2/88)

UMNO had made every effort to reach an out-of-court settlement with the 11 members over the suit challenging the validity of last year's April 24 party elections.

However, the terms laid down by the 11 members had been 'unacceptable', said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

They had demanded his resignation as party president and the appointment of a successor of their choice in his place. Dr Mahathir said the 11 were specific about who the successor should be. However, he did not say who it was.

The six MPs from the Parti Bangsa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) have pledged their support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir.

PM, Ghafar get more pledges - Forty representatives today pledged the undivided loyalty and support of the country's smallholders for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed and his deputy, Encik Ghafar Baba.

14/2/88 (NST, 15/2/88)

More than 600 Barisan Nasional leaders gathered at Parliament House this afternoon to pledge their support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed and his deputy, Encik Ghafar Baba.

The show of support was significant, according to leaders, because it proved to the world that the present government still enjoyed the confidence and support of the people.

The pledge of loyalty of was attended by Barisan MPs, Senators and State Assemblymen, Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Menteri Besars, Chief Ministers and State Assembly Speakers.

Also present were former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam, former Defence Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, former Land and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Adib Adam, former Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, former Deputy Home Affairs Minister Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, former Deputy Works Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zain and former Deputy Transport Minister Datin Paduka Rahmah Othman.

BT (15/2/88)

Malays in the country should take cognisance of the process by which prophethood is devolved when resolving problems such as that faced by UMNO, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Yusof Noor said yesterday.

He said if the Malays were to learn from the lesson behind the making of prophets, that is, to recognise the rightfully appointed leadership, the problems faced by UMNO, ruled an unlawful society by the court recently, could be overcome.

15/2/88 (NST, 16/2/88)

Nepline Sdn Bhd, a leading shipping agency in the country, today expressed support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad's leadership and hope that a speedy solution will be found to the problem facing UMNO.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today asked organisations or groups wishing to pledge support for him and the

Government to do so through Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Chief Ministers or Menteri Besars.

The Registrar of Societies has rejected the application to set on UMNO Malaysia, former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today.

He said he was informed that the Registrar of Societies had rejected the application submitted on Feb. 8.

BT (16/2/88)

In a statement issued in Kuala Lumpur late yesterday evening, Tengku Razaleigh said despite the rejection by the Registrar too form UMNO Malaysia, "it does not mean that the party cannot be revived."

He said there remain other solutions, one of which could be through legislation, which Tengku Razaleigh described as a tedious and time consuming approach. "There are indications that this could be the course of action that could be pursued," he added.

He appealed to the Prime Minister Datuk Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the Home Affairs Minister, to exercise his "good offices to consider amending the Societies Act to restore UMNO's legal status and to maintain the inherent rights of all former members.

16/2/88 (NST, 17/2/88)

Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan said today the Government should study the possibility of amending the Societies Act 1966 too make a political party a lawful society even if it had unregistered branches.

He said the Government should specifically amend Section 12 of the Act.

Under the present Act, a society which has been declared unlawful has its entire administration and assets frozen.

Barisan Nasional leaders today hailed the formation of the new UMNO as a move heralding a "new era of economic recovery and improved political stability."

MCA president Datuk Ling Liong Sik said UMNO's re-entry into the coalition would strengthen the country's administration. He said the position of UMNO as the backbone of the coalition had been firmly re-established because it had the support of people at all levels.

MIC president Datuk S. Samy Vellu said the administration would be "strengthened with renewed integrity."

USNO president Tun Datu Mustapha Dato Harun said the country now had a better future, not only because of UMNO's revival but also because the loyalty and support of its coalition partners had been enhanced.

Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) president Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan said everything done to help UMNO was smooth and systematic.

Gerakan president Datuk Haji Mohamad Asni Muda said the acceptance of the new UMNO into Barisan was one way of solving its problems and he expected the decision today to be accepted.

Parti Bangsa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) president Datuk Leo Moggie said he was impressed with the way UMNO leaders solved the party's problems.

Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Haji Khalil Yaakob said the formation of UMNO Baru headed by Dr. Mahathir Mohamad was the best possible solution to overcome the current political problem.

Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Rahim Thamby Chik said the party was a manifestation of UMNO with a new image, integrity and commitment.

Johore Menteri Besar Haji Muhyiddin Yassin said the formation of the new UMNO gave the opportunity to Malays to unite and support the present leadership in the Government.

Pahang Youth Council chairman Abu Dahari Osman said with the establishment of UMNO Baru there was no longer any basis for conflict among former UMNO members.

MAYC national deputy president Johar Rusi hoped the spirit and struggle of Malays would not change despite their being in the new party.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said today the people who took UMNO to court were not concerned about the interests of the party being ruled an unlawful society by the court.

The Prime Minister said they should have withdrawn their suit or refrained from suing UMNO if they really had UMNO's interests in mind.

Former Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman said today his and Tun Hussein Onn's involvement in the abortive attempt to form a new party for the Malays was only to see UMNO restored to its legal status as the country's premier political party.

"We have no axe to grind, no personal advantage to gain. We want peace and goodwill to return to Malaysia, and this should not be difficult," he said.

Barisan supreme council members elected MCA president Datuk Dr. Ling Liong Sik as chairman. He chaired the first part of the meeting which accepted the new UMNO as a member of the coalition. He gave up the full council of 39 representatives from 13 parties.

Dr. Mahathir said the committee had earlier submitted as application to register a party called UMNO 88 on Feb. 9, a day after UMNO Malaysia's application was made.

However, the Registrar rejected the applications of both UMNO Malaysia and UMNO 88 because the old UMNO had not yet been de-registered then.

The new UMNO committee then submitted a fresh application on Feb.13 and its registration was confirmed yesterday.

Dr. Mahathir said everyone could apply to become members but not all would be accepted.

BT (17/12/88)

A new party - Pertubuhan Kebangsaan Melayu Bersatu (Baru) or United Malays National Organisation (New) - has been formed.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad disclosed that he had been invited by Tunku Abdul Rahman to be a committee member of UMNO Malaysia. But since the application for UMNO Malaysia's registration has been rejected by the Registrar of Societies, he had no choice but to decline.

Asked whether the Tunku will be invited to be a pro-tem committee member of the UMNO Baru, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahahtir Mohamad said it was not up to him alone to decide.

On UMNO's assets, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahahtir said all efforts will be undertaken to overcome the problems.

President Datuk Dr. Ling Liong Sik became the first non-UMNO Acting Chairman of Barisan Nasional (BN) yesterday whose reign was also the shortest in BN history.

His choice as chairman was based on fact that the MCA is the second most senior member of the coalition. During Datuk Dr. Ling's chairmanship a new member - UMNO Baru was admitted to the Barisan fold.

Following the admission of UMNO Baru as the 13th member, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahahtir its president, Encik Ghafar Baba as the Deputy president and Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddiin as treasurer, were invited to attend the BN meeting. Datuk Seri Dr. Mahahtir was then appointed BN chairman.

The Registrar of Societies rejected two earlier applications by former UMNO members to register new political parties in place of UMNO declared unlawful by the High Court on Feb. 4.

Following Hajah Marina Yusof's application to start a party called UMNO Malaysia with Tunku Abdul Rahman as pro-tem president . another application was submitted to establish a new political party with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir as pro-tem president.

While the reasons for the rejection were not immediately known there are several provisions in the Societies Act which empower the Registrar of Societies to do so.

Section 7(3) (d) (ii) of the Societies Act 1966 says: "The Registrar shall refuse to a local society where the name under which the society is to be registered is identical to that of any other existing local society."

To clear the way for the approval of any application to start a new party using the name UMNO, the party with a similar name must first be de-registered.

The Registrar, Puan Zakiah Hashim, in her letter to the pro-tem committee headed by Tunku Abdul Rahman said: Referring to your application, we

regret we have to reject it." The contents of the short letter were made available by persons close to the rejected party.

Yesterday, former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said he had been informed that the Registrar had dismissed the move to form UMNO Malaysia.

He did not say when the Registrar officially informed the pro-tem committee of the rejection or the reasons for such an action but it was believed to be last Friday.

This is the first press statement by Tengku Razaleigh since the move to establish UMNO Malaysia and recent developments in UMNO.

Former Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman said yesterday the application to set up UMNO Malaysia by his group was not aimed at personal gain but to ensure peace and goodwill.

The Tunku, who was the pro-tem president of the party, denied he and former Prime Minister Tun Hussein Onn were trying to betray UMNO when they sponsored the formation of 'UMNO Malaysia.'

He said in a statement they did that 'to restore UMNO to its legal status as the premier political party in the country.'

The chronology of events leading up to the new UMNO's formation :

- * Feb 4: The Kuala Lumpur High Court rules UMNO unlawful.
- * Feb 6: UMNO receives 'show cause' letter from Registrar of Societies.
- * Feb 8: Tunku Abdul Rahman announces pro-tem committee of 'UMNO Malaysia.
- * Feb 9: UMNO replies to 'show cause' letter, and files application to register 'UMNO 88'.
- * Feb 10: The registrar rejects applications by 'UMNO Malaysia' and 'UMNO 88'.
- * Feb 12: UMNO is de-registered.
- * Feb 13: Application to register the Pertubuhan Kebangsaan Melayu Bersatu (Baru) submitted.
- * Feb 15: Application is approved.
- * Feb 16: Prime Minister makes the announcement.

18/2/88 (NST, 19/2/88)

UMNO pro-tem committee will hold its inaugural meeting early next month to appoint temporary State liaison committees and pro-tem division and branch committees to rebuild the party network and register members.

On the new party's constitution, deputy president Encik Ghafar Baba said essentially it would not differ very much from that of the de-registered UMNO.

"The new constitution is almost identical to the old one. Its structure is the same. The duties and the responsibilities of the divisions and branches remain the same."

However, Encik Ghafar said the new constitution delegated the right to register members to the supreme council. Previously, the right to register members in the old UMNO had been delegated to the divisions.

The president's and deputy president's post in the new UMNO should be strictly left unopposed because it has been proven at a high cost - that a contest has 'dangerous' ramifications.

Selangor Menteri Besar, Datuk Muhammad Taib, a Supreme Council member of the de-registered UMNO, made the suggestion today saying that top party elections should be confined to the three vice-presidents' post and seats in the Supreme Council.

Former UMNO deputy president Datuk Musa Hitam is happy that the party leadership under Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has succeeded in reviving UMNO.

"This augurs well for political stability in the country," he said here today.

He agreed with the statement by Dr Mahathir as pro-tem president of the new UMNO that the main consideration for membership is loyalty to the party.

19/2/88 (NST, 20/2/88)

Support from non-Malays for the nation's leadership when Malays are facing a crisis is proof that the agreement between all races made before independence 30 years ago is still being honoured.

Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said this was shown by the fact that non-Malays did not take advantage of the recent situation but instead openly pledged support for the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

The eleven former UMNO members whose suit against the party was dismissed by the High Court on Feb 4 are appealing to the Supreme court.

A notice of appeal was filed with the appellate division of the High Court registry about 3.30 p.m. today by a clerk from Messrs Shafee & Co.

It read :

"Take notice that all the appellants above named being dissatisfied with the decision of the Honourable Mr Justice Dato' Harun M Hashim given at Kuala Lumpur on the 4th day of February 1988 appeal against the whole of the said decision."

The UMNO pro-tem committee will hold its first meeting in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow and not early next month as reported in the press, its secretary Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said yesterday in Johore Bharu.

He said pro-tem president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed would chair the meeting to be attended by 34 committee members.

21/2/88 (NST, 22/2/88)

UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight appointed nine Menteri Besar and one Chief Minister as acting UMNO State liaison chiefs to revive the party network in their states.

He also appointed UMNO deputy president Encik Ghafar Baba as the Federal Territory UMNO liaison chief while Penang would come under Supreme Council member Encik Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the task of the various State UMNO liaison chiefs would be to revive the party network as quickly as possible. He added that no decision had been made yet on the establishment of pro-tem committees to revive UMNO branches and divisions.

He disclosed that the Supreme Council consisted of 34 members, six less than its predecessor in the old UMNO.

The membership consists almost entirely of the former Supreme Council members of the recently deregistered UMNO.

Eight elected former UMNO Supreme Council members in the deregistered UMNO - former Welfare Minister Datuk Shahrir Samad,

former Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Abdul Ajib Ahmad, Deputy Foreign Minister, Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, former Deputy Energy, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin, former Deputy Home Affairs Minister, Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, former Deputy Transport Minister, Datin Paduka Hajah Rahmah Othman, former and lawyer Puan Marina Yusoff - were not in the pro-tem committee.

The Registrar of Societies has approved the new UMNO flag and symbol, pro-tem committee secretary Datuk Mohamad Rahmat said today.

The new UMNO flag and symbol were proposed together with the application by pro-tem President Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad to form UMNO Baru on February 13.

Datuk Mohamad said the Registrar did not object to the proposed flag and symbol although at first glance they are almost identical to the old ones.

The flag and symbol will be instantly recognised by former UMNO members although minimum alterations had been made to the designs," he said.

The design of the new UMNO flag omits the flag pole. The keris surrounded by the yellow circle in the flag is now coloured dark green instead of light green as in the old UMNO flag.

The bottom border of the flag is also dark green compared with light green in the old design. The top borderline of the flag is now red while previously it was black.

The red UMNO logo has only two alterations. The two keris have shorter hilts and are broader.

The pro-tem committee of the new UMNO held its first meeting since its registration at the residence of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur last night.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir, who is pro-tem president, chaired the meeting.

Other members of the committee who were present were pro-tem deputy president Ghafar Baba, pro-tem secretary Datuk Mohamad Rahmat, pro-tem treasurer Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin, Education Minister Sdr. Anwar Ibrahim, Defence Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar and Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Menteri Besar who attended were Datuk Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad (Terengganu), Datuk Mohamad Yaacob (Kelantan), Datuk Seri Ramli Ngah Talib (Perak), Haji Muhyiddin Yassin (Johore), Dr. Abdul Hamid Pawanteh (Perlis), Datuk Seri Khalil Yaakob (Pahang) and Datuk Seri Osman Aroff (Kedah).

The meeting discussed the formation of the pro-tem committees at the state, division and branch levels to get the party machinery into gear for the registration of members.

22/2/88 (NST, 23/2/88)

Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said today the new UMNO would distribute its membership forms in two weeks to the various State UMNO liaison chiefs.

No target date has been set for the completion of the registration exercise. Applications for membership to the new party will always be open.

23/2/88 (NST, 24/2/88)

The Sultan of Pahang said today he believes that UMNO whose formation is initiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad will be accepted by the whole Malay community including the group opposed to the current leadership.

"Although UMNO has changed its name, its structure and form as well, the spirit of its struggle founded 42 years ago by past leaders are still firmly entrenched in the heart of the Malay community in the country," he added.

A member of the new UMNO pro-tem committee, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, has urged party members to concentrate on "priorities" and set aside their political differences.

24/2/88 (NST, 25/2/88)

Eleven of the 13 former Selangor UMNO divisional heads were appointed pro-tem divisional heads of the new UMNO today. The two dropped are Datuk Kamaruzaman Ahmad (Tanjung Karang) and Datuk Suhaimi Kamaruddin (Sepang).

The pro-tem divisional heads are: Datuk Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib (Hulu Selangor and Puchong), Datuk Haji Ahmad Razali Mohd Ali (Ampang Jaya), Datuk Haji Abu Hassan Omar (Kuala Selangor), Haji Onn Haji Ismail (Kapar), Datuk Saidin Tamby (Selayang), Abdul Shukur Siraj (Tanjung Karang), Haji Basri Bajuri (Kuala Langat), Haji Abu Sujak Haji Sujak Haji Mahmud (Shah Alam), Mohd Sharif Jajang (Sepang), Datuk Zainal Dahlan (Sabak Bernam), Haji Zakaria Haji Md. Deros (Kang), Haji Megat Najmuddin Datuk Haji Megat Khas (Petaling Jaya) and Datuk Abdul Jalil Datuk Mohd. Nazir (Hulu Langat).

6/2/88 (NST, 27/2/88)

Johore Menteri Besar Haji Muhyiddin Yassin is grateful the MCA for being a close friend and a faithful one of UMNO. This, he said, was a reflection of the Chinese community's desire to live in peace and harmony with the other races in the country. "No single race can rule the country in peace and harmony. The Malays need the Chinese and Indians for economic prosperity, while the non-Malays need the Malays for political stability. We must therefore constantly strive for closer rapport."

Mr. Lee Kim Sai said the MCA would go all out to ensure a Barisan Nasional win in the Tanjung Puteri by-election on March 5.

8/2/88 (NST, BT, 29/2/88)

Former Deputy Prime Minister says he has set aside personal feelings for the sake of UMNO unity because current developments and turmoil have threatened the party.

"Many UMNO members are wondering about my present position in view of the fact I was critical of the present leadership," he said.

"I have set aside my personal feelings for the sake of the party unity and I feel UMNO needs to close ranks in view of the recent developments in the party. UMNO is a democratic party and members can offer themselves for party posts. People tend to forget that I was defending my post in the party at the last general assembly."

3/3/88 (NST, 4/3/88)

The Election Commission is all set for the Tanjung Puteri by-election on Saturday. State election officer Mohamad Satar Saad said there would be 11 polling districts delineated for the district.

The polling centers will have a total of 43 streams. Each stream will be presided by an officer. They will be assisted by 171 polling clerks. There are 34,265 registered voters in the constituency.

The Election Commission posted ballot papers to 1,181 postal voters on Feb. 25. Counting of votes by 40 counting clerks are expected to start at 8 pm at the Dewan Jubli Intan and the results known before midnight.

The Tanjung Puteri by-election is not merely a clash between a clash between two personalities but a confrontation between two ideologies, says Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

"It is a tussle between the politics of moderation that Barisan Nasional (BN) represents and the leftist socialist ideology that the Parti Sosialis Rakyat Malaysia (PSRM) propagates," he said.

The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today reiterated his call to the people to have faith and confidence in the Barisan Nasional as the agent for stability and development in the country.

He said the people's confidence would ensure the necessary stability to attract investors to the country. "This in turn will result in more employment opportunities," he said.

4/3/88 (NST, 5/3/88)

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today expressed optimism over the Barisan Nasional's chances in the Tanjung Puteri by-election tomorrow.

5/3/88 (NST,6/3/88)

Polling day for the Tanjung Puteri State by-election.

6/3/88 (NST, 7/3/88)

Barisan Nasional candidate Datuk Yunos Sulaiman, 53, was returned to the Tanjung Puteri State seat this morning in one of the closest electoral battles in Malaysian history.

He won by a 31-vote majority, compared with 506 voters when he last met PSRM candidate Abdul Razak Ahmad, 45.

The results were announced at 4 am today after a recount was ordered by returning officer Datuk Rashidi Mohamed Noor when the initial results showed less than two per cent majority win for Datuk Yunos.

But Encik Razak refused to concede, alleging that certain discrepancies in vote counting could not be satisfactory; explained by the returning officer. He did not sign the acknowledgement slip.

The returning officer, after noting Encik Razak's stand then announced the verdict of a 31-vote majority in favour of Datuk Yunos. His official announcement was 10,181 votes for Datuk Yunos and 10,150 for Encik Razak which represented 58.7 per cent of the total electorate of 33,466. There were 274 spoilt votes.

The by-election was one of the closest battles ever witnessed in the electoral history of Malaysia. It was called following a High Court ruling that the 1986 election for the seat was void because of discrepancies in the conduct of the polls.

Datuk Haji Mohamad Yunos Sulaiman, 53, said he would continue to serve his constituency despite having won by only a 31-vote majority.

7/3/88 (NST, 8/3/88)

All members of the old UMNO, except those involved in the suit which resulted in the party being declared unlawful by the High Court on February 4, will be accepted as members of UMNO (Baru), its pro-tem president Datuk Seri Dr. Mahahtir Mohamad said today.

Dr. Mahahtir said members of the old UMNO who were presently involved in actions to revive the party would also not be accepted as members of UMNO Baru.

Dr. Mahathir said: "Those who refuse to accept the results of April 24 (the UMNO elections) are not qualified and have no place. There are not many. The majority however, will be accepted as members of the new party."

Dr. Mahathir declined to identify the members who would not be accepted but said "we know who we do not want to accept."

Application forms to join UMNO (Baru) will be swept to the various State pro team liaison committee officers from tomorrow, party pro-tem secretary Datuk Mohamad Rahmat said today.

He said more than a million forms had been printed, and this would be increased if necessary.

"The final decision of acceptance or otherwise of membership results with the pro-tem Supreme Council."

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir yesterday congratulated the winner in the Tanjung Puteri by-election, Barisan Nasional's Datuk Haji Mohamad Yunus Sulaiman, but said there would be a post-mortem to find out why the majority was so narrow.

The Partai Sosialis Rakyat Malaysia (PSRM) will lodge an official complaint with the Elections Committee tomorrow over alleged discrepancies in vote count for the Tanjung Puteri by-election.

PSRM legal adviser G.S.Nijar said he would hand over the complaint to the Commission's chairman Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Talib in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow morning.

Mr. Nijar said the grounds of complaint pertained to unexplained excess votes, alleged improper recount of ballot papers and the presence of a BN agent in a car despatching a ballot box to the counting centre.

8/3/88 (NST, 9/3/88)

All State pro-tem liaison committees of the new UMNO will meet this week and distribute membership application forms to the various pro-tem divisional committees, sources said today.

They said members of the committees would be briefed on what transpired at the central pro-tem committee meeting last night. They would be briefed on how the forms should be filled.

10/3/88 (NST, 11/3/88)

Datuk Rais Yatim today filed an application in the High Court seeking leave to apply for orders to quash the decision of the Registrar of Societies in rejecting the registration of UMNO Malaysia and accepting the registration of UMNO Baru.

The Registrar's decision not to register UMNO Malaysia was made on February 10, while the decision to register UMNO Baru was made on February 13.

Datuk Rais, who brought the action on behalf of the members of the pro-tem committee of the proposed UMNO Malaysia, also seeks leave to apply for orders directing the registrar to hear and determine the application for the registration of UMNO Malaysia, and also directing him/her to remove UMNO Baru from the Register of Societies kept under the Societies Act 1966.

The application for leave to apply for orders to certiorari and mandamus was filed by lawyer Mohammad Shafee Abdullah. It will be heard before Mr. Justice Mohammad Yusoff on Monday.

Datuk Rais named as respondents the Registrar of Societies Malaysia; UMNO Baru pro-tem committee president Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohammad; and the party's pro-tem secretary Datuk Mohamad Rahmat.

Dr. Mahathir and Datuk Mohamed are being sued on behalf of themselves as members of the UMNO Baru pro-tem committee and on behalf of and as representing all other members of the committee or society.

Datuk Rais' application for leave is supported by a certificate of urgency which, among other things, said that any delay would jeopardise the applicant's interest.

He also said the matters involved are important and urgent to the applicant.

Upon the granting of leave, Datuk Rais wants a direction that all proceedings on the decisions made on Feb 10 and Feb 13 be stayed until after the hearing of the notice of the motion, or further order.

Several grounds upon which the reliefs are being sought by Datuk Rais Yatim were set out in a statement filed today.

In relation to the registrar's decision to reject the application for registration of UMNO Malaysia, the statement said that:

* the registrar failed properly to exercise discretion vested in his/her by the Act;

* the registrar misdirected himself/herself in law in holding that the application could not be approved by reason of the inclusion of the word UMNO in the name of the society sought to be registered;

*the registrar was activated by extraneous considerations in that he/she took into account matters which were irrelevant to the application, and/or failed to take into account matters which were relevant;

*the registrar had acted unreasonably; and

*the registrar had, for the above reason, failed to determine the application according to law.

In relation to the registrar's decision to register UMNO Baru as a society under the Act, the statement said that:

*the registrar was inconsistent in his/her decision with respect to the inclusion of the word UMNO in the name of a society to be registered under the Act;

*the registrar failed to properly exercise his/her discretion; and

*the decision, having regard to all the circumstances, was unreasonable.

The Statement added that the registrar acted without or in excess of his/her jurisdiction. Also filed today is an affidavit by Datuk Rais, who said among other things that the registrar did not exercise his/her discretion and powers fairly.

"As a result, I and the rest of the pro-tem committee of UMNO Malaysia have been greatly prejudiced and injured." He also said that the registrar's decision to refuse the registration of UMNO Malaysia and to register UMNO Baru were made unduly in favour of UMNO Baru to the detriment of the members of the pro-tem committee that he represents for a society proposed too be established and to be known as UMNO Malaysia.

Datuk Rais said he believed Dr. Mahahtir and Datuk Mohamad Rahmat "are necessary and proper parties" to the application as the subject matters affects UMNO Baru.

11/3/88 (NST, 12/3/88)

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and the pro-tem committee members of UMNO Malaysia will not be accepted as members of the new UMNO, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahahtir Mohamad said today.

However, former UMNO members who had been tricked into supporting UMNO Malaysia will be accepting into the new UMNO if they wished to join it, said Dr. Mahahtir which is pro-tem president of the new UMNO.

Dr. Mahathir also said UMNO had to pay \$30 million interest per year because Tengku Razaleigh had influenced other members to build the party's headquarters at \$360 million although he (Dr. Mahathir suggested at first that the headquarters be built at only \$70 million.

The Registrar of Societies has allowed office bearers of the old UMNO, which has been declared unlawful, to hold posts in the new UMNO or other societies.

This paves the way for former UMNO leaders at State, division and branch levels to hold posts in the new UMNO or any other societies.

Section 49 of the Societies Act 1965 forbids any office bearer of a deregistered society from holding any post in any other society without the Registrar's written permission. Offenders are liable to be jailed up to five years or fined a maximum of \$5,000 or both.

He said UMNO had also received a letter from the Official Assignee confirming that assets and liabilities of the old UMNO were now in his charge.

UMNO headquarters will attach copies of these two letters, among others, when distributing the membership forms.

13/3/88 (NST, 14/3/88)

The UMNO headquarters today began despatching membership forms to pro-tem State UMNO liaison committees.

Former UMNO members today supported the statement made by Datuk Seri Dr. Mahahtir Mohamad that Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and the pro-tem committee members of UMNO Malaysia would not be accepted as members of UMNO Baru.

They said that Dr. Mahahtir, who is pro-tem president of the new UMNO was right in making such a statement.

14/3/88 (NST, 15/3/88)

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today said that fewer than a hundred former UMNO members would be excluded from the new party of which he is pro-tem President.

The Government is amending the Societies Act 1966 and the Federal Constitution, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today.

It would amend Section 12 (3) of the Act which provides for societies with illegal branches to be declared unlawful.

Several other consequential amendments would also be made, he said.

The amendments to the Constitution would include matters pertaining to land and its administration and other "minor" matters at his office in Parliament House.

Dr. Mahathir did not say when the amendments would be tabled but just said that they would be ready by tomorrow. "You can all have a look then."

"The law of God cannot be changed. The laws of man are made to benefit the people, not to cause them problems," he said.

15/3/88 (NST, 16/3/88)

The new UMNO pro-tem committee has received proposals for pro-tem State liaison committee line-ups from Perlis, Kedah and Penang, pro-tem secretary Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today.

Datuk Mohamad called on members of the old UMNO to declare assets of the defunct party held under their name and surrender them to the new party.

"If they refuse, they are liable to be prosecuted for keeping properties of an extinct organisation," he said.

16/3/88 (NST, 17/3/88)

At least 24 former UMNO divisional heads are to be excluded from the list of 133 people who will lead the new UMNO pro-tem divisions.

Sources said among those to be left out are former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah (Gua Musang), former Foreign Minister Datuk Rais Yatim (Jelebu) and former Deputy Works Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin (Bagan Serai).

Others are former UMNO Youth leader Datuk Suhaimi Kamaruddin (Sepang); former Land and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Adib Adam (Batu Berendam); MP for Sik Datuk Zainal Abidin Johari; former Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Kadir Sheikh Fadzir (Kulim-Bandar Baru); and former Deputy Labour Minister Datuk Haji Zakaria Abdul Rahman (Besut).

A massive campaign to bring the people and their leaders together for dialogues on the latest developments in the country and to quash all rumours and speculation on the leadership will begin next week.

UMNO Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are to spearhead such "meet the people" sessions.

One hundred and thirty-three gatherings have been planned in all States in Peninsular Malaysia. Another 299 sessions will be led by UMNO political secretaries.

Former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah is circulating statements that he and his group are attempting to revive the old UMNO.

He said that "they were now setting out in their efforts as saviours of the race and not as traitors."

17/3/88 (NST, 18/3/88)

Former UMNO secretary-general Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid said today he is confident the new UMNO will emerge stronger than the old party once its problems are settled.

"Whether I am the secretary-general (of the new UMNO) or not is not the issue. The issue is Malay unity which is a necessary element in the promotion of national unity and political stability. I believe that everything will be settled in time."

18/3/88 (NST, 19/3/88)

A new political party called Pintar, or Parti Tindakan Rakyat Malaysia, is being formed by a joint committee of graduates and the National Association of Film Producers, Artistes and Writers (Pakar).

The 30-member committee comprises professionals like doctors, lawyers and accountants. Encik Zulkifli Haji Ahmad, the pro-tem chairman for Pintar, said Pintar should not be viewed as an Opposition party out to topple the Government. Instead, the party should be considered a "watch-dog", offering constructive criticism to any Government policy whenever necessary.

Encik Zulkifli said the formation of this new party also conformed to a statement made by Information Minister Datuk Mohammed Rahmat, who said that as a country practising a democratic system, anybody could form a political party.

Pintar, he added, would be a multi-racial party since unemployment and hardship transcended racial barriers.

The pro-tem committee will meet on April 1.

20/3/88 (NST, 21/3/88)

14 former UMNO division chiefs in Johore were retained.

22/3/88 (NST, 23/3/88)

Kelantan UMNO pro-tem committee chairman Datuk Haji Mohamed Yaacob said applicants are not required to enclose their photographs when submitting membership forms to join the party.

"We don't need photographs at this stage, but only when the party issues membership cards."

24/3/88 (NST, 25/3/88)

The Johore UMNO pro-tem committee is not blacklisting anyone wishing to join the new UMNO, State UMNO chief Haji Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

He said the final decision to accept or reject applications lay with central pro-tem committee.

26/3/88 (NST, 27/3/88)

Former Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Ajib Ahmad has been dropped as Mersing UMNO division chairman. He will automatically lose his position in the Johore UMNO liaison committee.

A high-ranking UMNO said today Datuk Abdul Ajib was dropped because he was one of the seven new UMNO MP's who failed to turn up in the Parliament when the Constitutional Amendment Bill was tabled and passed earlier this month.

27/3/88 (NST, 28/3/88)

The UMNO Supreme Council has approved the divisional committee line-ups for seven States, party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today.

Approval was given last week for the committees in Malacca, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Penang, Kedah, Perlis and Terengganu, he said.

28/3/88 (NST, 29/3/88)

UMNO Youth and Wanita heads and deputy heads may be chosen through a musyawarah (consultation) among the elected members of their respective national committees.

This proposal is expected too be discussed at the UMNO protem committee meeting next month, council member Datuk Megat Junid Ayob said today.

Six of the 23 former Perak UMNO division heads have been excluded from the new UMNO pro-tem liaison committee lineup announced by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ngah Talib here last night.

The six are from the Bruas, Batu Gajah, Sungai Siput, Bagan Serai, Taiping and Tasek Chenderoh divisions.

29/3/88 (NST, 30/3/88)

The new UMNO hopes to operate as a full-fledged party with branches formed and a general assembly held within six to 12 months, its pro-tem deputy president Encik Ghafar Baba said today.

The UMNO Baru Supreme Council will meet here on April 13 to discuss and approve several matters concerning the party constitution, party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today.

The meeting would also discuss procedures in accepting and processing membership application forms before they are forwarded to the supreme council, he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba said today the question of leadership succession has never arisen and will never arise in this country even though the current leaders have not indicated who are likely to succeed them when the time comes.

Encik Ghafar said the present leadership was giving priority to preparing the second echelon who would be inheriting the mantle of national leadership when the time came.

UMNO leaders dropped as division heads are free to contest posts in the coming UMNO Baru elections, pro-tem deputy president Abdul Ghafar said today.

The Deputy Prime Minister said there would be no discrimination in the new party.

30/3/88 (NST, 31/3/88)

The Prime Minister today said he was unaware of the formation of a new political party called Pertubuhan Kebangsaan Melayu Bersatu Semenanjung (Perkasa). Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Home Minister, said he could not verify the report.

"It may be just small talk," he told reporters at his office in Parliament House.

The report claimed that some former UMNO leaders led by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and Datuk Rais Yatim were now attempting to form the new Malay party.

The Bahasa Malaysia daily, quoting sources, claimed that Tengku Razaleigh was the pro-tem president of Perkasa and Datuk Rais his deputy.

Former Deputy Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin was reportedly the secretary of the pro-tem Perkasa committee.

1/4/88 (The Star, 2/4/88)

Tunku Abdul Rahman urged the people today to uphold the spirit of Merdeka "at this time when democracy is being compromised."

He said the country was having "teething problems" and it is the duty of all to play their role to restore democracy.

"We must keep the glory of Merdeka and restore democracy which we have sworn to uphold.

The Tunku said that nothing worries him now except the fate of the Malays.

"What worries me now is the current political situation in the country," he said.

"UMNO is split and is going to be destroyed. I do not know where else the Malays can turn to." the Tunku said he and Tun Hussein understood the problems and that was why they were backing Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

"The times when we enjoyed peace, harmony and good economic life are over. How can I keep quiet, especially when I am now nearly dying?"

Former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today he is not against UMNO Baru but "fighting for the revival of the old UMNO."

He said he had no intention of being in opposition or pleading to be a member of UMNO Baru.

"I just want to put the old UMNO back on its track, something which former UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr. Mahahitir Mohamad had the power to do hurt did not," he told reporters at his home here.

Tengku Razaleigh said he had been alleged to be the dalang behind the 11. "I was not the dalang then. But now I am. I am behind the 11 in their appeal to the Supreme Court and the writ by Datuk Rais," he added.

14 Selangor UMNO heads were appointed.

2/4/88 (NST, 3/4/88)

In an ex-parte summons in Chambers filed in the High Court yesterday, the plaintiffs - former Prime Ministers Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Hussein Onn as well as former Agriculture Minister Datuk Manan Othman are seeking to stop the new UMNO, its office bearers and agents from:

- * issuing any membership application form to, or accepting as members of UMNO, any former member of the old UMNO;
- * making any statements, oral or written, whether through the mass media or otherwise on any matter pertaining to or touching the plaintiffs or members of the pro-tem committee of the proposed UMNO Malaysia or any of them or the proposed UMNO Malaysia; and
- * transferring, dealing with or otherwise disposing of any of the assets and liabilities of UMNO.

They are also seeking costs of the application and other ancillary relief.

The application was made pending the disposal of an earlier application for leave by the proposed UMNO Malaysia pro-tem secretary Datuk Rais Yatim to apply for orders to quash the decision of the Registrar of Societies in rejecting the registration of UMNO Malaysia and accepting the registration of the new UMNO.

The defendants named in the motion are the Prime Minister and the new UMNO pro-tem president Datuk Seri Dr. Mahahitir Mohamad and pro-tem secretary-general Datuk Mohamad Rahmat. They are being sued as pro-tem president and secretary-general of UMNO Baru respectively.

The writ was served on the defendant's solicitors, Messrs Rashid and Lee, here this morning. Hearing has been fixed before High Court judge Mr. Justice Ajaib Singh on April 7 and 8.

Two affidavits, one signed by the Tunku and the other by Tun Hussein, have been filed in support of the application. They are claiming that it would be unfair to deprive former UMNO members (who would be excluded from UMNO Baru) of the party's assets.

The Tunku said the early leaders and members of UMNO had contributed their assets to UMNO for its working capital.

In their statement of claim, the solicitors for the plaintiffs, Messrs Shafee and Co., among other things, said the recent amendments to the Societies Act 1966, would enable UMNO Baru to acquire all the assets and liabilities of UMNO without having to accept as members everyone of those persons who were lawful members of UMNO at the date the party was deemed an unlawful society.

3/4/88 (The Star, 4/4/88)

Assets and liabilities of the old UMNO were frozen on the instructions of the Official Assignee after the party was declared unlawful by the High Court in February, UMNO Baru pro-tem committee secretary-general Datuk Mohamad Rahmat said today.

He said all files and documents on the assets and liabilities of the old UMNO were taken over by the Official Assignee.

4/4/88 (NST, 5/4/88)

The UMNO committee on the party constitution has rejected a proposal that the Youth and Wanita wings be re-classified as bureaus.

It has also decided to leave it to the party's pro-tem supreme council to decide if the heads of the Youth and Wanita wings should be appointed or elected.

This was stated by Datuk Seri Najib Razak who was acting president of the old UMNO Youth movement.

Datuk Seri Najib said both the Youth and Wanita wings would retain their old names - Pergerakan Wanita UMNO and Pergerakan Pemuda UMNO - and would enjoy the same independence as before.

Former Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman said today he went to Kelantan to give moral support to the Sultan because of current political developments in the State.

He supported the Sultan's view that "idolising of leaders" was detrimental to the State's unity.

5/4/88 (NST, 6/4/88)

Former Finance Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and three others have filed a libel suit against Utusan Melayu (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. relating to an article which claimed that they were trying to form a new party called Perkasa.

The other plaintiffs are former Foreign Minister Datuk Rais Yatim, former Deputy Energy Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zain and former UMNO supreme council member Hajah Marina Yusof.

The suit was filed on Saturday at the High Court registry here on their behalf by Datuk Rais, who is also a solicitor.

Utusan Melayu Group-Editor-in-Chief Zainuddin Maidin and journalist Rozaid Abdul Rahman have been named the second and third defendants.

In the suits, the plaintiffs claim that Utusan Melayu (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. had falsely and maliciously printed/published an article under the heading Parti politic Perkasa will formed on the front and sixth pages of the March 14 edition of Utusan Malaysia.

The plaintiffs also claim that Encik Zainuddin and Encik Rozaid, who are and were at all material times the editor and journalist of the newspaper, had falsely and maliciously caused the article to be printed and published in the way of their respective political associations with UMNO and their interest in UMNO Malaysia.

The plaintiffs claim that the words in the news report meant and were understood to mean that:

- * the plaintiffs had abandoned their efforts to form UMNO Malaysia and had broken off from traditional Malay politics;
- * the plaintiffs had lost political support of, inter-alia, former Prime Ministers Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Hussein Onn;

* the plaintiffs had lost or lost such of the support and confidence of the Malay population and were no longer credit worthy politicians;

* the plaintiffs were inconsistent and irresolute in finding a solution to the problem raised by the illegality of UMNO and were therefore politically unstable, unfit and incompetent to lead their supporters; and

* the plaintiffs were bound to fail in their appeal made to the Home Minister (regarding the rejection of the registration of UMNO Malaysia by the Registrar of Societies on Feb. 10).

They are seeking an injunction to restrain the defendants from further publishing any similar article as well as seeking damages, costs and any further relief the court deems fit.

5/4/88 (The Star, 6/4/88)

Deputy Prime Minister and UMNO Baru deputy president Ghafar Baba refuted tonight claims that those applying for membership of the party will have to declare their private assets.

He said applications need only voluntarily state any profits from their assets for donating to the party.

The claims seemed to create an impression that the party was trying to seize the people's property to settle its debts, she said at a dialogue with Federal Territory UMNO Baru Committee members.

6/4/88 (The Star and NST, 7/4/88)

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Mohamad Rahmat are applying to strike out a writ filed recently by former Prime Ministers Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Hussein Onn and former Agriculture Minister Datuk Manan Othman.

Their application, under Order 18 of the Rules of the High Court, was filed by their lawyer, Encik Zaki Tun Azmi, at 3 pm today.

Hearing has been fixed for April 15 before Mr. Justice Ajaib Singh.

The Prime Minister and Information Minister claim that the plaintiffs who are seeking injunctions to restrain the new UMNO from recruiting members as well as conducting any transaction to transfer the assets of the old UMNO - have no cause of action.

They also claim that the action is frivolous, vexatious and scandalous; and an abuse of the process of the court.

Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Hussein and Datuk Abdul Manan filed their writ last Friday.

Named as defendants are Dr. Mahatir and Datuk Mohamad, who are being sued as pro-tem president and secretary-general of UMNO respectively.

The plaintiffs, are seeking to stop the new UMNO, its office bearers, servants and agents from:

- * issuing any membership application form to, or accepting as members of UMNO, any former member of the old UMNO:

- * making any statement, oral or written, whether through the mass media or otherwise on any matters pertaining to or touching on the plaintiffs or members of the pro-tem committee of the proposed UMNO Malaysia; and

- * transferring, dealing with or otherwise disposing of any of the assets and liabilities of UMNO.

They are also asking for costs and such further or other relief the court may deem fit.

8/4/88 (The Star, 9/4/88)

Those objecting to the vesting of UMNO's assets and liabilities in UMNO Baru should do so when the Official Assignee applies to the court for the transfer, the High Court was told today.

Counsel, Zaki Tun Azmi, for UMNO Baru, said the pro-tem president, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and pro-tem Secretary-General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat do not have the power to transfer the assets to UMNO Baru.

He said only the Official Assignee could do this but even he had to seek a court order before the transfer could be carried out.

He said the plaintiffs - former Prime Ministers Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Hussein Onn and former Agriculture Minister Datuk Abdul Manan Othman - and other interested parties could object when the application for the transfer was made.

"It is just not a straight-forward exercise (in court) that all assets and liabilities are going to UMNO Baru."

"There are so many sufficient build-in clauses to protect the interest of all the members of the old UMNO."

"The members of the old UMNO, UMNO Baru and the creditors have the right to object if they wish," he added.

Encik Zaki was submitting in reply to an application by the Tunku, Tun Hussein and Datuk Manan for an interim injunction to stop the defendants from :

- * TRANSFERRING, dealing or disposing UMNO's assets and liabilities;
- * ISSUING any membership application forms to any former UMNO member or accepting them as members of UMNO Baru; and
- * MAKING any statements relating to the plaintiffs or UMNO Malaysia.

The order is being sought pending the disposal of an application for leave by UMNO Malaysia pro-tem Secretary-General Datuk Rais Yatim to quash the rejection by the Registrar of Societies to register the society and the decision to register UMNO Baru.

Datuk Rais is also seeking orders to direct the registrar to determine according to law, UMNO Malaysia's application for registration and remove UMNO Baru from the register. Hearing of Datuk Rais' application, filed on March 10, was adjourned on March 14 pending the outcome of the appeal by UMNO Malaysia to the Home Minister against the rejection of its application for registration.

The main suit of the Tunku, Tun Hussein and Datuk Manan seeks the same injunction orders but in permanent form.

Encik Zaki said it was difficult for the Official Assignee to identify every individual of UMNO's former 1.4 million members to pay them their assets.

"There is no assurance that after paying off liabilities, there will be any surplus," he said.

The Societies Act, 1966, provides for any surplus assets of a society to be divided equally among all former members if the Official Assignee deems it fit and proper.

Encik Zaki said the claim by the plaintiffs that they would be deprived of assets was completely imaginary.

He added that under the Specific Relief Act the plaintiffs could not obtain an injunction against the Official Assignee as his office was defined as a public authority.

Encik Zaki also submitted that the plaintiffs must prove that UMNO Baru would not be accepting all former UMNO members.

He said the statement by the Tunku in his affidavit that UMNO Baru had publicly announced that not all former UMNO members would be accepted was based on newspapers reports and should be ignored.

He said the newspaper reports were inadmissible as they were here say, being unverified by affidavits from the reporters concerned.

Earlier, Raja Aziz Addruse, for the plaintiffs, said that whether Datuk Rais' application would be heard quickly would depend on the Home Minister's decision on the appeal against the rejection of UMNO Malaysia's application for registration.

"Some time may lapse between now and the hearing of the application," he said.

He said that damages would be adequately remedy because if the assets and liabilities were transferred by the time Datuk Rais' application came up for hearing his position would be 'greatly prejudiced.'

The plaintiffs would be also be deprived of their right to the assets and liabilities. He added that if the registration of members by UMNO Baru were to be allowed to continue, the court hearing of Datuk Rais' application would have to deal with an academic matter as most members would have become members of UMNO Baru.

Raja Aziz said the plaintiffs were seeking to protect their interest in the surplus assets after the Official Assignee paid off all liabilities. The Tunku

and former UMNO supreme council member Hajjah Marina Yusof were present at today's hearing. The hearing continues on Monday.

9/4/88 (The Star, 10/4/88)

The Penang UMNO Baru is adopting an 'open door' policy on the application of former UMNO members to join the party, its pro-tem chairman Anwar Ibrahim said today.

"As far as the State UMNO Baru is concerned, all Malays are welcome to apply to join the party," he said.

9/4/88 (NST, 10/4/88)

UMNO clubs abroad will be invited to become affiliates of the new UMNO.

Foreign Minister and UMNO pro-tem supreme council member Datuk Abu Hassan Haji Omar said the clubs would have to wait for sometime as the new party has to sort out other matters first.

In the meantime, he said, the clubs members could carry out normal social activities without touching on political issues.

10/4/88 (NST, 11/4/88)

The Registrar of Societies has approved the draft constitution of the new UMNO, its pro-tem secretary-general Datuk Mohamad Rahmat said today.

"Generally, the draft constitution has been approved by the registrar. What we are doing now is only to further streamline the constitution," he said in an interview.

Datuk Mohamad, however, would not give details of the amendments, except to say that these were being done mainly to reduce politicking in the party.

Datuk Mohamad said after the pro-tem supreme council has endorsed the amendments, the final draft constitution will be submitted to the registrar for approval. The constitution will be distributed after that.

11/4/88 (The Star, 12/4/88)

The High Court will deliver its decision tomorrow on whether to grant an interim injunction to stop UMNO Baru from transferring the assets and liabilities of UMNO to it and from recruiting members from the old society.

Mr Justice Ajaib Singh reserved his judgement after hearing submissions from UMNO Baru's counsel Zaki Tun Azmi and Raja Aziz Addruse, counsel for Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Hussein Onn and Datuk Manan Othman.

In continuing his submission, Encik Zaki said the claim that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was likely to enact a law to ensure that the new society obtained UMNO's assets was, "in the absence of any other facts, highly vexatious and malicious." He was referring to former Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman's statement in his affidavit that it was highly probable that Dr Mahathir would initiate a law regulating the jurisdiction and powers of the High Courts over UMNO Baru's acquisition of UMNO's assets and liabilities.

The plaintiffs - the Tunku, Tun Hussein Onn and Datuk Abdul Manan Othman - are also seeking an injunction to stop the defendants - Dr Mahathir and Datuk Mohamad Rahmat - from making any statements about them or UMNO Malaysia.

The main suit of the Tunku, Tun Hussein and Datuk Manan seeks the same injunction orders but in permanent form. Encik Zaki also submitted that :

*There was no serious question to be tried as all the assets of UMNO were with the Official Assignee and UMNO Baru was unable to deal with them;

*Citing the facts in Datuk Rais' case was irrelevant;

*An injunction against the making of statements about UMNO Malaysia would be an attempt to 'shut the mouths' of the defendants and to do so would be depriving them of their right to free speech;

*There was also no claim by the plaintiffs that these statements were going to be damaging to them;

*It was 'none of the business' of the plaintiffs to tell the defendants what they should do with their society of which the plaintiffs were not even members;

*The injunction should be refused as the plaintiffs' were not going to be reduced or improved in any way whether the order was refused or given;

*Whether the injunction was given would not place the plaintiffs in a better position than it was now. However, if the order was given UMNO Baru was going to suffer;

*If UMNO Malaysia was eventually registered and UMNO Baru de-registered the loss would be incurred by the latter; and

*If UMNO Baru was eventually de-registered its members would have to resort to UMNO Malaysia.

12/4/88 (The Star, 13/4/88)

Mr Justice Ajaib Singh this afternoon rejected an application for interim injunctions sought by former Prime Ministers Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Hussein Onn as well as former Agriculture Minister Datuk Manan Othman.

Delivering a three-page judgement at 3.25 p.m. to a crowd of more than 100 people, the judge said there was `no justification for UMNO Malaysia, whose existence is shrouded in uncertainty, to bring this action against UMNO Baru, which is lawfully registered under the Societies Act.'

He said the plaintiffs' application for the interim injunctions was `without any merit or substance.'

"There is no basis or whatsoever on which the court can grant the injunctions. The application therefore must be dismissed with costs."

Mr Justice Ajaib Singh later granted leave for the plaintiffs to appeal to the Supreme Court.

The Tunku, Tun Hussein and Datuk Manan (the latter was in court today) had sought to stop the new UMNO, its office bearers, servants and agents from :

*issuing any membership application form to or accepting as members of the new UMNO, any former member of UMNO;

*making any statement, oral or written, whether through the mass media or otherwise, on any matters pertaining to or touching on the plaintiffs or

members of the pro-tem committee of the proposed UMNO Malaysia or any of them or the proposed UMNO Malaysia; and

*transferring, dealing with or otherwise disposing of any of the assets and liabilities of UMNO. The orders were sought pending the disposal of an application for leave by UMNO Malaysia pro-tem secretary-general Datuk Rais Yatim to quash the decision of the Registrar of Societies in rejecting the registration of UMNO Malaysia and accepting the registration of the new UMNO.

Datuk Rais, who brought the action on behalf of the members of the pro-tem committee of UMNO Malaysia, also seeks to leave to apply for orders directing the registrar to determine UMNO Malaysia's application for registration and to remove the new UMNO from the register.

His application was adjourned by the High Court on March 14 pending the outcome of an appeal by UMNO Malaysia's pro-tem committee to the Home Affairs against the rejection of its registration.

The plaintiffs, in their writ filed on April 1 against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, also seek similar injunctions but in a permanent form.

The defendants, on April 6, filed an application to strike out the writ on the grounds that the plaintiffs have no cause of action, that their action is frivolous, vexatious, scandalous and an abuse of the process of the court.

Mr Justice Ajaib Singh said the new UMNO was a duly registered society under the Societies Act 1966.

"By issuing membership application forms in its drive to recruit members, UMNO Baru is doing no more than pursuing its legitimate aims and aspirations as a lawful political party." "On the other hand the position of the proposed UMNO Malaysia is far from stable. Its application for registration under the Societies Act stands rejected and an appeal against its rejection is pending before the Minister of Home Affairs."

"Secondly, it would be wrong and preposterous for the court to restrain the defendants from making statements concerning UMNO Malaysia.

"Freedom of speech and expression are guaranteed in the Federal Constitution. Political parties are free to make statements on matters of public concern and on the contemporary political situation and these statements may well touch on the activities of other political parties."

"This freedom of speech and expression is however not absolute. This freedom remains within the ambit of the law such as sedition and defamation."

"Thirdly, on the plaintiff's claim that the defendants be refrained from dealing with the assets and liabilities of the old UMNO, I agree entirely with the submission of Encik Zaki Tun Ismail (counsel for the defendants) on this point."

"When a society is cancelled under the Societies Act all the assets and liabilities of the society become vested in the Registrar of Societies and he is duty-bound to deal with these in accordance with the provisions of the Societies Act."

"And now under the amendments to the Act a fair and just provision is provided in section 17B which contains ample safeguards for the members of the cancelled society in respect of their rights and obligations in the assets and liabilities of the cancelled society."

Mr Justice Ajaib Singh also said :

On the material before me in this case I would say that the plaintiffs do not appear to have a real prospect of succeeding in their claim for permanent injunctions which they have filed against the defendants in their writ of summons."

"They cannot therefore obtain interim injunctions pending trial of the suit proper."

"And on the question of the balance of convenience, the evidence indicates that the balance lies in favour of defendants and against the granting of the interim injunctions."

"In all the circumstances, therefore, there is no justification for UMNO Malaysia, whose existence is shrouded in uncertainty, to bring this action against UMNO Baru which is lawfully registered under the Societies Act."

"The application is dismissed with costs."

13/4/88 (The Star, 14/4/88)

A former UMNO branch chairman applied to the High Court today to temporarily stop the winding up of the party's affairs by the Official Assignee.

Encik Azizi Shariff, formerly of the Jalan Haji Hussein branch, is also applying for an order barring the Official Assignee from transferring, disposing or vesting UMNO's assets, property or business to anyone, without giving him notice or the court's directions.

Former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today the struggle for UMNO Malaysia in the spirit of UMNO '46 will continue through the legal process.

"I will strive to revive UMNO to best of my abilities through legal means."

"We will seek judicial remedy. We respect the laws of this country," Tengku Razaleigh told about hundred supporters at a dinner here to celebrate his 51st birthday.

14/4/88 (The Star, 15/4/88)

The Wanita and Youth heads of UMNO Baru will be appointed for three-year terms instead of being elected every two years as was done previously.

The same also applies for their deputies, under an amendment to the party's constitution.

The party president will pick the appointees from among the division chiefs, with the concurrence of the supreme council.

Prior to the amendments, the division elections were held every two years and for the branches, annually.

Under another major amendment, candidates nominated by a division for the post of party president or deputy president will automatically receive 10 votes.

16/4/88 (The Star, 17/4/88)

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Encik Ghafar Baba have been confirmed in their posts as president and deputy president of UMNO Baru, Datuk Mohamad Rahmat said today.

He said this also applied to his position as secretary-general, and the post of Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin as treasurer and Senator Haji Hussein Ahmad as information chief.

16/4/88 (The New Straits Times, 17/4/88)

The UMNO Youth and Wanita wings will not lose their identities as independent watchdogs of the party even if their leaders are appointed by the party leadership.

"If the appointed leaders have their own personal views and opinions on whatever matter then they will not be easily influenced by others."

He also believed that the process of electing the Youth and Wanita heads was not necessary as both wings are already part of the parent party.

"It is consistent and in line with the practice of other democratic parties, where the appointment of Youth and Wanita heads are the prerogative of the party president with the consensus of the Supreme council."

"Such practices have worked well in other Western and Eastern countries. Therefore, I see no reason for UMNO to follow such move." However, he stressed that what he said was his personal opinion.

UMNO Information Chief Senator Haji Hussein Ahmad warned non-members to stay out of party matters and to stop criticising decisions taken by the Supreme Council.

He said only UMNO members had the right to question or oppose decisions made by the Supreme Council.

"We will certainly not entertain the non-members. Only ideas from UMNO members will be considered," he said.

He also assured the Malays that all applications to become UMNO members would be accepted by the Supreme Council except for those who tried to bring chaos to the party.

"These people, if accepted, will only cause further damage to the party," he said.

16/4/88 (The Sunday Star, 17/4/88)

UMNO Secretary-general Datuk Mohamad Rahmat today said the party became "full-fledged" after the Registrar of Societies approved its application.

Therefore, there was no question of it retaining a pro-tem committee.

The Supreme Council, he said, had also retained its former hierarchy with full-fledged members.

However, branches would only be set up after the completion of the membership drive, he added.

18/4/88 (The New Straits Times, 19/4/88)

The decision of the Kuala Lumpur High Court last week rejecting an application by former UMNO leaders for an interim injunction has caused more former UMNO members applying to join the new UMNO.

State UMNO secretary Haji Ahmad Shahibuddin Mohamad Noor said the response from former UMNO members towards the new UMNO was overwhelming with nearly 30 000 membership forms distributed since the court's decision.

He said he would request 200 000 more forms from the Supreme Council as enquiries about joining the party has increased. -Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba's clarification on the status of funds still held by former UMNO members came as a relief to many.

State Executive Councillor Jaafar Lajis said the explanation, made at a dialogue held in connection with the launching of the Jasin UMNO division, helped dispel doubts pertaining to the status of the funds and steer the new party away from any trouble in the future.

Encik Jaafar, who chaired the dialogue, said he was one of those who thought it was all right for former UMNO members to use their subscriptions which were not handed over to the old party to pay the registration fee and subscription to join UMNO.

"Fortunately, Encik Ghafar was quick to correct me and enlighten the gathering on the matter. Otherwise, it could have land the party in all sorts of trouble," he said.

20/4/88 (The Star, 21/4/88)

A former UMNO member applied to the High Court today to be allowed to seek an order to direct the Home Minister to decide on an appeal against the cancellation of the society's registration.

Encik Mohamad Zainal Abidin Abdul Mutalib of Puchong is also seeking an order to stay the execution of the decision of the Registrar of Societies in cancelling UMNO's registration on Feb. 12.

He named Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as respondent. Encik Zainal wants the order pending the outcome of his application, which will be heard on Monday.

He had appealed on March 1 to Dr Mahathir Mohamad to 'save' UMNO and urged him to exercise his ministerial powers under Section 18 of the Societies Act, 1966 to restore the society to its lawful status.

Section 18 allows the Home Minister to confirm, reject or vary the registrar's decision when there is an appeal.

He said the appeal has still not been determined "according to law within reasonable time."

"It is and was the duty of Dr Mahathir to do so speedily and without delay," he said.

On Feb 6, the registrar gave notice to former UMNO secretary-general Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid asking the party to show cause why it should not be de-registered because of 30 unapproved branches.

"Having regard to the national importance of the matter to the country, the Malays and the people, Dr Mahathir should decide on my appeal s speedily as possible," Encik Zainal said in his application.

"But he has failed to do so nor has he given any indication to me or to the public at large when he will hear or make a decision on my appeal," he added.

The Registrar of Societies has approved the registration of all 133 UMNO Baru divisions, party secretary-general Datuk Mohamad Rahmat said today.

24/4/88 (NST, 25/4/88)

UMNO President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will meet members of the Supreme Council and State liaison and division co-ordinating committees on April 28 to brief them on the latest party developments.

The closed-door meeting, the first major gathering of all officials of the party in the two-months old UMNO, will be held at Putra World Trade Centre.

UMNO Secretary-General Datuk Mohamad Rahmat said Dr Mahathir will deliver a 'special message' to the 1 500 party officials at the function.

Meanwhile, a clearer picture of the fate of workers of the old UMNO at its former headquarters here will be known on April 26. They are said to be still unpaid since UMNO was declared unlawful by the High Court on Feb 4.

Datuk Mohamed refused to confirm a newspaper report that these workers would only get their February, March and April salaries at the end of this month from the Official Assignee. The newspaper report yesterday also said the Official Assignee was expected to seal the headquarters of the old party on the 37th and 38th floor of Menara Datuk Onn at the Putra World Trade Centre on April 27.

However, Datuk Mohamaed said : "Wait for Friday, you will get a clearer picture of these two issues."

MPs from the old UMNO who resign to recontest their seats will have to stand against the Barisan Nasional in by-elections, UMNO Deputy President Ghafar Baba said.

"We are not going to stand in any by-election as UMNO candidates (if by-elections are necessary). We will stand as Barisan candidates," he said in an interview at his home in Pringgi this morning.

Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad who proposed to give up his seat and stand against Johore executive council member Abu Bakar Dewa in what is seen as a test to determine whether the recently-registered UMNO has the support of members of the old party.

There was also speculation that several other old UMNO MPs opposed to the present party would also resign to stand as Independents "representing the old UMNO" against the new.

Referring to this, Encik Ghafar said : "It is up to them if they want to resign. No one can prevent from doing this, If that happens and a by-election is inevitable, they will have to test the Barisan candidates because we will stand as Barisan not UMNO candidates," he said.

1/5/88 (NST, 2/5/88)

The inaugural UMNO general assembly may be held later this year, its deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba said today. However, he said, the party Supreme Council had not decided on its date.

19/6/88 (The Star, 20/6/88)

UMNO Baru is to meet over the ruling by Barisan Nasional that the coalition cannot determine the position of UMNO MPs and State Assemblyman who refuse to join the new party.

UMNO Baru Secretary-General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said that the party has the list of the names but declined to name them.

After the meeting the Prime Minister who is also the Chairman of the party said that the Barisan was a coalition that it could not have individuals as members and that the Barisan could only expel parties not individuals.

Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said that the UMNO Baru is still processing the applications and it involved a lot of work.

23/6/88 (The Star, 24/6/88)

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed said today that UMNO Baru should recruit more former UMNO members and professionals as part of efforts to strengthen the party.

He also said that at present the party had only political power and "if this power is lost, the Malays will lose and therefore, it is important for us to strengthen the party by pooling our efforts to ensure that it could protect the interest of the Malays."

He had also expressed regret over the groups which had told British MPs that Malaysia is ruled by a dictator and that it was a police state, causing fear among foreign investors.

Dr Mahathir said that the efforts by the 'Group of 11' to revive UMNO after declaring it unlawful had been fruitless because the government has no powers to do so.

The Prime Minister was attending a meeting with members of village and security development committee in Terengganu at Stadium Negeri here.

27/6/88 (The Star, 28/6/88)

UMNO Deputy President Abdul Ghafar Baba said the party now has 400 000 automatic members from 8 000 which have been set up.

However, he said, the figure did not include those who had applied to join the party.

"They are automatic members of the party because they were appointed and they paid their own subscription fees."

He also said that the party has received about 500 000 applications. Encik Ghafar then added that he will tour every state to brief the people on the party and its constitution.

At another instance Encik Ghafar Baba said that UMNO Baru cannot take over the assets of the old UMNO unless its members total more than half of the old party.

The Deputy Prime Minister told the reporters that the Official Assignee had yet to complete taking stock of the old UMNO's assets.

The Official Assignee is then required to present a scheme which must be agreed on by the court, creditor (banks) and the receiver (UMNO Baru). In addition he said that the former party members who do not agree to the scheme have a right to be compensated.

28/6/88 (The Star, 29/6/88)

Four former Perak UMNO Youth division chiefs were named today to the State UMNO Baru State Executive Committee:

* Former Bagan Datoh Youth division head Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, as deputy chairman.

*Former Pasir Pinji division chief Al-Amin Abdul Majias treasurer.

*Former Bagan Serai division chief Baharuddin Mohamed Nor, as information chief; and

*Former Tambun division chief Husni Hanadzlah, as secretary, a post he had held in the old State UMNO Youth.

Perak UMNO Baru Youth leader Hamzah Mohamed Zain told a Press conference that the appointments were made in consultation with national Youth chief Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and State UMNO Baru Chairman and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ramli Ngah Talib.

A statement from the Perak Menteri Besar's office said in a statement today that Perak UMNO Baru divisions had been actively involved in the membership registration drive and some of them had almost achieved the number of members they had previously.

However, Pengkalan Baru State Assemblyman Datuk Haji Abdul Malik Ahmad said he had not applied to join UMNO Baru. Datuk Malik had announced on Friday his resignation as State Assembly Speaker from July 5. His resignation was accepted by Datuk Seri Ramli.

29/6/88 (The Star, 30/6/88)

The UMNO Baru Supreme council ,meeting scheduled for the 30th June has been postponed to July 6, party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today.

He said the postponement was made because the Supreme Council members who are Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers will be attending the burial of the Tunku Ampuan of Pahang.

Datuk Mohamed Rahmat also said that the committee on AGM regulations, headed by party deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba, had completed its

paper work and would be submitting a report for discussion and approval by the supreme council members.

On party membership, Datuk Mohamed said the party had targeted for 700 000 members until the end of this year in its first stage of the membership drive.

14/7/88 (The Star 15/7/88)

Ampang Jaya UMNO Baru pro-tem committee is against the appointment of Encik Fuad Hassan as the division's youth head.

The appointment is described as "done without consultation."

The resolution is signed by the division's secretary Mad Aris Mohamed Yusuf after a meeting between the division's pro-tem committee members and Datuk Seri Najib yesterday evening on the matter.

The resolution said :

*The division's decision was not taken into consideration before appointing Encik Fuad.

*The division chairman, Datuk Haji Ahmad Razali Ali, was not consulted nor was the appointment discussed with him.

*The appointment could create disharmony and disunity in the division.

*Regretted the attitude of Datuk Seri Najib who did not even respect the explanation of Datuk Haji Ahmad Razali during a meeting between them yesterday evening.

16/7/88 (The Star, 17/7/88)

UMNO Baru president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed said the party can be called UMNO because it comprises basically the same people who made up the old UMNO.

The Prime Minister was responding to a question on the status of the party in the view of a directive to drop the word "Baru".

20/7/88 (The Star, 21/7/88)

The High Court hearing of an application by a former UMNO branch chairman to temporarily stop the winding up of the party's affairs by the Official Assignee has been postponed to Oct 5.

Former Jalan Haji Hussein UMNO branch chief Azizi Sharif is also applying to stop the Official Assignee from transferring, disposing or vesting the UMNO assets, property or business to anyone without giving him notice or without directions from the court.

21/7/88 (The Star, 22/7/88)

UMNO Baru accepted 230 former members of the dissolved Socialist Democratic Party (SDP) into its fold today.

About 60 of them led by Encik Abu Samah, former State SDP deputy president, attended a welcoming ceremony at the Menteri Besar's residence here.

4/8/99 (The Star, 5/8/88)

UMNO Baru will begin distributing copies of the party constitution to all division committees next month, secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today.

He also said that only four groups of Malays would not be permitted into UMNO Baru:

- *Those who had taken UMNO to court.
- *Those behind the formation of the proposed UMNO Malaysia.
- *Those who clearly showed they did not want to join the party; and
- *Those who strongly opposed the party.

In another development, two former members sued the Registrar of Societies in the High Court today for a declaration that he wrongfully allowed UMNO Baru to be registered and for an order that he strikes off the party.

Encik Zainal Abidin Abdul Mutalib and Encik Azizi Sharif are also suing the publishers of The New Straits Times, The New Sunday Times, Utusan Malaysia and Mingguan Malaysia in the same suit for libel in articles published in their newspapers between June 22 and July 11.

They claimed the 34 articles, which concerned them, meant that they were liars, traitors, criminals, dishonest, un-Islamic, hypocrites, political murderers and totally unfit to be politicians or to hold public office or any office of trust.

9/8/88 (The Star, 10/8/88)

The Supreme Council has rejected a bid by 11 former UMNO members to revive the party which was declared unlawful on Feb 4 this year.

The court upheld today the High Court's finding that UMNO was an unlawful society because it had 30 unapproved branches.

The 11 had appealed on the grounds that the judge had:

*Misdirected himself that Section 12(3) read with Section 41(c) applied to the facts of their case;

*Failed to appreciate that there was no evidence before him that the unapproved branches were established by UMNO;

*Failed to appreciate that it was not them but some of the respondents - the office-bearers of the divisions concerned - who were the wrong-doers.

Section 12(3) states: Where a registered society establishes a branch without the prior approval of the Registrar, such registered society and branch so established shall be deemed to be unlawful societies.

Section 41(c) states: ... any of the following societies shall be an unlawful society, that is to say a society which establishes a branch without the prior approval of the Registrar in contravention of Section 12 and the branch so established.

In another development, Tunku Abdul Rahman said today he regretted the decision by the Supreme Court today which rejected the appeal by 11 former UMNO members against the dismissal of their suit to declare void last year's April 24 general assembly and elections.

10/8/88 (The Star, 11/8/88)

The Official Assignee's office may have to come out with a special scheme to resolve the issue of UMNO's assets, Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba said today.

He said the Official Assignee would find it hard to disburse the assets without first considering:

- *Former members who are now UMNO Baru members;
- *Former members who have not joined UMNO Baru and
- *Members of UMNO Baru who were not the members of UMNO.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the scheme would be subjected to the agreement of creditor banks and approval by the High Court.

The value of UMNO's assets has not been determined.

2/9/88 (The Star, 3/9/88)

MP Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad said today he won recent Johore Baru by-election because most of the Malays here want the old UMNO.

He said his victory was not due to confusion as claimed by Mentri Besar Haji Muhyiddin Mohamed Yassin yesterday.

8/9/88 (The Star, 9/9/88)

Former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam said that former UMNO leaders are prepared to discuss reconciliation with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir for the sake of Malay unity.

"We (former UMNO members) are not calling for negotiations because we are weak or ineffective. We are asking for talks after a win."

"For the sake of the Malays and the nation, it is important that Dr Mahathir and Encik Ghafar meet Datuk Musa and Tengku Razaleigh," said Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad.

12/9/88 (The Star, 13/9/88)

UMNO Baru will observe May 11 as the party's formation anniversary - the day the old UMNO was formed, party supreme council member Datuk Tajul Rosli Ghazali said today.

UMNO members can propose amendments to the party constitution for debate at the Oct 28 general assembly.

However, the proposals must be submitted to the party headquarters at least 14 days before the assembly, deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba said today.

He said that there was not much difference between the UMNO Baru and UMNO constitutions.

The UMNO Baru emblem is similar to that of its flag except that the emblem has the word "UMNO" in graphic Jawi at the top right hand corner and the word "UMNO" in romanised writing at the bottom left hand corner.

In the former UMNO emblem, the graphic Jawi word is at the top left hand corner and the romanised word at the bottom right-hand corner.

The flag and emblem has two halves, the red on top and white at the bottom, and in the middle is a yellow circle within which is a dark green kris with its hilt pointed to the top left-hand corner.

The design of the new UMNO flag does not have the flag pole.

The red colour on the flag and emblem symbolises courage, white cleanliness, yellow royal colour and green religion while the kris represents Malay heritage.

An UMNO member will be automatically expelled from the party if he takes to court any matter regarding the party or his membership rights before going through all the party's procedures.

UMNO Baru vice-president Anwar Ibrahim said that former UMNO leaders must show themselves to be sincere about reconciliation talks.

15/9/88 (The Star, 16/9/88)

The newly set-up UMNO Baru working committee has been given powers to approve new members and branches and to decide on other important issues.

However, the committee, headed by party deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba, will not duplicate the duties of the supreme council, which will continue to be the party's policy-making body.

The three vice-presidents elected at the UMNO general assembly in April last year were appointed to the same post in UMNO Baru today.

The three are Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, former Defence Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

The Supreme Council also agreed :

- * To set up a working committee to manage and map out a long-term strategy for the party. It will be headed by deputy party president Abdul Ghafar Baba and will comprise the vice-presidents, secretary-general, treasurer, the heads of the Youth and Wanita wings as well as Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, who was the secretary-general of the old UMNO;
- * To appoint the firm of Hanafiah, Raslan and Mohamed as auditors;
- * To approve the rules and procedures for the Youth and Wanita movements;
- * To field a candidate for the Parit Raja by-election.

20/9/88 (NST, 21/9/88)

A stronger pro-government sentiment and a leadership pattern which has remained intact in the transition from the de-registered UMNO to UMNO Baru are two strong points favouring the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the Parit Raja State by-election.

Nomination day has been set for October 6. Polling is on Oct 20 in the event of a contest.

The electoral rolls, certified on Jan 30, which has 19 625 voters will be used in the by-election.

UMNO Baru will continue the struggle to perpetuate the country's system of parliamentary democracy, its deputy president Ghafar Baba said today. The party will also practise a democratic system of electing leaders at all levels.

The constitution provides that:

- * the party's general assembly is the "highest power" on which the running of the party is based. Its power and authority are subject to the party constitution and procedures;
- * the candidates for party president and deputy president who win the nomination from a division receive 10 votes which will be added to the votes they obtain in the party election;
- * the party's Wanita and Youth heads, secretary-general, treasurer and heads and deputy heads of the State liaison committees are appointed by the president;
- * the party treasurer inform the supreme council and the Official Assignee of the party's assets at least once a year; and
- * branch heads, deputy heads and 10 committee members be elected once every two years.

16/9/88 (NST, 17/9/88)

Eleven former members whose bid to revive the deregistered UMNO was recently rejected by the Supreme Court, are seeking an injunction against Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, three newspaper organisations and a television station.

They said the four media firms, with malicious intent to injure them and/or to confuse, mislead and/or deceive members of the public and particularly members of the deregistered UMNO published or printed or caused to written, published, printed or telecast of/or

concerning them, false and defamatory articles and statements in or around June/July/ August and September.

The articles, they claimed , were understood to mean the plaintiffs were hypocrites, traitors, criminals, liars, villains and infidels.

They also want damages and a declaration that the Registrar of Societies had wrongly and/or unreasonably caused to be issued a certificate of registration with the words Pertubuhan Kebangsaan Melayu Bersatu (Baru) - United Malays National Organisation - giving the impression the Malay words and the English words are one and the same.

17/9/88 (NST, 18/9/88)

All the 8 688 branches of the de-registered UMNO have been revived under UMNO Baru, including its Wanita and Youth wings, with membership totalling more than one million.

UMNO Baru secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, in disclosing this today, also said the Supreme Council had directed all divisions to reinstate former committee members of the party.

He said while the party was opened to all Malays, the Supreme Council has classified four groups barred from becoming members.

They are those:

*Who were responsible in bringing the old UMNO to court which subsequently resulted in the party being de-registered;

*Involved in efforts to form UMNO Malaysia;

*Who openly declared they would not be joining UMNO Baru; and

*Who worked against the party.

Wanita UMNO Baru has directed all new divisional heads to revive their Wanita branches before the end of the year, its president Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz said today.

1/10/88 (NST, 2/10/88)

UMNO does not "invite" anybody to become members but will leave it to the people to decide if they want to join it or opt for other political organisations.

He said UMNO members were free to leave the party if they could not agree with its policies.

A new strategy will be implemented by Wanita UMNO Baru in its effort to streamline its administration at all levels including branches and divisions.

"The strategy includes introducing several programmes to ensure that all activities are being properly planned," she said speaking at a civic course here today.

5/10/88 (The Star - 6/10/88)

The hearing of an application by a former UMNO branch chairman to stop the winding up of the party's affairs by the Official Assignee has been postponed to Oct 29.

Encik Azizi Shariff, who was formerly of the Jalan Haji Hussein branch, is seeking an order to prevent the Official Assignee from transferring, disposing of or vesting UMNO's assets, property or business to anyone without directions from the court.

19/10/88 (NST - 20/10/88)

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will join local fishermen to cast the net at sea off Kelulut, Marang, soon after launching the State level Unity with the People (Semarak) campaign tomorrow.

About 40 000 people are expected to attend the Semarak launching at Kampung Kelulut, a fishing village about 25km from Kuala Terengganu.

While the Prime Minister is out at sea with the fishermen, Datuk Seri Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah will join the village women in pounding padi.

In another development The UMNO Baru Group Members of Parliament (UGMP) today questioned "the honesty and sincerity of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and Datuk Musa Hitam" for not having "a positive attitude" towards the offer to them to join UMNO Baru.

UGMP also regretted Datuk Musa's statement in Hong Kong recently which alleged among other things, that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr

Mahathir Mohamad would call for a snap election and if he appeared to be losing, he would have an emergency declared.

The Kedah UMNO Baru liaison committee will meet this Sunday to select speakers to represent the State at the general assembly.

Four speakers, each to speak on one subject - economy, religion, education or politics - will be selected at the meeting to be held at the Menteri Besar's official residence at Mentaloon, said State liaison committee secretary Datuk Haji Zakaria said.

The 11 divisions of the State UMNO Baru have all agreed to the party's constitution to be tabled for approval at the party's forth general assembly on Oct 28.

24/10/88 (NST - 25/10/88)

Pas today welcomed the call by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah for a Malay congress to be held to discuss the problems of disunity.

Berjasa Youth leader Jalil Ahmad said his party also welcomed the call for a Malay congress.

A group of 23 prominent Malays, mostly academicians, has sent an open letter to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, Encik Ghafar Baba, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and Datuk Musa Hitam expressing concern over the current threats to Malay unity.

They urged the adoption of a four point programme to restore peace in the community.

The programme calls for :

- * all parties to receive what the group described as the "present UMNO" as the historical successor to the de-registered UMNO which has been declared illegal;
- * leadership of the "present UMNO" to be received by all concerned - the leaders to take steps to restore the party and its constitution according to the form and characteristic of the de-registered UMNO;
- * membership to open to all Malays according to the original constitution of the de-registered UMNO; and

* democratic party elections to be held at all levels to choose the party leadership one year after such restoration of the de-registered UMNO. The results of the elections must be respected and received by all in spirit of unity to ensure the pre-eminence of the Malay community.

Among the signatories:

| NAME | DESIGNATION |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Prof Abu Bakar Abdul Hamid | Deputy VC, UM |
| Prof Madya Malik Munip | |
| Prof Madya Dr Zainal Kling | |
| Dr Adnan Hj Awang | History lecturer, UM. |
| Tan Sri Abdullah Mohd Salleh | Pro-Chancellor, UKM. |
| Sham Sani | Deputy VC |
| Prof Datuk Zainal Abidin Abdul Wahid | |
| Prof Ismail Hussein | |
| Prof Muhamad Haji Salleh | |
| Prof Madya Shamsul Amri Baharuddin | |
| Dr Sanusi Osman | Head of Political Science |
| Department | |
| Dr Rustam A Sani | Sociology lecturer |
| Tan Sri Ainuddin Abdul Wahid | VC, UTM |
| Tan Sri Prof Awang Had Salleh | VC, UUM |
| Prof Ahmad Mohamed Ibrahim | IIU |
| Datuk Dr Kamal Salih | Director, MIER. |
| Dr Ani Arope | Chairman BSN |
| Tan Sri Haji Basir Ismail | Chairman, PETRONAS |
| Tan Sri Mohamed Rashdan Baba | Executive Chairman, STM |
| Datuk Hassan Ibrahim | Deputy Director |
| | General, IRD |
| Kamaluddin Muhammad (Keris Mas) | Author |

Penang UMNO Baru will send 121 delegates and 187 observers to the party's general assembly to be held in Kuala Lumpur from October 27 to 29.

Kedah UMNO Baru regards the call for a reconciliation talks between UMNO Baru and Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and Datuk Musa Hitam as a sincere move that should be positively responded.

The problem of disunity between UMNO Baru and those trying to revive the deregistered UMNO must be tackled first before there can be any forum on Malay unity.

Encik Ghafar said the decision by Tengku Razaleigh to reject the talks and to propose a Malay forum instead showed the insincerity of the former UMNO leaders of the deregistered UMNO.

The Jeniang UMNO Baru branch today invited Sik Member of Parliament Datuk Haji Zainol Abidin to join the party.

25/10/88 (NST - 26/10/88)

UMNO Baru deputy president Ghafar Baba said today elections for party office-bearers will definitely be held.

However the timing of such elections would have to be in accordance with its constitution.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyiddin Mohamed Yassin is optimistic that the proposed unity talks between UMNO Baru and former UMNO leaders will take place.

UMNO Baru's first annual general assembly scheduled for three days from Friday will determine whether the quarrel with the group opposing its existence will be settled.

The party headquarters had given party members until Oct 14 to submit proposals.

The delegates will also debate three other resolutions on religion, education and economy.

UMNO Baru deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba said today that most of the proposals on Malay unity in an open letter to the party leadership had been or were being implemented.

Among other things proposed were:

* All parties accept UMNO Baru which it described as a "historical success" to the deregistered UMNO;

* The leadership of the UMNO Baru be accepted by all concerned and the leaders take steps to "restore" the party and constitution

according to the form and the characteristics of the de-registered UMNO, and

* UMNO Baru membership be opened to all Malays according to the old UMNO constitution.

The UMNO Baru supreme council discussed the MCA as well as issues concerning the Chinese community and came up with "positive conclusions", UMNO Baru secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today.

He also said that he hoped MCA president Datuk Dr Ling Liong Sik would return from his leave as scheduled so that the Barisan leaders could sit and talk together.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam will consult fellow leaders of the old UMNO and adopt a "positive attitude" on the talks proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

26/10/88) (NST - 27/10/88)

Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba today expressed confidence that UMNO Baru would emerge even stronger after the current issue of Malay unity has been resolved.

Encik Ghafar also reminded that sacrifice should be the basis for joining the party.

In another development, the Independent MP for Gua Musang, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, said several fundamental issues had to be taken into account before any invitation to meet Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Encik Ghafar Baba could be considered.

He said he had just been invited to a Malay Unity Congress scheduled for two days beginning on Nov 12. He also said he would try to participate in the proposed congress because it appeared appropriate to discuss the issue there.

Invitations to attend the UMNO Baru general assembly have been sent to former Malaysian Prime Ministers, ex-members of the deregistered UMNO, leaders of the Barisan Nasional component parties and leaders of political parties from neighbouring countries.

Two persons filed a writ in the High Court for a declaration that their party shall be referred to as "UMNO" and not "UMNO Baru".

Encik Sulaiman Abdul Manap and Encik Azmir Nawawi also obtained an interim injunction stopping Watan, Harakah and Mingguan Kota from using "UMNO Baru" for the party which was registered on Feb 13.

The defendants named are:

- * Kumpulan Akhbar Watan (KJ) Sdn Bhd, the publisher of Watan;
- * Karangkraf Sdn Bhd, the publisher of Bacaria;
- * Encik Hishamuddin Haji Yaakub, the editor of Watan and Bacaria;
- * Haji Hassan Haji Shukri, who is being sued as Pas secretary and editor of Harakah, the Pas weekly newspaper;
- * Amir Print Sdn Bhd, the publisher of Mingguan Kota; and
- * Encik Abdul Jalil Ali, the editor of Mingguan Kota.

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today he has been invited to attend a two-day meeting on Malay unity from Nov 12.

"I will try to attend it," the MP for Gua Musang said in a statement here.

He hoped Dr Mahathir would also attend the meeting.

Former UMNO presidents Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Hussein Onn have turned down invitations to attend the UMNO General Assembly beginning this Friday.

Tunku Abdul Rahman said in Penang today that he had made the decision 'regretfully' and there was no intention to 'insult' anyone.

Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today that Tun Hussein Onn replied that he was unable to attend because he had to attend to some matters outstation.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyiddin Yassin today pledged to continue efforts to restore Malay unity in Parit Raja as well as in the State.

On the Barisan Nasional (BN) victory in Parit Raja, he said it was a strong message from the people that they wanted unity and that they supported the government.

UMNO Baru is willing to appoint leaders who held posts in the old party at division and branch levels to similar positions in an effort to reunite the Malays, party deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba said today.

27/10/88 (NST - 28/10/88)

The UMNO Youth special assembly today said it would support the Education Ministry in efforts to implement the National Education Policy more effectively.

In the resolution moved by UMNO Youth information chief Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, the assembly agreed:

- * to support all efforts by the Education Ministry to beef up the implementation of the National Education Policy;
- * to urge the Government not to budge from current policies and promises under election manifesto; and
- * to ask the government to continue taking effective steps to improve the achievements and performances of Malay students at all levels of education.

He asked the government to consider:

- * raising the Bumiputra quota in tertiary institutions from the present 55-45 per cent ratio; and
- * making history, particularly events leading to the formation of Malaysia, a compulsory subject to "enlighten" students on the political realities of the country.

Several speakers expressed concern over the continued disunity among Muslims and attributed it to people who were only out to achieve their personal interest.

UMNO Baru leaders described Encik Ghafar Baba's speech when opening the UMNO Youth and Wanita assemblies today as positive and conducive to settling the problems faced by the party.

The speech would help the younger generation have a clear picture of the party struggle and serve as a guide to those who would one day inherit the mantle of party leadership.

Four resolutions, covering religion, economy, education and labour, were tabled at the Youth wing's special assembly. They were:

Religion -- The resolution urges the Government to take immediate steps to realise a 'united society'.

Economy -- The resolution urges the Government to ensure that the:
* NEP is extended beyond 1990 and have the same objectives of eradicating poverty and restructuring society;

* Malay ownership is increased over 30 per cent - to a level consistent with their position as the back bone of the national community;

* Malays really and truly owned businesses;

* Government institutions take steps to increase Malay ownership and be prevented from deviating from this objective;

* Bumiputras were equipped with modern skills;

* Rural development be given added attention;

* Tender system be re-evaluated to ensure Bumiputras were given adequate time to control the market and expand; and

* Financial system was revamped to ensure bumiputra firms get 'innovative' financial help, especially in the manufacturing and construction sector.

Education -- The resolution resolves to:

* Support all steps taken by the Education Ministry to implement and strengthen the National Education Policy;

* Urge the government not to deviate from current policies and promises in the election manifesto; and

* Urge the Education Ministry to act and enhance Malay students' performance at all education levels.

Labour -- The Youth wing urges the government to:

* Issue business licenses only to firms whose workhorse comprise 30 percent bumiputras;

* Set up a retrenchment benefit fund for workers with deduction from both employees and employers to be managed by Socso;

- * Advise firms and workers on the responsibility to have a curriculum for secondary school children on labour laws;
- * Encourage the unemployed to attend training courses and encourage firms to send the workers to training centers;
- * Urge the Labour Department to educate workers through pamphlets and information campaigns;
- * Urge State Governments to set up a State-level labour bureau; and
- * Support government actions against those who betray the country to outsiders.

UMNO Youth chief Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak reminded the group opposed to the party that its alliance with the opposition can destroy the political equation in the country, eventually leading to Malays losing their dominance.

Wanita UMNO Baru tabled three economic resolutions, one of which urged the Government to draft a national economic policy after the New Economic Policy expires in 1990.

The resolutions were:

- * That the government draft a national economic policy after 1990, giving emphasis to :
 - # Continuing with efforts to eradicate poverty irrespective of race;
 - # Carrying out programmes and efforts to restructure society to achieve national unity;
 - # Continuing with efforts towards the restoration and development of the country's economy;
 - # Attracting private investment from within and outside the country;
 - # Continuing with the privatisation policy in order to achieve the objective of saving government expenditure, increasing efficiency and productivity, including providing better services for the people;
 - # Continuing with thrifty measurers and the control of national expenditure without jeopardising national development; and
 - # Continuing with efforts to develop rural areas.

* To provide sufficient skilled and trained manpower at all levels to fulfil the needs of national development, including industrial development; and

* Recommend that a Bumiputra economic congress be held to discuss the national economic policy after 1990.

UMNO Baru Wanita chief Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz warned of the possibility of Malay political power in the country coming to an end as a result of efforts to topple the Malay leadership.

Party deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba said the supreme council will abide by any decision on the party constitution made by the party general assembly beginning today.

29/10/88 (The Star,30/10/88)

The way things are moving, the prospect of reconciliation between the 'new' UMNO and the 'old' UMNO factions is becoming very dim.

It was Datuk Shahrir Samad who proposed a summit meeting of Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba with Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and Datuk Musa Hitam, after his electoral victory in Johore Baru. Is it true that both Datuk Musa and Tengku Razaleigh had agreed to such a meeting? The prevailing general impression at the time tended to blame Dr. Mahathir for not responding to the call.

Now that the new UMNO supreme council had given Dr. Mahathir the mandate to invite Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa to meet with him and Encik Ghafar for reconciliation talks, it is Tengku Razaleigh who has refused to take part. Tengku Razaleigh has said that the meeting should not be confined to the four leaders.

He wants a Malay Unity Congress to be convened, to which not only leaders of the two UMNO factions but also of other Malay organisations should be invited to participate. The new UMNO supreme council's decision was made at its five hour meeting on October 15. It was clearly in response to the sentiments of the Malay voters who formed 80% of the electorate in Parit Raja.

This Malay Unity Congress will be held at the Dewan Bahasa and Pustaka on Nov 12 and 13. The main aim of the congress is to bring together all sections of the Malays from various political

organisations, associations, unions and certain individuals to discuss the position and future of the Malays and Islam. Dr Mahathir, Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba, Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Hussein Onn, Tengku Razaleigh, Datuk Musa, Datuk Rais Yatim, Haji Yusof Rawa, Datuk Asri, Royal Prof Ungku Aziz, Prof Tan Sri Ahmad Ibrahim, Tun Mohamed Salleh Abas and Tan Sri Ahmad Nordin are among the prominent personalities who are being invited to participate.

Pena is also inviting prominent businessmen, academicians, religious leaders, teachers, professionals, senior government officials, writers and cultural leaders to contribute their intellect for the benefit and the unity of the Malays. Six papers will be presented by distinguished personalities - three on political matters and three on economics - for discussion at the congress. According to Press reports support for this congress has been voiced by PAS and Berjasa leaders. Tengku Razaleigh supporters will also no doubt be participating. So would many other representatives of organisations as well as prominent scholars and other individuals.

It may well turn out to be more of a preparatory assembly for the launching of the first leg of the link-up which would lead ultimately to the establishment of the opposition front envisaged by Yahya. A group of 23 has sent an open letter to Dr Mahathir, Encik Ghafar, Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa. The signatories form a good part of the cream of our Malay intelligentsia and meritocrats, whose views embody the sentiments that must be shared by the overwhelming majority of the community.

They have suggested a four-point approach to restore Malay unity within UMNO :

1) As the old UMNO had been legally deregistered, the new UMNO that was registered on Feb 13, should be considered as the successor of the old UMNO ;

2) The present leadership of the existing UMNO should be accepted by all concerned. The leadership should take positive action to restructure the party so that its character and constitution will conform with those of the original UMNO ;

3) All Malays should be admitted as members in accordance with the practice of the original UMNO and in keeping with the desire to maintain the image and tradition of UMNO as the national movement that embraced all the Malays as the fountain of their strength; and

4)One year after the restructuring, elections should be held to fill posts at all levels of the party which should be conducted in a democratic manner, and the result should be respected and accepted by all concerned.

18/11/88 (NST,19/11/88)

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today he had not received any reply from either Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah or Datuk Musa Hitam to his offer of Cabinet positions.

The Prime Minister, offered Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa positions as Ministers without Portfolio at the end of last month's UMNO assembly. Meanwhile Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa should not impose conditions after the Prime Minister's offer of cabinet positions. It would be improper for either of them to impose any conditions before accepting Dr. Mahathir's offer.

However, Encik Anwar said it would be acceptable and reasonable if they were to impose the condition that everyone must be principled, hard working and incorruptible. "There must not be any condition that 15 of his people must also be brought in.....then you might as well form your own cabinet," he said. Encik Anwar said that if they decided to join the cabinet then everyone must work as a team.

Encik Anwar said that the government was administering the country smoothly. What is important is that we must focus on our work. We must concentrate on efforts to further improve the economic growth, protect the poor, develop further the rural areas and upgrade social and economic programme. Issues affecting one or two persons can be discussed but they must not bog us down or deter us from our more important work," Encik Anwar said.

2/12/88 (The Star,3/12/88)

The UMNO Supreme Council has decided to set up a committee headed by Encik Anwar Ibrahim to study the views of Malay intellectuals on Malay unity. The committee will specifically study the resolutions passed by the Malay intellectuals Congress in April and the memorandum from a group of Malay intellectual submitted in October.

Encik Anwar, the UMNO vice-president, when asked by reporters later, said he would meet the intellectuals concerned as soon as possible and might also invite other intellectuals to join the discussions "in the national interest." He said the resolutions would be scrutinised before being submitted to the party's supreme council. He added he would welcome any supreme council members keen to contribute to discussions on Malay unity.

The congress was held on April 14 and 15 at Universiti Kebangsaan in Bangi. According to a statement from congress secretary Dr. Wan Hashim Wan Teh recently, the memorandum urged Malay leaders to resolve the current Malay political crisis through discussions based on Islamic spirit and practices.

2/12/88 (NST,3/12/88)

UMNO has offered supreme council seats to five prominent critics of its leadership. All five were members of the de-registered UMNO's supreme council. They are former Welfare Minister Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad, former Deputy Primary Industries Minister Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, former Deputy Transport Minister Datin Paduka Rahmah Osman, former Deputy Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin and lawyer Marina Yusof.

The offer, announced by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today, came in the wake of the rejection by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and Datuk Musa Hitam of Dr. Mahathir's invitation to join the cabinet. Dr Mahathir said the decision was made at a three hour supreme council meeting this morning. Because they were elected during last year's assembly, the supreme council feels they have the right to sit on the council, "However, they must become members of the party." Official letters of offer would be sent to the five.

Dr Mahathir's opponents have, since the registration of UMNO, criticised him for excluding some elected supreme council members of the de-registered party from UMNO's ruling party. The five had opted not to join UMNO when it was registered. With the exception of Puan Marina Yusoff, who is not a member of parliament, they and other dissidents have in fact left the government bench to sit as independents.

Former Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Ajib Ahmad, former Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Kadir Sheikh Fadzir and Dewan Bahasa and Pustaka chairman Rahim Bakar, who were supreme council members of the de-registered UMNO and are linked to the dissident group, were appointed to the council before the party's general assembly last October. They joined UMNO when it was registered. Dr Mahathir also

said UMNO branches could hold their annual general meetings before April next year. He said this would help in the registration of members whose applications might be delayed by certain circumstances. Meetings of the UMNO Youth and Wanita branches will be held after the meetings of the parent branches. This is because the establishment of the Youth and Wanita branches can be made only after the branches have been set up and the annual general meetings held. Dr. Mahathir said those applying to join the party before Dec 31 would be regarded as "legal members" and could therefore take part in next year's branch and divisional meetings. He said an organising committee would consider applications arriving later than the dateline if the delays were not the fault of the applicants.

3/12/89 (NST,4/12/89)

Johore Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyiddin Yassin and MP for Kota Tinggi Datuk Musa Hitam held their second round of "Malay unity" talks in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. Datuk Musa, who disclosed this last night, said they talked about making Johore the "stepping stone" to resolving the problem of Malay unity. Datuk Musa who was addressing Malay community leaders here, said Tan Sri Muhyuddin and he had identified "one or two" issues that stood in the way of Malay unity. Datuk Musa and Tan Sri Muhyuddin had their first round of "four eyed" talks in Singapore on Nov 5.

The MP for Johore Baru, Datuk Shahrir Samad, who also spoke at the function, said his group could only agree to the Menteri Besar's call for a "cease fire" on Press statements if the Information Ministry gave them fair media coverage. We might even consider stopping our ceramah if Datuk Mohamad Rahmat gives us television and radio coverage. Officials media coverage should not be one-sided as this only makes the Malays more confused," he said.

At another function in Johore Baru, 500 party branch and divisional leaders of the Johore liaison committee gave a big "aye" when Tan Sri Muhyiddin asked if they wanted him to proceed with the peace talks. The question was posed to them at the opening of an UMNO constitution and administration course, which was opened by party vice president Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

3/12/88 (The Star,4/12/88)

The UMNO supreme council decided at its meeting on Friday to invite Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, Datuk Shahrir Samad and Hajjah Marina Yusoff to resume their seats to which they had been elected at the UMNO

General Assembly in April last year. This conciliatory move, which can be taken as an effort to heal the rift between the two UMNO factions, has come just one month after Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad invited Datuk Musa Hitam and Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to join the Government as Ministers without Portfolio. Both Datuk Musa and Tengku Razaleigh have turned down the offer. Will their supporters follow their example? It is still too early to speculate one way or the other. The five said they would have to consult their political colleagues-after receiving the letters from the party-before making up their mind and giving their reply.

It is significant that on the same day, Barisan Nasional's Deputy Whip in Parliament, Datuk S. Samy Vellu, moved a motion in the Dewan Rakyat for the House to consider tomorrow the Private Member's Bill which had been tabled by Tengku Razaleigh, calling for the reinstatement of UMNO which was deregistered by the Registrar of the Societies in February.

Datuk Samy Vellu explained that he had done so to give precedence to enable Tengku Razaleigh's Private Member's Bill to be debated, otherwise it may not come up for consideration by the time the Dewan Rakyat is adjourned as scheduled at the end of the current sitting, in view of government Business which has still to be dealt Under the Standing Orders of the House, Government Business takes precedence over a Private Member's Bill, which can only be dealt with after the government Bills have been disposed of.

Friday's UMNO Supreme Council also appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Vice President Anwar Ibrahim to discuss with the Malay Intellectuals Congress and the group of 23 prominent Malay academicians and technocrats, regarding the appeals and suggestions on reconciliation and unity which they had sent to the leaders of the two UMNO factions.

It will be recalled that the group of 23 had suggested a four-point approach to restore Malay unity within UMNO :

- 1)As the old UMNO had been deregistered, the new UMNO that was registered on Feb 14, should be considered as the successor of the old UMNO ;
- 2)The leadership of UMNO should be accepted by all concerned. The leadership should take positive action to restructure the party so that its character and constitution will conform with those of the original UMNO;
- 3)All Malays should be admitted as members in accordance with the practice of the original UMNO;

4) One year after the restructuring, election should be held to fill posts at all levels of the party which should be conducted in a democratic manner, and the result should be respected and accepted by all concerned.

There appears to be a need for discussion between the Anwar committee and the group of 23 academicians and technocrats on point four. Although the UMNO general Assembly held at the end of October had decided that the supreme council of the new UMNO continue in office for a period for up to three years, it would be helpful if the present UMNO leaders would agree to give up their supreme council seats next year, after the next general Assembly, attended by properly elected representatives from the divisions after the holding of proper branch elections.

It was indicated, after Friday's supreme council Meeting, that branch elections will be held in April next year. There will be ample time for everyone who is admitted to the membership of the party to take part in the scheduled branch and division elections and be chosen as delegates to the next general assembly.

With the resumption by Datuk Abdullah Abdullah Ahmad Badawi of his office as Vice-President, all the three vice-presidents who were elected at the UMNO General Assembly in April 1987 are now holding the same office in the UMNO.

All the three supreme council members elected in 1987, who had joined the UMNO - Datuk Ajib Ahmad, Datuk Kadir Fadzir and Datuk Rahim Bakar - have also resumed their seats on the supreme council.

Should the five former supreme council members who have now been invited to serve in the same capacity accept the invitation, all the nine members of "Team B" who were elected in April 1987 would be back in the supreme council.

Perhaps reconciliation would be accomplished more speedily if those who lost their positions as ministers and Deputy Ministers in the cabinet reshuffle after the April 1987 party elections were restored to their former status.

There are two portfolios which are held by the Prime Minister - the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Deputy Prime Minister is also Minister of National and Rural Development.

Coincidentally there are three "Team B" leaders, who could be rehabilitated to take charge of a Ministry each in a reshuffled Cabinet. There are Datuk Abdullah, Datuk Rais Yatim and Datuk Shahrir.

There are now a number of ministries with two Deputy Ministers. There are enough ministries which can accommodate the former Deputy Ministers who were in "Team B" if they were to be similarly rehabilitated after joining the new UMNO which can be restructured so that its character and constitution will conform with those of the original UMNO.

Datuk Musa and Tengku Razaleigh had turned down the Prime Minister's invitation to join the Government. However should the five former supreme council members be persuaded to resume their seats in the council as well as their previous status in the government, these two "Team B" leaders may also be persuaded to accept the leadership of Dr. Mahathir and Encik Ghafar in the party and the government, and in the process restore UMNO to its former standing.

Tengku Razaleigh is on record as having said that if he failed in his effort to revive the old 1946 UMNO through his action in Parliament his next move would be to take the issue to the people.

Any impetuous action, disregarding the sentiments and opinions of the people may prove unpopular and could well produce the same the same kind of result as in Parit Raja. The majority of the people confused and concerned about what had happened, are sincerely yearning for reconciliation and the restoration of unity within UMNO.

They will not fail to observe the accommodating moves that have been made by Dr. Mahathir, one after another, with the backing of the supreme council. Dr. Mahathir and the supreme council are apparently responding to opinion now prevailing among the people.

If the five "Team B" leaders who have been invited were to reciprocate positively and resume their seats in the supreme council-of course, they may want to do so only after meeting with Dr. Mahathir and making whatever request or suggestions they may deem fit - it would be another big step towards fulfilling the hopes of the majority not only of the Malays but also of the other communities.

There must be a growing awareness that the sooner unity is restored in UMNO, the sooner will the pledges that have been made by Barisan Nasional and the Government to the Chinese and other communities be fulfilled.

3/12/88 (The Star,4/12/88)

Datuk Musa Hitam said today he is willing to discuss with Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad ways to unite the Malays "so that the community will not be split forever." "There are some common grounds which can be discussed and used to unite the Malays," he told reporters after attending a thanksgiving gathering at Pasir Gudang near here last night.

Datuk Musa also said in his letter rejecting Dr. Mahathir's offer to rejoin the cabinet as a minister without portfolio, he had stated that: "I am attracted by the memorandum drawn up by the group of Malay intellectuals and that it merits close study."

Dr Mahathir had told reporters after an UMNO supreme Council meeting yesterday that Datuk Musa's letter touched on the memorandum and that it should be the basis for joint deliberations. Dr Mahathir had said Datuk Musa did not indicate that he rejected the offer to join the Cabinet.

Datuk Musa said he made it very clear in his letter: "In the second paragraph, I stated that because of the reasons mentioned in the letter I was not able to accept the offer." Datuk Musa also said he had a second meeting with Johore Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyiddin Mohamed Yassin on Thursday night at his home in Kuala Lumpur.

"We had a long discussion in the spirit of muhibbah and there is a possibility that we could have further discussions." He said they had been able to identify certain areas that could be further discussed in their pursuit to resolve problems facing the Malay Community.

3/12/88 (The Star.4/12/88)

Official letters of appointment will be sent to the five former Supreme Council members on Monday, UMNO secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today. Datuk Mohamed was commenting on Prime Minister and UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad's announcement yesterday on the Supreme Council's decision to offer the five places in the council.

The five - Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, Puan Marina Yusof, Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad, Datin Paduka Hajjah Rahmah Othman and Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin - were elected to the Supreme Council at the party's annual general assembly last year.

Earlier, Datuk Mohamad, who is also Information Minister, said that about 1.5 million people were expected to join UMNO by next year. He said that in Johore, the party now had a membership of about 100,000 in 1960

branches compared with 271,450 members in 1,216 branches prior to the party being de-registered.

He said the party would practice an open door policy in its recruitment of members, adding that all Malays, including former party leaders, could now apply to join the party. He appealed to Malays to join the party before the end of the month so that they could participate in the coming branch elections.

4/12/88 (The Star, 5/12/88)

Datuk Musa denied today that he had said he was willing to hold talks with Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad on ways to unite the Malays.

"The questions from the reporters were on what Dr Mahathir said in response to my reply, that is he was not clear, firstly, as to whether I had accepted his offer of a Cabinet post and secondly, as to what I meant when I mentioned the letter by the 23 intellectuals."

To both questions I merely said 'read the letter carefully.' I had clearly stated that I could not accept a Cabinet post and I referred to the second paragraph of my letter. On the letter from the intellectuals, I restated that it (the letter) could be basis for further study," he said.

Datuk Musa added that "the situation (at present) is not conducive to my 'holding talks with Dr. Mahathir." But to demonstrate that I'm not negative, I'm willing to talk anyone else who approaches me. And I have been talking to people irrespective of which side they come from. After all, they are UMNO members and they are after the same thing - Malay unity," he said.

4/12/88 (NST, 5/12/88)

Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamed Isa Hj Abdul Samad has urged UMNO members in the state to work together in ridding the party of 'sicknesses' like slandering, jealousy and prejudice. He said the 'sicknesses' has infected the party defenceless against its enemies," he told a gathering of about 200 UMNO Youth leaders from the state at his residence on Saturday night.

Datuk Mohamed Isa also advised members against engaging in too much politicking and asked for such practices to be stopped if the party was to regain its solidarity. Datuk Mohamed Isa also took former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to task over his remark that

the offer inviting him to become a Minister without portfolio amounted to "political bribery." "If accepting such an offer is likened to receiving a bribe, then why did he accept the offer to become Finance Minister in 1981 and trade and Industry Minister in 1984 although he lost in the party's elections on both occasions?" he asked.

He also hit out at Datuk Musa Hitam's on his call on a return to the "Malay Culture." "Datuk Musa's sudden interest in Malay culture is questionable, especially since he was the one who told us something back that the Malays should be `rebellious,'" he said, adding that such a trait was not part of the Malay culture.

Datuk Mohamed Isa said latest computer listings showed that there were already about 700 000 UMNO members in the country and the figure was expected to reach one million by the end of the year.

4/12/88 (NST,5/12/88)

UMNO Youth members have been urged to step up activities to attract uncommitted Malays and former members of the deregistered UMNO into the party. The youth body's vice-president, Haji Hashim Safin, said the organisation must capitalise on the weakening spirit of supporters of the breakaway group of UMNO. "There are indications that supporters of the group are growing disillusioned after having realised that their struggle would lead nowhere," he said.

Speaking at a talk organised by the Selayang UMNO youth bureau at Batu Caves today, Haji Hashim said the current disunity problems among Malays would be resolved once UMNO was able to woo members. He said the offers made by the current UMNO leadership to leaders of the breakaway group to rejoin the Cabinet and the party's supreme council would be the final show of tolerance. He criticised the group for resorting to "dirty politics in the sole aim of toppling the present UMNO leadership." "The Government could have arrested them but that may cause other negative implications," he added.

Haji Hashim also charged that Tengku Razaleigh was a "most dictatorial leader." He said he based this opinion on his personal experience in Kelantan UMNO. Earlier, Selayang UMNO chief Datuk Saidin Thamby said the division had forwarded 11,200 applications to join the party. He said the offers made by the UMNO leadership, as well as Tengku Razaleigh's move to introduce a private Member's Bill in the Dewan Rakyat tomorrow, would mark the end of all efforts to resolve the disunity problems facing the Malays.

5/12/88 (NST,6/12/88)

The UMNO headquarters today sent letters to five former UMNO supreme council members officially inviting them to join the council. UMNO secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said party membership-application forms were attached to the offer letters.

The UMNO supreme council decided to admit the five into the council last week. They were elected to the council during the old UMNO's general assembly last year.

In Shah Alam, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib said the five should seriously consider accepting the offer made by the present party leadership for the sake of Malay unity. They should be willing to be flexible in their stand as the present leadership has given a lot towards uniting the Malays, he added. "They should accept the offer which comes in the form of supreme council seats as an acknowledgement of the present party leadership," he said.

5/12/88 (The Star,6/12/88)

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said the failure of the group in power to make sincere efforts to restore UMNO to its original state after it was declared unlawful caused the split among party members.

Moving his motion for leave for his private member's Bill to amend the Societies Act 1966 to revive the old UMNO, he said the failure shattered party unity which was already cracked. "What is more regrettable is that the split was not confined to just UMNO members but had also spread to its supporters and observers.

"The split has spilled over from politics to the society, economy, judiciary and bureaucracy and other sectors," he added. He said the main reason for the split was because the leadership was not sensitive to the needs and aspirations of the people. "The proper restoration of UMNO's legal status is not just to fulfil nostalgic or romantic desires for the old days but, more importantly, to restore Malay unity in facing the future together," he added.

Tengku Razaleigh said it could not be denied that ever since UMNO became embroiled in political turmoil, a sense of dissatisfaction towards the leadership had resulted and Malay unity was now facing its greatest threat and challenge.

He also said his motion should be supported because it would resolve various problems faced by society and the country which also included racial unity, administration of justice and the democratic practice.

Tengku Razaleigh said he was bringing the motion to parliament because it was the country's supreme law making institution. "Parliament is a symbol of democracy and it is the manifestation of the people's voice," he added. "The revival of the old UMNO is the main requirement towards creating the unity and political stability as well as resolving the country's economic problems," he said. Tengku Razaleigh said he regretted that no action was taken by the present leadership to revive the old UMNO.

Tengku Razaleigh said that since 1986, both the leadership of UMNO and the country had faced a credibility crisis" because the principles of democracy and justice were no longer respected and because of "economic mismanagement." Because of this the leadership was challenged, he said.

An aspect of this challenge can be taken as a test of those in power in practising democracy. It is also a test of their sincerity and tolerance. "Another aspect is that all this could be taken as a test of leadership to perpetuate the UMNO tradition," he added.

He said that this meant that those in power faced a test of their sensitivity, flexibility and tolerance as well as the Malay political culture practised by UMNO. He said that if they had succeeded in perpetuating the UMNO tradition of upholding democratic values as well as being sensitive to current social and political changes.

But it is obvious that they have failed the test in that they are not sensitive to these change. They also failed because they did not carry on the tradition of sincerity and faith in the UMNO struggle.

"They have deliberately planted seeds of disunity which ultimately destroyed UMNO by allowing the existence of unregistered branches. "They have failed to abide by Malay customs which emphasise the spirit of forgiveness," he said.

5/12/88 (The Star,6/12/88)

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah should set up a joint consultative panel to help restore Malay unity, a Barisan Nasional back bencher said. Encik Ismail Said (Kemaman) told Tengku Razaleigh and his supporters to evaluate the offer of UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and the party supreme council and look at it as a bridge to resolve the problems that had arisen since the old UMNO was declared illegal.

They should join UMNO and work towards party unity and stop all negative actions which could jeopardise the accommodating attitude of the present leadership, he said when opposing the motion to allow leave for Tengku Razaleigh to introduce his Private Member's Bill to amend the Societies Act 1966.

Encik Ismail said Tengku Razaleigh should not make use of the House to generate publicity for himself or his followers. He claimed that Tengku Razaleigh was voicing his disappointment over what happened to the old UMNO. "However, he is doing it by putting the blame on the Home Minister and saying that the Minister did not use his executive powers to reverse the High Court decision which declared the old UMNO unlawful," he said.

Encik Ismail said the source of the party's problems was the power struggle which started before the party general assembly in April last year. He said that since UMNO had been revived, the motion was unnecessary.

Also opposing the motion earlier, Encik Zubir Embong (BN-Kuala Trengganu) recited Quranic verses and quoted philosophers to stress his point. He said if the motion was passed, it would further split the Malays.

In supporting the motion, Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad (Ind-Johore Baru) said that the Malays lost something "great" and which protected their rights when the old UMNO was declared illegal.

5/12/88 (NST,6/12/88)

Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah tonight tabled a motion seeking the approval of the Dewan Rakyat to present a Private Member's Bill to amend the societies Act 1966 to enable the revival of the deregistered UMNO. The motion was seconded by MP for Kota Tinggi Datuk Musa Hitam, who was seated next to him. The Bill proposes to backdate a recent amendment to the Societies Act 1966.

The House had passed two amendments at its March meeting this year, one involving a clause to make unlawful only the unregistered branches of a society and not the whole society. By backdating the amendment to Jan 1, 1987, Tengku Razaleigh hopes to revive the deregistered UMNO which was declared unlawful by the High Court in February.

In tabling the motion, Tengku Razaleigh said he was moving the motion not because he wanted to put the blame for the deregistration of the party on anyone but because he considered it important to revive the party.

Among the reasons for reviving the deregistered UMNO set up in 1946, he said, were to defend the sovereignty of the rulers, to unite the Malays, to achieve political stability, to uphold the democratic process and to maintain historical continuity.

He said that several attempts had already been made to revive the legal status of the deregistered party including appealing to the Supreme Court, to the Prime Minister and to the Home Affairs Minister.

He said that the problem of the deregistered UMNO began when the then party leadership refused to act on complaints regarding the existence of illegal branches and underaged members. He alleged that the party was deregistered because the lawyer representing the then leadership had asked the court to do so.

Tengku Razaleigh claimed that the case was taken to court because attempts to settle the grievances through the party had failed. He said the Home Affairs Minister could also have invoked Section 70 of the Societies Act to exempt the party from Section 12 (3) and even from the entire act if he had wanted to revive the party. He could also have re-registered the illegal branches and called for a fresh annual general meeting but he did not do so.

Tengku Razaleigh said the split in UMNO had adversely affected the economy, the bureaucracy and the judiciary.

5/12/88 (NST,6/12/88)

There is no need to amend the Societies Act to revive the deregistered UMNO, the Dewan Rakyat was told. In opposing the motion tabled by Tengku Razaleigh, the MP for Kuala Trengganu, Encik Zubir Embong, described it as an attempt to interfere with the independence of the judiciary as this would amend a decision that had been made by the courts.

Encik Zubir said that it would not be proper for one to defend the independence of the judiciary and then try later to erode this judicial freedom by a retrospective legislation. He charged that they questioned democracy merely because they lost by a narrow margin. He alleged that this group had used the 11 UMNO members to bring a case to court which led to the party being declared unlawful and subsequently de-registered. These 11 were advised by legal experts. Surely, they must have known of Section 12 (3) of the societies Act which states that if a branch is formed without the approval of the registrar, the society and the branch so established will be unlawful?

Referring to Tengku Razaleigh's question as to why UMNO's lawyer had stated in court that the decision should be either the party elections be nullified or the party be declared unlawful, he said even if UMNO's lawyer did not say so, he was sure the court would arrive at a similar decision.

The independent MP for Johore Baru, Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad, told the Dewan Rakyat that the deregistered UMNO's leadership should have convened the party's supreme council to discuss the High Court's decision of Feb 4 when the party was declared null and void. He said although at that time he was still an elected member of the party's supreme council he was not consulted on the issue nor on the next course of action.

He said the move to revive the deregistered UMNO, if successful, would benefit the Malays and furthermore would not jeopardise the existing UMNO leadership. He said the party which was founded in 1946 should not be sacrificed as it was formed because of the foresight of several leaders who wanted the rights of the Malays to be protected and to work towards the betterment of the community. He said if the motion was rejected by the house, the MPs would lose the only opportunity to revive the deregistered UMNO-which for over 40 years was the symbol of Malay supremacy in the country.

Encik Ismail Said (BN-Kemaman) suggested that the consultative panel should comprise representatives from the present UMNO leadership and those dissatisfied with the current leadership.

He said this would be a good way for UMNO to regain its "legal status" as desired by Tengku Razaleigh.

Earlier, he called on Tengku Razaleigh to :

- 1)heed the call of the present leadership to join the UMNO that had been revitalised;
- 2)take all opportunities with an open heart as the leadership had opened all doors to him and his supporters ; and,
- 3)Stop all negative actions which would make the current leadership change its considerate attitude and tolerance.

6/12/89 (NST,7/12/88)

The Dewan Rakyat tonight rejected by 108 to 35 votes a motion by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to seek leave to table a Private Member's Bill to amend the Societies Act.

The count was taken at 9.25p.m and the result announced five minutes later. The verdict was reached after two days of heated debate on the motion during which nine MPs from UMNO and Four independents took part.

Voting was by division after Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad (Independent - Kangar) applied to Deputy speaker Datuk Haji Mohamed Amin Daud and received the support of at least 15 MPs.

Tengku Razaleigh, the Independent MP for Gua Musang, had tabled the motion yesterday. The bill proposes to backdate a recent amendment to the Societies Act 1966 to Jan 1, 1987.

During the voting, the 16 Independent MPs aligned to Tengku Razaleigh were present. Also present were 19 DAP MPs but the sole PAS member Haji Abdullah Haji Arshad (Pengkalan Chepa) was absent. In winding up the debate, Deputy Prime Minister Encik Ghafar Baba said the deregistered UMNO would not be revived even if Tengku Razaleigh's motion was passed.

He said this was because under Section 7(3) (d) of the Societies Act, the Registrar could not allow another party to be registered if there was already an existing party with similar name and objectives.

Encik Ghafar said the Registrar had issued an order de-registering UMNO with effect from Feb 13 this year.

8/12/88 (NST,9/12/88)

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah went ahead and tabled a motion seeking to revive the de-registered UMNO although he knew he could not win and that his action would widen the rift in the Malay community, said UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad. He did so to keep his political struggle going and in the process ignored all efforts to re-unite the Malays, Dr. Mahathir added.

In what is seen as the most direct and open attack on Tengku Razaleigh since the October UMNO general assembly, during which he offered a Cabinet post to the Independent MP for Gua Musang, Dr. Mahathir said Tengku Razaleigh had totally ignored the interests of the Malays. The

UMNO President gave four reasons why Tengku Razaleigh's attempt could never succeed. They were :

i. The de-registered UMNO cannot be revived because there is in its place a party by the same name with the same objectives and almost the same membership;

ii. Tengku Razaleigh does not have the majority in the Dewan Rakyat

iii. While it is true that Parliament has the power (to amend laws), it cannot perform the function of a court of appeal, i.e. overturning the verdict of the High Court in declaring the old UMNO unlawful; and,

iv. The Government cannot use its parliamentary majority as it likes to amend laws. The use of parliamentary majority must be governed by certain principles.

Dr. Mahathir said if for the benefit of UMNO, the Government invokes parliamentary majority, what will other (component) parties (of the Barisan Nasional) say? What will UMNO's reaction be if they too demand the same action when their interests are at stake?

As Prime Minister he would not hesitate to use the BN's parliamentary majority to amend laws if such an action was in the interest of the whole country.

He also said that there must be a limit to the use of parliamentary power. There was just no precedent to justify the use of parliamentary majority to rectify what is strictly a political problem of UMNO. As a respectable and responsible political party, it is totally unreasonable for UMNO to make use of its parliamentary power for only its own well being.

"The Malays will be strong only if they are united. Tengku Razaleigh knows that. But that is insignificant to him because his real intention is to keep his political struggle alive. Tengku Razaleigh is not interested in unity. He rejected the offer of a Cabinet post and the membership of the party. He persists in doing things which he knows he cannot succeed," he said.

On the role of the opposition in particularly the DAP, he said : "Umno's prime enemy is the DAP. The DAP cannot stand a strong UMNO struggling effectively for the Malays. The DAP will not support the 'real' UMNO. In the case of the motion, the DAP was fully behind Tengku Razaleigh."

The DAP members voted unanimously with Tengku Razaleigh and his independents. The sole PAS member was not present. The Dewan Rakyat rejected the motion by 108 to 35 votes.

10/12/88 (The Star,11/12/88)

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad has dismissed talk that his offer to Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and Datuk Musa Hitam to rejoin the cabinet was made despite expecting the two men to reject the offer.

The Prime Minister said the offer was made with "utmost sincerity" and with the hope that the two former UMNO leaders would accept it so that they could sit at one table with other party leaders to resolve problems affecting the Malays.

Dr. Mahathir said both Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa had responded to the offer by saying that they were not seeking political office. Going by this argument, the question of the posts being comparatively lower (Ministers without portfolio) should not arise.

The Prime Minister said he was taking a risk by making the offer. He said that actually it was made without other motives but to unite the Malays in the wake of strong demands made by certain groups "for this and that." This group are becoming more daring and outspoken because they believed that the Malays were getting weaker.

Both Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa rejected it. Tengku Razaleigh described it as "political bribery" while Datuk Musa said Malay unity could not be achieved by him joining the cabinet.

10/12/88 (The Star,11/12/88)

As was expected, Tengku Razaleigh failed to get the Dewan Rakyat to grant him leave to table a Private Member's Bill to amend the Societies Act so that the old UMNO, established in 1946 and deregistered in February, could be revived.

However, he and his supporters, who now sit on the opposition benches as independents, were given the opportunity to air their views.

In view of this demonstration of solidarity within Barisan, should Tengku Razaleigh and his supporters not think carefully before carrying out their plan to resign their seats in Parliament to cause by-elections to be held? At best they can win back all the seats which they are now occupying. Even if

DAP should join them and get all their 24 MPs to resign at the same time, they will together have no more than their present total of 40 seats.

Even if the sole PAS member on the opposition benches were to join them, the Barisan will continue to have a more than comfortable majority in the Dewan Rakyat, far in excess of two thirds.

However, if what happened in the recent Parit Raja by-election were to be repeated, the "splinter" label that was stuck on them at the UMNO general assembly a few weeks ago may stick for good. It was not a mere coincidence that there were exactly five vacant seats on the supreme council that need to be filled to bring the council to its full strength as provided in its constitution. It is perhaps a token of Datuk Mahathir's capacity for strategic thinking and planning

It is perhaps not a mere coincidence that, as it is now constituted, that are three portfolios in the Cabinet one concurrently, held by the Deputy Prime Minister- which could well accommodate three former Ministers who were dropped in the Cabinet reshuffle after the party election in April last year.

Of course, before they can be rehabilitated and restored to their former status in the government there has naturally to be an end to the present confrontation and the campaign of vilification against the Prime Minister.

They have to accept the present leadership of the new party, stop all activities to revive the old party which had been deregistered, and recognise the new party as the legitimate successor of the old UMNO.

They have not only to join the new party but also bring back their supporters as loyal members of UMNO so that the party can inherit all the assets of the old UMNO and be restored to its former status.

It is possible to revive and restore that party to its former character and status by making whatever amendments to the present constitution and rules that may be agreed to by all concerned. There must be compromises and concessions from both sides, to be realistic, while the image and character of the old UMNO must be preserved, some changes and improvements may be necessary, in the light of the past experience, in order to obviate the recurrence of similar crisis in the party in the future.

The pressures in various forms, besides being removed from various councils and statutory bodies and committees at all levels, should be stopped in order to relieve the tension between the two factions and create an atmosphere which may be conducive to reconciliation and re-unity.

Some of the speeches made in the Senate in the past week had very strong racial undertones, perhaps reacting to the appeals from MCA leaders for the fulfilment of pledges that they had made to the Chinese community on behalf of the Barisan and the government.

Since the Prime Minister himself has reacted with sympathy to the predicament of the MCA leaders, members of UMNO who are loyal to the leader of the party should not create more problems to undermine the multiracial solidarity of the Barisan.

They should realise that the MCA has to prove that it is capable of successfully advancing and promoting the interests of the Chinese community in the same way that UMNO has to prove that it is capable of successfully advancing and promoting the interest of the Chinese Community in the same way that UMNO has to prove to the Malays that it is doing everything possible and fair for the Malay Community compatible with overall interest of the nation as a whole and within the limits of our resources.

UMNO has been more fortunate-because of the support it has enjoyed among the Malays -to have been able to do so much better than PAS in the general election. The MCA has not been able to do as well as DAP which, because it is in opposition, has gone on increasing its support among the Chinese voters in the urban areas.

The Barisan must undertake more political education and have more activities involving all component parties on the ground, at parliamentary as well as state Assembly constituency level.

However, at present it is not only UMNO that is having a crisis and problem within the party. Other component party appear to be undergoing the same experience.

Some Gerakan members and leaders are deserting the party to join the MCA. To balance their new gains, the MCA is facing the possibility of losing their leader Datuk Mak Hon Kam to another Barisan component party.

What is more disturbing for the Barisan is the prospect of another show-down in the MIC as a result of its deputy president Datuk Subramaniam and another vice-president Datuk Pathmanathan publicly siding with expelled vice-president Pandithan.

Are we about to see a new political trend?

18/12/88 (The Star, 19/12/89)

Kota Tinggi MP Datuk Musa Hitam hoped that the resolutions adopted at the forum would serve as the basis towards achieving Malay unity. He said, "the forum seemed to cut across the board and covered all sections involved in the question of Malay unity. Datuk Musa said he hoped that the forum, being organised by Johoreans, would not be misconstrued as an act of parochialism on the part of the Malays here.

" This sense of nationalism stems from the historical fact that Johore was the place where the spirit of nationalism was born. It was through the birth of this spirit that UMNO was formed and independence was achieved for the country," he added.

18/12/88 (The Star,19/12/88)

In Johore Bahru, the forum on Malay unity was organised with the blessing of the UMNO leadership, party Secretary-general Datuk Mohamad Rahmat said.

He said, this was because the nation's future depended on the same principles of unity which formed the foundation of Malaysia's independence. He added that the 'ground rules' for the forum had been laid after agreement between UMNO and the group attempting to revive the de-registered UMNO "long before today's event."

18/12/88 (The Star, 19/12/88)

In Johore Bahru, the resolutions adopted at the forum will be forwarded to the national leadership, forum chairman Tan Sri Dr. Jalil Hassan said.

"We will send the resolutions to the leadership and also to Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Yassin for further scrutiny and action," he said.

"All the six resolutions were unanimously accepted by the 200 delegates from 51 Malay associations and organisations and the unanimous message of the people is obvious. They want Malay unity," he added.

19/12/88 (The Star,20/12/88)

Tunku Abdul Rahman said that the six resolutions adopted at the Malay unity forum were good. The Tunku however, said there must be goodwill and sincerity in holding such discussions.

The resolutions were accepted by about 200 representatives from 51 Malay associations and another 200 politicians (as observers) at the forum. The resolutions will be handed to the Prime Minister and forwarded to the UMNO Supreme Council.

19/12/88 (The Star, 20/12/88)

Former Prime Minister Tun Hussein Onn said that both sides of the UMNO conflict should stop accusing each other and works towards unity. Tun Hussein said the six resolutions adopted at the forum had given new hope to heal the rift among the Malays.

He urged both sides to be patient and tolerant. "We all make mistakes. What is important is for us to learn from them, correct them and not repeat them. The future of the race, religion and nation must be our priority," he added. Datuk Musa Hitam said that it was the intention of all forum participants to regain the pride and dignity of the Malays, starting with Johore. He added that UMNO belonged to the Malays and it was founded on democracy, and these two principles "cannot be compromised or mortgaged."

Menteri Besar Johore Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Mohamed Yassin said the forum should inspire all Johore Malays to return to the UMNO struggle.

19/12/88 (The Star, 20/12/88)

Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba said today the six-point formula adopted by the Malay Unity forum in Johore Bahru appeared to be "generally positive and encouraging."

The six resolutions included calls for :

- i. Positive steps to be taken to restore the original constitution of UMNO according to the provisions of the present UMNO constitution as the basis of membership and leadership at all levels of the party ; and
- ii. Restoration of the UMNO leadership elected at divisional and branch levels elected in 1987 and consulting the party's office bearers involved.
- iii. All former Johore UMNO members to be automatically accepted and registered in UMNO.

iv. The acceptance of the UMNO leadership at national level elected by the UMNO general assembly on April 24, 1987, through democratic principle and practice;

v. Administrative and legal steps to be taken to ensure that the existing UMNO "remains the sole UMNO organisation in the country ;" and

vi. The creation of an atmosphere conducive to unity, goodwill and good relationships to avoid actions that could result in "political misunderstandings."

20/12/88 (NST, 21/12/88)

Former Prime Minister Tun Hussein Onn offered to be a mediator in settling Malay unity problems caused by the differences between UMNO leaders and the Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah's group.

He said that he would meet Tengku Razaleigh and his friends to discuss problems causing the split in Malay unity and to work out ways to resolve them.

He also hoped to seek a meeting with UMNO president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad to discuss the matter, but could not say when.

He said the country needed stability and development particularly when the national economy has just recovered. "Unity in UMNO also means unity for other races. The Malays should be able to bury the hatchet and work together again," he added.

20/12/88 (NST, 21/12/88)

In London, Datuk Haji Abdullah Badawi said that Malaysia cannot afford to have exciting debates and aggressive disputes in Parliament for the sake of democracy without a convincing majority support for the government.

"We must opt for what is good for our country and not merely for what is good for democracy," he said.

The nation had made achievements in many fields and was convinced that with dedication and strong commitment among all races, more could be achieved.

Speaking at symposium on Malaysia towards the 21st century organised by the United Kingdom and Eire UMNO Club, Datuk Abdullah Badawi urged the younger generation who would inherit the leadership of the country to commit themselves towards achieving this goal.

He reminded them that the recent de-registration of UMNO was unfortunate not only to the party itself, but also the Malays and the country as UMNO's strength determined political stability and prosperity.

He described the rift between UMNO and the splinter group as a trend towards a major political development. He also foresees the increasing challenge the country would face in the 1990's in the development aspect may it be from within and outside the country during which the government would need strong support in Parliament.

He was convinced that the people realise the reality and continue to back the Barisan Nasional. He said BN's formula of sharing power among the multi-racial people should continue to be accepted because the people would certainly not allow the establishment of a single-race or single-religion government in Malaysia. Only BN can face the challenges of the 21st century successfully and convincingly.

21/12/88 (The Star, 22/12/88)

The prospects of healing the split among Malays are better now after the Johore Malays unity forum, UMNO vice-president Anwar Ibrahim said today. Most members of the old UMNO had accepted the new party, he told reporters at his office. "We can now focus our efforts on nation-building because the tension (between the opposing sides) has eased.

On the six resolutions taken at the Johore forum, Encik Anwar said the UMNO supreme council would discuss them and decide whether to accept them in toto.

21/12/88 (The Star, 22/12/88)

Sungai Benut MP Tawfik Tun Dr. Ismail will hold ceramahs in his constituency to explain the implication of the six resolutions passed at the Johore Malay unity forum held.

He said the group attempting to revive the deregistered UMNO had "not compromised or sacrificed" anything in accepting the six resolutions.

Encik Taufik said his ceramahs was also aimed at obtaining feedback from the people on the forum and the resolutions.

23/12/88 (The Star.24/12/88)

The Johore Malay unity forum last Sunday has raised hopes of an end to the conflict in UMNO, which came out in the open last year.

But the healing of the rift could result in a parting of ways for Datuk Musa Hitam and Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, both of whom command a big following. In retrospect, the views of the two on the new party have always differed in subtle but significant ways.

While critics of Datuk Musa have accused him of vacillating, his supporters, insist that he has been consistent in his stand, and point to two statements he made.

On April 7, Datuk Musa urged the then newly-registered UMNO to accept all members of the old UMNO, saying that it was the only way for the new party to forge unity among Malays. he also expressed fears of the new party to forge unity among Malays.

He also expressed fears of the new party having a constitution that was different from the old UMNO. When he announced on June 2 his decision not to join the new party, he cited its failure to open its membership to all members of the old UMNO and adopt the old constitution.

Tengku Razaleigh, on the other hand, has said that he will not join the new party even if the old constitution is adopted in toto. And the revived UMNO he envisages does not seem to have any place for Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

Speaking to a gathering in Johore Baru on Nov 24, he said that a revived UMNO would have Datuk Musa as president. He said he would go back to being head of the Gua Musang division because he was not in the last supreme council - before UMNO was declared illegal by the High Court on Feb 4.

But the facts are these : Datuk Musa was not in that council and Dr. Mahathir was party president, and has been since June 9, 1981.

For as long as the new party took a hard stand on the dissenters, differences between Datuk Musa and Tengku Razaleigh seemed to have gone largely unnoticed as they joined forces to oppose a political set-up that they regarded as alien to the UMNO they knew.

The things started to change in October, towards the end of the campaign for the Parit Raja by-election. UMNO decided to open its doors to all Malays, and invited Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa for unity talks with Dr. Mahathir and his deputy, Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba.

The Prime Minister followed this up a few weeks later with an invitation to Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa to join his Cabinet as Ministers without portfolio. And early this month, the party invited five from the opposing group who were elected to the supreme council in the 1987 party elections to take up their former posts. They are Datuk Zainal Abidin Zain, Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, Hajjah Rahmah Othman, Puan Marina Yusuf and Datuk Rais Yatim.

Although the offers were rejected, many in the group opposed to the new party appeared to have been impressed by the leadership's apparent wish for reconciliation.

Those in Johore, at least, were impressed enough to agree to the unity forum, which was attended by prominent Malays in the State from both sides of the UMNO conflict.

While the two groups being brought together, one question arises : Have Datuk Musa and his supporters shifted their stand ?

Not really, said one of the supporter. "Our stand has not changed. Look at the resolutions (adopted at the forum). What has changed is the situation..... they (the UMNO leadership) seem to be more receptive. "

Tun Hussein has said he would meet Tengku Razaleigh as a first step to help put into effect the resolutions.

Although Tengku Razaleigh said on Thursday he was ready to meet Tun Hussein. However, he wanted to study the resolutions first. One of his supporters said, we have struggled all this while with Tengku Razaleigh to revive the old UMNO. Suddenly, our friends in Johore soften their stand.

"We want the old UMNO. We are not only fighting against the leadership of the party but also the administration of the Government. The economy and other national issues are involved."

The supporters see the forum as the start of a split between Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa. There were already cracks in their relationship.

Various reason are given for the "cracks." Those aligned to Razaleigh said Datuk Musa had not been persistent in his opposition to the new party. Datuk Musa's supporters said the two groups had always differed in their approach of the problem. Supporters of both sides, however, concede that they may not know "everything about what is happening." They admitted not being sure of how Tengku Razaleigh would respond to the moves.

Then there is the question of how UMNO will react to the resolutions, although early indications are that they will be favourably received.

Political observers who were asked about the chances of success of the conciliatory move had more questions than answers.

Who, they asked, would want to appear to be against the move ? Would anyone from any side dare to be less than responsive ?

One observer said that a key element in the success or failure of the unity move would be the party constitution.

He said, "if UMNO agrees to amend its constitution to the extent that it becomes - to all intents and purposes - the old party, there is every chance of the unity initiative gaining momentum."

"Once it gains momentum a politician ignores it at risk of being left outfrom the mainstream of politics and national life. "Tun Hussein calls the rift (among the malays) a national burden. It is time to get rid of that burden," added the observer.

24/12/88 (NST,25/12/88)

The chairman of the Johore Malay Unity Forum, Tan Sri Dr. Abdul Jalil Hassan, today expressed the hope that all Malays would accept the six-point resolution in the long-term interest of the community.

Tan Sri Jalil yesterday led a delegation to the Prime Minister's Department to hand over the resolution to Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

The delegation comprised the members of the forum organising committee who were Datuk Abdul Kadir Talib, Datuk Mahmood Sulaiman, Encik Zainal Abidin Mohamed Zain and Datuk Rizuan Salim. Poet Usman

Awang, who is a committee member, was also present at the 30-minute meeting.

UMNO Secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat confirmed today that the six-point resolution would be discussed by the UMNO supreme council at its meeting early next month.

On the offer made by Dr. Mahathir to five supreme council members of the deregistered UMNO to join the UMNO supreme council, Datuk Mohamed said only Datuk Shahrir Samad had responded. "But he had stipulated his own conditions," he added.

24/12/88 (NST, 25/12/88)

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Mohamed Yaacob has expressed the need for UMNO members to be united to further strengthen the party.

Speaking at the gathering organised by the Kuala Krai UMNO division yesterday, Tan Sri Mohamed said he was overwhelmed by the support given to him as indicated by the more than 3,000 UMNO members and supporters who turned up at the gathering.

The thank giving gathering was to celebrate the conferment of the Tan Sri award on the Menteri Besar. The response he said indicated the unity among UMNO members.

24/12/88 (The Star, 25/12/88)

The Johore faction of the UMNO dissidents, led by former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam, is working towards reconciliation with the official UMNO led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The important step in this direction was the Malay unity forum in Johore Baru last Sunday, attended by about 200 representatives of 51 Malay associations in Johore.

Some 200 politicians from both factions also participated as observers. Among those present was former Prime Minister Tun Hussein Onn, who was adviser to the forum's organising committee.

Datuk Musa Hitam, Johore Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyiddin Yassin, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Johore Bahru MP Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad and National Poet Laureate Usman Awang were also present.

In my view, the forum endorsed the proposals that were put forward by the group of 23 Malay intellectuals on the eve of the Parit Raja by-election, which I had myself supported, and Datuk Musa had described as a basis on which reconciliation could possibly be worked out.

Before the Parit Raja by-election was held in October, I had in this column appealed to the dissident UMNO group to refrain from putting up an independent candidate, and instead hold talks with the official UMNO to pick a mutually-agreed candidate who could be returned unopposed, as in the two previous elections.

I felt sure that such a gesture could have been the starting point that would lead to speedy reconciliation between the two feuding factions and restore Malay unity within UMNO, and contribute to the restoration of political stability.

Now that we are facing another by-election in the Parliamentary constituency of Ampang Jaya, I appeal once again to Tengku Razaleigh and his supporters not to put up a candidate to contest against the candidate which the MCA will be fielding on behalf of the Barisan Nasional.

For the sake of Malay unity, they should think very carefully about putting up a candidate in Ampang Jaya.

Should the UMNO supreme council be as accommodating and act in the same manner as it did on the eve of the Parit Raja by-election, the independent candidate put up by Tengku Razaleigh and his supporters in Ampang Jaya may suffer the same fate as their candidate did in Parit Raja.

The principled manner in which UMNO, under the leadership of Dr Mahathir, has decided to let MCA make its own choice of the candidate, despite the fact that 70% of the voters in the constituency are Malays, deserves the support of all those who are sincerely committed to inter-racial co-operation as the basis of national unity.

Up to now, the DAP has been able to enjoy more support than MCA among Chinese voters in urban constituencies. However the recent cross-over of Chinese members from other parties to the MCA indicates that there is a growing realisation that the Chinese community would benefit more by uniting within MCA, which could exert more influence in the government.

After the by-election, Datuk Shahrir had conceded that although the Chinese formed only a quarter of the electorate in Parit Raja, their votes were decisive in enabling the BN to win the seat.

In Parit Raja, the two main candidates were Malays. In Ampang Jaya, the Barisan Nasional candidate will be a Chinese and the dissident UMNO faction will be fielding a Malay.

There may be a number of other Malay independent candidates as was the case in Parit Raja, who will end up the same way, losing their deposits.

In the 1986 general election, the DAP did not contest in Ampang Jaya. In a straight fight, the SDP's R.S Menon obtained only 5,979 votes against Dr. Lim Ann Koon's 36,700 votes.

I expect the turnout in the by-election to be around 60%, and there will likely be a higher percentage of Chinese voters than Malay voters turning out to cast their votes.

The Barisan Nasional candidate will need to obtain only about half the number of votes given to Dr. Lim Ann Koon in 1986 by Malay voters in order to win the seat, in view of the anticipation that Chinese votes will tip the balance, as they did in Parit Raja.

In order to win, the independent candidate contesting on behalf of the dissident UMNO group will have to get the support of at least two-thirds of the Malay voters in Ampang Jaya.

A statement made by former Deputy Labour Minister Datuk Zakaria Abdul Rahman, in his capacity as spokesman for the Tengku Razaleigh group, reveals that the split between Datuk Musa's group and Tengku Razaleigh's group which started just before the Parit Raja by-election has become worse since the Malay unity forum was held in Johore.

The forum, said Datuk Zakaria was aimed at undermining the position of Tengku Razaleigh and his group. It was a step taken by Johore faction, led by Datuk Musa and Datuk Shahrir, to prepare the way for them to return to UMNO.

He accused the group of ignoring former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Othman Saat, who is the Chairman of the dissident group in Johore.

Datuk Zakaria said he believed the six point formula put forward by the forum was inspired by the UMNO leaders themselves, alleging that the forum itself was planned and sponsored by UMNO.

After the UMNO supreme council accepted the resolutions, said the "spirit of 46" spokesman, those who supported the forum could be expected to be offered various offices and positions.

He also reported to have said that Datuk Musa and his supporters and followers had all this while used the "Spirit of 46" platform to popularise themselves in order to strike a bargain with the UMNO leadership for a better deal.

As a result of this split, what happened in Parit Raja in October may be repeated in Ampang Jaya.

The announcement by the Prime Minister to appoint an all party, broad based and representative National Economic Consultative Council to achieve national consensus for the post-1990 National Economic Policy has been very well received throughout the nation.

Its adroit timing may also have a bearing on the result of the by-election.

With this move, Dr Mahathir has been able to assuage those who have accused him of not giving them a chance to air their views and of acting like a dictator.

The NECC will elect its own chairman and decide on its own procedure, even to the extent of the mode of making its decisions - whether by voting or consensus or any other manner.

What he has proposed is a democratic way of dealing with this very important matter, which is of concern to all those who are genuinely committed to promoting inter-racial harmony and national unity.

Dr. Mahathir will also be able to alter the perception of him being spiteful, arrogant and intransigent if the UMNO supreme council, which has been making one concession after another, were to accept the proposals of the Johore forum. This could all happen before the the voters in Ampang Jaya go to the polls on Jan 28.

The NECC could well be the forerunner of a standing National Consultative Council which would be able to harmonise national unity and integrity.

24/12/88 (The Star, 25/12/88)

Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and his group, attending a PAS gathering for the first time last night, invited the party to co-operate with the group.

Present were PAS deputy President Haji Fadzil Noor and Secretary-general Haji Hassan Shukri, as well as Datuk Rais Yatim, Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin,

Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, Datuk Manan Osman, Haji Ibrahim Ali and Hajjah Marina Yusof.

Tengku Razaleigh said both PAS and his group had so far been struggling separately towards their respective objectives.

Haji Hassan, commenting on Tengku Razaleigh's gesture, welcomed the idea of cooperation and said it could be carried out on a wider scale instead of just for Ampang Jaya by-election.

Tengku Razaleigh also said efforts towards achieving unity would be meaningless if they concerned only a few people.

On the offer by former Prime Minister Tun Hussein Onn to meet him for talks on the question of unity, Tengku Razaleigh said it was extended to him on Thursday.

24/12/88 (25/12/88)

UMNO is clearing up the status of about 200,000 people who joined the party without going through any branch, Secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today.

He said the party's division secretaries would be directed to resolve the matter. The Information Minister said the 200,000 had applied directly to the party headquarters to join UMNO during the first phase of the party's membership drive after it was registered on February 17. Subsequently, when the party decided to revive all former UMNO branches, and all other members joined through their respective branches, the 200,000 became members without any branches, he said.

On the offer of supreme council seats to five of its former members, Datuk Mohamed said Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad would accept the offer if certain conditions were met.

He said the independent Johore Baru MP's conditions were almost similar to the resolutions adopted at Sunday's Johore Malay unity forum.

Datuk Mohamed said the party headquarters received Datuk Shahrir's official reply recently and it would be discussed at the party supreme council meeting next month.

On Dec 2, the UMNO supreme council invited the five, who were elected at the general assembly of the de-registered UMNO in April last year, to sit in the council once they joined the new UMNO.

24/12/88 (The Star, 25/12/88)

The Kelantan Government has no intention of calling for fresh elections, State Executive Councillor Haji Ahmad Shahibuddin Mohamed Noor said today.

In the 1986 election, the Kelantan Barisan Nasional won 29 State seats while PAS took the remaining 10.

" We will just wait for the next general election in 1991," he said.

The independent Assemblymen for Dabong, Haji Rozali Isohak, had on Wednesday urged the state Government to call for fresh elections "to prove it still has the people's support." Haji Rozali had claimed that the State Government was facing a "crisis of confidence" and should dissolve the state Assembly to seek a mandate from the people.

26/12/88 (NST, 27/12/88)

The UMNO supreme council will meet on Jan 14 to discuss the six-point resolution adopted by the Johore Malay Unity forum, party Secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today.

The resolutions were handed to Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Friday by a delegations led by forum chairman Tan Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Jalil Hassan.

Datuk Mohamed said that UMNO had made several concessions to the splinter group in the interest of Malay unity.

27/12/88 (NST,28/12/88)

UMNO has invited 10 prominent members to represent the party in the National Economic Consultative Council.

The consultative council, which will 112 members representing political and non-political groups, is to help the Government formulate post 1990 national economic policies and programmes.

On the reclassification exercise involving 200,000 people who applied to join UMNO directly to party headquarters instead of their branches and division, he said it would not affect branch elections next year.

Party Secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said that the UMNO membership drive was proceeding at a feverish pace as the 1989 branch elections were approaching.

All accepted members and those who had sent their application forms by December 31 to their respective divisions will be eligible to attend the meeting.

Datuk Mohamed said 18 divisions in the country now had more members than they had in the de-registered UMNO.

27/12/88 (NST, 29/12/88)

Two UMNO Youth representatives have been selected to sit in the post-1990 National Economic Policy Consultative Council, UMNO youth leader Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

The two, Encik Nazri Aziz and Dr. Jamaluddin Jarjis, were among 10 people nominated by UMNO Youth. "Although they go under the UMNO youth flag, they will act in the interest of all youths," said Datuk Seri Najib who is also Youth and Sports Minister.

27/12/88 (The Star, 28/12/88)

UMNO youth has decided to oppose Tengku Razaleigh and his group for seeking political co-operation with PAS and DAP.

Its leader, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak, said today the latest statement by Tengku Razaleigh had forced the movement to "go all out.....with no holds barred."

It is no longer an issue of a different UMNO-the present party versus the de-registered party which Tengku Razaleigh and his group are attempting to revive.

"It is instead a political marriage between the group and PAS which has a different political ideology, philosophy and approach," Datuk Najib said.

Datuk Seri Najib said the new turn, of events also meant a split between Tengku Razaleigh's group and Datuk Musa Hitam's group.

He said at least, Datuk Musa's group would accept UMNO with certain conditions, meaning, he added "there is still room for negotiations between

UMNO and Datuk Musa's group. "But in the case of Tengku Razaleigh's group, there is no more room for negotiations," he said.

27/12/88 (The star, 28/12/88)

Johore Malays can be united again if community leaders are prepared to bury their differences for the future of the community, UMNO secretary general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat.

He said it is heartening to note that most of the community leaders in the state had realised that the split within the community had brought adverse effects on the people.

The Dec 18 Johore Malay Unity forum itself shows that responsible leaders have realised the consequences and are now working together to mend the rift.

28/12/88 (NST, 29/12/88)

Johore Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Yassin will table the six-point resolution adopted by the recent Johore Malay Unity forum at the UMNO Supreme Council meeting on Jan 14.

Union Secretary-general Datuk Mohamad Rahmat said that during the meeting, Tan Sri Muhyuddin is also expected to give details of the forum and explain the resolutions arising from it.

Datuk Mohamed hoped the unity effort initiated by former Prime Minister Tun Hussein Onn would be successful.

Datuk Mohamed Rahmat also said that the government is not preparing for an early general election as it has to solve many problems affecting the people before seeking a fresh mandate from them.

"The cabinet and the UMNO supreme council have decided that priority would be given to solving the problems of the people and in line with this, we will provide an annual additional allocation of \$400 million for development projects especially in Muar," he said.

1/1/89 (The Star, 2/1/89)

There are many things for which Malaysians would like to see greater improvements, including racial unity, political stability, and the

continuation of the economic upturn with better prices for the primary commodities and other exports, as well as more jobs for the people.

All these are in a way inter-related. Unity seems to be on everyone's lips these days and it was the main emphasis of the leaders in their New Year messages.

This was the thrust of the speech by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, and of the statement by MCA president Datuk Dr. Ling Liong Sik. MTUC secretary-general Dr. V. David also touched on unity and solidarity of the workers.

From their remarks, it would appear that there is a genuine interest to unite the people in every sphere.

If this is the case, then there should be a little difficulty in reaching this objective. Perhaps what is wrong is that there is a lack of will and commitment.

Someone should take the lead to get the wheel in motion. The government, politicians, trade unionists, leaders of social organisations and the public must follow this up and make a serious attempt to unite the people.

This is not an unattainable goal since the basic understanding that the various races must live, work and play together is a principle shared by everyone interested in the nation's well-being.

One encouraging sign in the past 12 months was that the leaders were more aware of the need to play down racial issues. This was a lesson all learned when the nation was almost on the verge of disaster following the irresponsible statements and attitude of some leaders in 1987.

The subsequent crackdown made people realise how dangerous the situation was, and the security people were ready to step in to ensure that things did not get out of hands.

As a result, there were less sensitive issues being raised last year; politicians and leaders of social organisations knew that if they persisted along the same line, they would feel the full weight of the law.

Everyone should give unity, whether racial or political, a chance. The government on its part is trying to de-politicise issues and is achieving some success.

The only foolproof way of doing this is for all concerned parties to come together and work out a programme or code for all community leaders to follow.

After 31 years of independence, it may be necessary for everyone to go back to the basics and start all over again.

In a multiracial society, this is an extremely delicate and difficult task particularly when there is an active political environment. It is the task of politicians to win as many as many as seats as in an election as possible so as to gain power.

It is also natural that the best way of doing so in the Malaysian context is to appeal to the emotions and sentiments of the different communities and to appear as their champions.

How can politicians expect to steer clear of communal politics or issues in a multiracial society like Malaysia? Woolly-headed politicians would say that the formation of multiracial parties is the answer, as if their supporters would stop being Malay, Chinese or Indian once they became members.

In the years ahead, this will be the major challenge facing the politicians. The only solution lies with the politicians who should as far as possible avoid putting their own narrow communal interests before that of the nation.

As Dr. Mahathir pointed out recently, the politicians must emphasise more on how each community was benefiting from government policies rather than what they did not get.

Unfortunately, politicians tend to ignore such subtle perceptions. To do as the prime minister has suggested would take a lot of courage since this is not what many people would like to hear.

Politicians are not prepared to take the risk of being unpopular. It takes a statesman to do this and we have too few of them.

2/1/89 (The Star, 3/1/89)

A big disappointment in the past year was the lack of progress uniting UMNO following its upheaval.

However, there were a few good indications that if those involved showed greater flexibility and a desire to sink their differences, then something good could have some negative effects on political development.

It has been pointed out many times that a strong UMNO is paramount to political stability. The party has been divided for too long though the incumbents have tried their best to offer the olive branch.

But this was rejected by the challengers. One difficulty in resolving the dispute is that there is a great deal of distrust among the key players.

In fact it has almost become a game between the two. Every UMNO proposal is met with a predictable rejection. Yet the leadership is patient in keeping its options open and not closing the door.

The dispute is causing disquiet among the Malay elite both inside and outside the party who are becoming impatient and want things to be settled.

But the most promising action taken so far appears to be last month's Malay unity conference in Johore Baru at which six resolutions were adopted on how to heal the rift facing the community.

The fact that it was confined to the Johore Malays should not lessen its impact. Johore has always been the stronghold of UMNO and though the some opposition members, mainly from the DAP, have managed to pierce the Barisan armour, the party has been able to fend off all attempts by non-UMNO Malays to dilute its strength.

Some may point to the success of Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad, who won the Johore Baru parliamentary by-election last year as an independent. But Datuk Shahrir is more of an UMNO Independent whose links with the party goes back a long way.

The other notable aspect of the conference was the presence of Johore Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Yassin, the clearest indication that it had received the blessing of the UMNO leadership.

Tan Sri Muhyuddin has emerged as one of the party's second echelon leaders to watch with his handling of the UMNO crisis in Johore. He was the central figure who held the party together despite the battering it was receiving from the dissident group in the state.

He remained cool while under great stress and pressure which has impressed even his opponents. While the dissident forces had a lot of nasty things to say about the leadership, particularly during the JB and Parit Raja by-elections, they never aimed their frustration at him.

Unlike his Kelantan counterpart, Tan Sri Muhyuddin was able to work together with the dissident forces. It is rare that someone caught in the

middle of a bitter struggle should enjoy the respect of even his opponents. UMNO is fortunate to have a leader of his calibre in charge of the state. He is definitely a politician to watch.

If the JB unity resolutions are accepted by UMNO at its next Supreme Council meeting, then a major part of the credit would be his.

5/1/89 (The Star,6/1/89)

Tun Hussein Onn has met Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to discuss possible ways to reunite the Malays. The former Prime Minister said today he would write to Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad about the talks and would seek a meeting with the Prime Minister and UMNO president.

Tun Hussein, who was offered to mediate in the party conflict, said he was drafting a letter to Dr. Mahathir to tell him of Tengku Razaleigh's views.

Asked to comment on speculation that he would be in the group accompanying former Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Harun Idris to the Ampang Jaya by-election nomination centre, he said : "I did not make any such promise."

8/1/89 (NST,9/1/89)

One of the 16 Independent MPs from the "Spirit of 46" group has applied to join UMNO secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today.

Several other Independent MPs from the group have also indicated their wish to join UMNO, he said but declined to reveal their identities. Datuk Mohamed also said he was pleased that several members within the group, especially in Johore were slowly turning to UMNO.

He added that it was important that UMNO was strong as it ultimately determined the strength of the nation. "Judging by the present turn of events, 1989 will be a very good year for UMNO."

Datuk Mohamed said the first UMNO supreme council meeting for this year was brought forward a day to Jan 13 as Jan 14 was nomination day for the Ampang Jaya parliamentary by-election.

He said the lessons of the by-elections in Johore Baru and Parit Raja would be utilised fully in Ampang Jaya.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Mohamad Yassin will present the resolution for discussion during the meeting.

The supreme council will also discuss whether to extend the Dec 31 deadline for applications to join UMNO to enable them to take part in this year's branch annual general meetings.

Datuk Mohamed said any extension would not affect the conduct of the AGMs as more than 5000 UMNO branches had been registered.

Another 3 600 branches were being registered and the whole process would be completed by the end of this month. He also said a complete list of members would have to be drawn up to enable the branch AGMs to proceed.

10/1/89 (The Star,11/1/89)

A liaison committee set up by Johore Baru MP Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad to serve his constituents has been declared illegal by the district office here.

Johore Baru District Officer Ismail Aziz said today the committee did not have any legal status and its activities would be considered unlawful.

The committee held a gathering at the Dewan Jubli Intan where its members and representatives were given certificates by Datuk Shahrir. The certificates authorise the members and representatives were given certificates by Datuk Shahrir. The certificates authorise the members and representatives to act on behalf of the MP.

Datuk Shahrir told the gathering that the committee was set up to serve his constituents and that there was no need for any quarter to worry about its function.

State Assembly Speaker Datuk Yunos, who is also Johore UMNO secretary wrote to the police and district office after receiving complaints that the people were confused over the committee's status.

16/1/89 (The Star,17/1/89)

The Johore UMNO liaison committee will draw up a formula on implementing the six resolutions adopted by the UMNO supreme council last week.

Its secretary, Datuk Mohamed Yunos Sulaiman, said that there could be problems in implementing the resolution which requires all branch and division leaders in the old UMNO to be restored to their posts.

At least four divisions and several branches could be involved. The four divisions which have new leaders are Johore Baru, Segamat, Ledang and Muar.

Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad was replaced by Datuk Yunos as the Johore Baru division chief, and Datuk Musa Hitam was replaced by Encik Othman Jais in Segamat.

In Muar, Encik Kahar Ahmad was replaced by Encik Mohamad Nor Mohamed Dom and Encik Ghani Othman replaced Haji Musa Mohamed Nor.

A fifth division which could see changes is Bakri, where Encik Hashim Rais took over from Haji Misran Alias as chief.

Meanwhile Bernama reports that a group of former UMNO members in Perak said today that they would reject any effort to absorb them into UMNO based on the six resolutions.

The former Perak State Assembly Speaker, Datuk Abdul Malek Ahmad, said that the group's struggle was "not for the right to join UMNO but to revive the original UMNO which has been de-registered."

"The question of reviving the old UMNO and that of participation of Malays and former members in the new UMNO are two different things," he added.

19/1/89 (NST, 20/1/89)

Twenty-five former Socialist Democratic Party (SDP) leaders and members, led by deputy president Abu Samah Majid, applied to join UMNO today. The SDP was resolved last year.

The group also comprised ex-SDP central executive committee members Encik Mohamad Yunos Abdul Munir and Selangor assistant publicity secretary Encik Hidir Yeop.

Encik Abu Samah said that nearly all the ex-SDP Malay members totalling 10,000 had expressed interest in joining UMNO. About 70% of them had applied to join UMNO so far, he added.

25/1/89 (The Star, 26/1/89)

Datuk Musa Hitam has indicated his intention to officially rejoin UMNO on Feb 1, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Mohamed Yassin said today.

Tan Sri Muhyuddin said several supporters of Datuk Musa in Johore, including Independent Johore Assemblymen Haji Adam Hamid and Encik Khadri Sabran, were also expected to follow suit.

Tan Sri Muhyuddin said the official re-admission of Datuk Musa and several of his supporters would be made easier once the Johore UMNO decided how to implement the six resolutions from the Johore Malay unity forum.

On the possibility of Johore Baru MP Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad re-joining UMNO, Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin said he had not obtained any such assurance from Datuk Shahrir.

3/2/89 (The Star,4/2/89)

In Muar, Johore, Datuk Musa Hitam urged former UMNO members who have yet to rejoin the party to do so as UMNO now appears to reflect what he described as 'a Malay political culture.'

The former Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Musa Hitam, told a Malay Unity gathering of the Pagoh UMNO Division that this was evident with the more flexible stand and a spirit of consensus of the party leadership, all of which attested to the practice of democracy.

Datuk Musa calls on the Malays struggling on the Semangat 46 platform to renew their membership in UMNO to strengthen the party.

"We (former UMNO members) should accept the present UMNO because it is growing to be like the old UMNO, and thereby accept the reality that the old UMNO no longer exists," he said.

Datuk Musa, who renewed his membership in the Batu Anam branch in Segamat, was attending his second gathering in Johore to explain why he rejoined the party. Later, Datuk Musa told reporters that he had suggested to Johore Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Mohamed Yassin, who is the Pagoh division Chairman, to use his good relationship with other Mentris Besar to consider adopting the six resolutions accepted by the Johore Malay unity forum in December.

In his speech, Tan Sri Muhyuddin said Malays should practice politics of conciliation and avoid the politics of confrontation. He said unity in

UMNO was not difficult to achieve if all members were not dominated by certain individual interests.

Tan Sri Muhyuddin reiterated that the decision by Datuk Musa and his supporters in Johore to renew their membership in the party would further strengthen Johore Malay unity through UMNO.

Tan Sri Muhyuddin said he would decide in the next few days the date for a meeting with independent Johore Baru MP Datuk Shahrir Samad to explain how all the six forum resolutions would be implemented.

Last Tuesday, Datuk Shahrir was reported to have said that he would lead a group of former Johore UMNO division leaders to a meeting with Tan Sri Muhyuddin, the Johore UMNO Chief, to discuss the implementation of the resolutions.

Today's gathering was attended by about 1,200 people, including Endau Assemblyman Khadri Sabran and Bandar Tenggara Assemblyman Adam Abdul Hamid, both of whom rejoined UMNO together with Datuk Musa.

4/2/89 (NST.5/2/89)

Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and other UMNO dissidents should no longer be persuaded to re-join the party, Menteri Besar Datuk Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib said today.

He said the time for persuasion was long past. "If they want to, they should rejoin the party on their own accord," he said. Datuk Muhammad said the party membership campaign teams were tired of "pestering" Tengku Razaleigh and other dissidents, including vanquished Ampang Jaya candidate Datuk Harun Idris, to re-register as UMNO members.

Datuk Muhammad who was speaking to reporters after launching the Parliamentary-level "Loyalty with the people movement" (Semarak) here, said the drive to get former members to re-register would continue.

He said more than 90 per cent of 150 000 former party members in Selangor have re-registered and the remaining would follow suit soon.

In his speech at the launch of the movement, the Menteri Besar called on Political leaders, community and department heads to promote better understanding among their subordinates and the public.

"The Semarak spirit should be instilled at all levels to ensure better co-operation among the people and the smooth implementation of Government programmes," he said.

A close-knit community, he said, would be more resilient to threats from dissidents and groups which were out to disunite the people.

4/2/89 (NST, 5/2/89)

Pahang UMNO has agreed to accept the six resolutions of the Johore Malay Unity Forum for implementation in the state.

State UMNO Liaison secretary Datuk Haji Abdul Jabbar Ibrahim said Pahang UMNO had discussed all the six resolutions during its meeting and had decided to accept the supreme council decision to implement the resolutions.

"The Committee discussed the issue when it met last night and decided that it will not be a problem to implement the resolution in Pahang," he said when contacted.

He said there would be no problems pertaining to registration of members because the state had never rejected any applications for memberships from Malays in Pahang to date. He said that the number of Malays who joined UMNO in Pahang had exceeded the membership of the old UMNO.

He said there were now 690 UMNO branches compared to 639 under the old UMNO.

7/2/89 (NST, 8/2/89)

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Mohammad Yassin will meet Johore Baru MP Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad on Thursday. The meeting, which will also be attended by Datuk Shahrir's supporters, is aimed at clearing the air over the implementation of the six-point unity formula adopted by Johore Malays last December.

Tan Sri Muhyuddin, who confirmed this yesterday, said he would explain to Datuk Shahrir and supporters the Johore UMNO's sincerity to implement the six resolutions.

Datuk Shahrir was quoted as saying last week that his decision to join UMNO would depend on the outcome of his meeting with Tan Sri Muhyuddin on how the six resolutions would be implemented in Johore.

12/2/89 (The Star, 13/2/89)

Johore Bahru MP Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad will decide whether to renew his membership in UMNO after a meeting with former members here on Friday.

Datuk Shahrir said that he would seek consensus from the former members of the Johore Bahru division on the next step to be taken following Thursday's meeting with Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Yassin.

He said that Friday's closed door meeting would also discuss the latest developments in the move to reunite the Malay community through the implementation of the six-point formula adopted by the Johore Malay unity forum.

Datuk Shahrir said the meeting would also discuss the recent move by some of the branch leaders in the Johore Bahru UMNO division who had objected to his rejoining the division.

"This move by those involved can only be interpreted to mean that the leaders concerned are afraid they will lose their positions if I rejoin. The group has shown that it is opposed to the Johore unity formula and does not want to follow the majority wish to implement the formula," he said.

"Some of these leaders even informed UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad that they did not accept the unity formula shortly after the UMNO supreme council decided to endorse the six resolutions.

The question of my not returning to the Johore Baru division does not arise as I am automatically a member of the division as specified by the six-point formula adopted by UMNO," Datuk Shahrir added.

It was reported today that a group claiming to represent leaders from 35 of the 44 branches of the Johore Baru UMNO do not want Datuk Shahrir to return to the division. The group said Datuk Shahrir could become a member of any other division except the Johore Baru division.

Meanwhile, former members of the deregistered UMNO's youth wing in Johore have disbanded their Johore UMNO'46 Youth movement in line with the acceptance of the unity forum resolutions. Former Johore UMNO Youth chief Khalid Nordin said the movement was dissolved after a meeting with 11 former division chiefs in Air Hitam last night.

Encik Khalid said the group felt that the movement was "redundant" following the acceptance of the unity proposals by UMNO. Encik Khalid added that 75% of the former Youth members would be rejoining the party.

12/2/89 (The Star,13/2/89)

The PAS-Semangat'46 pact will continue and efforts will be made to strengthen this relationship, PAS deputy president Ustaz Fadzil Noor said today.

He said that leaders of the two sides had met on several occasions and more of such meetings would be held "as and when necessary". However, at this juncture, we cannot determine whether there will be a coalition between our sides for the next general election as this matter depends on further developments on both sides.

Ustaz Fadzil said that differences in their political philosophy did not deter them from having an understanding because "it is not an impossible thing to accept the Islamic concept."

Ustaz Fadzil said the understanding between PAS and Semangat'46 was based on :

- *An understanding among the major opposition parties and organisations for the next general election; and
- *Support for the concept of unity based on Islamic principles.

12/2/89 (The Star,13/2/89)

Umno Youth leader Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today that there are "positive indications" that Datuk Rais Yatim will join the party soon.

"I have been informed by Umno Youth executive council members that Datuk Rais is seriously considering the move following the latest developments in the party. It will be a positive move towards reuniting the Malays and strengthening the party," Datuk Seri Najib told reporters after addressing about 300 Felda settlers in Sungai Pancing near here.

Datuk Rais, the MP for Jelebu is, the Semangat'46 leader in Negeri Sembilan.

"It is obvious now that many of the Semangat'46 group members are returning to Umno, especially after the group's candidates in the Ampang Jaya and Parit Raja by-elections were defeated by the Barisan Nasional.

Those who are still considering should make up their minds fast as Umno Youth will back the proposal by party deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba to impose a time limit for automatic admission of former members," he said.

Responding to a Star report that certain branch leaders in the Johore Baru Umno division did not want Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad to return to the division, Datuk Seri Najib said: "This reaction had been expected and I am aware of the sentiments and bitter feelings of the Umno members in the branches. I have just visited the Johore Baru division and the members there do not want to Datuk Shahrir, especially after the way he had attacked and criticised Umno."

Datuk Najib disagreed with Datuk Shahrir, the MP for Johore Baru, that the decision by the branches was against the spirit of the six resolutions adopted at the Johore Malay unity forum.

He said that although the Umno supreme council had accepted all the resolutions, it had left their implementation to the State Umno liaison committees and to the division leadership.

13/2/89 (NST.14/2/89)

Umno now has more branches than it had before it was declared unlawful and deregistered by the Registrar of Societies, exactly a year ago today.

The party has also registered 1 052 308 members - just short of the 1 326 627 before the party was declared an unlawful society by the High Court. Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the party now had 8 922 registered branches compared with 8 668 in the de-registered party.

To date, 7 106 branches have received certificated from the Registrar of Societies while another 1 816 certificates are being processed.

Perlis now has 276 branches, Kedah (1,476), Kelantan (1,436), Trengganu (719), Penang (344), Perak (1,109), Pahang (697), Selangor (725), Federal Territory (236), Negeri Sembilan (399), Malacca (233) and Johore, 1 272 branches.

Datuk Mohamed said the party's supreme council was also considering requests by some divisions to form more branches. On the party's membership, Datuk Mohamed said the 1 052 308 figure had far exceeded the 700 000 target set by the supreme council after the party was registered.

Perlis now has 17 964 members, Kedah (135,639), Kelantan (92,325), Trengganu (98,244), Penang (59 243), Perak (136,534), Pahang (95,969), Selangor (135,570), Federal Territory (39 260), Negeri Sembilan (71,259), Malacca (45 024) and Johore (125 277).

He said of the total membership figure, 10 per cent of the members were new while 53% were below the age of 40 and better educated. Datuk Mohamed was confident that the party's membership would reach 1.5 million by the end of the year.

Datuk Mohamed also urged those who wished to participate and offer themselves for office at branch and division levels to register and pay the \$1 subscription fee before or on March 31.

He added that the party would print another 500 000 membership forms in view of the overwhelming response. On the restoration of the Umno leadership elected by divisions and branches in 1987, Datuk Mohamed clarified that the supreme council had decided that, where possible, the old line-up should be restored.

Datuk Mohamed said the Umno leadership at all levels was still pro-tem, adding that the party would leave it to the members to elect their leaders when the party held elections at the various levels.

13/12/89 (NST, 14/2/89)

The Umno supreme council will meet on March 4 to discuss preparations for the party's annual general meeting at the branch and division levels, party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said.

The deadline for the branches' annual general meetings is June 30 while the divisions have to hold theirs before Sept 30.

Deputy president Encik Ghafar Baba had said recently that he would propose the time limit "to safeguard the party's integrity." He said too many members were criticising the party and then applying to rejoin it.

Datuk Mohamed also said that the party's management committee would meet on Feb 21 to discuss several issues facing the party.

It is learnt that the committee is likely to propose to the supreme council that anyone who stands against the Barisan Nasional in any election should be barred from joining the party for 10 years or over two general elections.

22/2/89 (The Star, 23/2/89)

Umno information bureau chief Senator Datuk Hussein Ahmad said today that most of the Semangat'46 supporters in Kelantan have left Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah following Tun Hussein Onn's efforts to mediate in the Umno conflict. Tengku Razaleigh's support is diminishing and he only has some support left in Johore and one or two in other states.

"In Kelantan, there is no more problem as far as the membership is concerned. Most of the former members have already joined the party," he told reporters after a meeting with Local government heads in Pahang.

Datuk Hussein said most of Tengku Razaleigh's supporters had realised Umno's sincerity in wanting to resolve the differences. He also said that Tun Hussein's efforts to reconcile the opposing groups had also convinced most of Semangat'46 supporters to rejoin the new party.

The Malays are now politically mature and will not allow themselves to be manipulated by leaders. "It is evident now that many of the splinter group members are leaving their leaders after realising what is good for the race and nation," he added.

He said Umno will not interfere in Tun Hussein's efforts to unite the Malays. We hope his efforts will be fruitful. If Tun Hussein's efforts to convince Tengku Razaleigh fail, we will leave the matter at that.

22/2/89 (The Star, 23/2/89)

Several orang asli in Perak have become Umno members although the supreme council has yet to decide whether they may do so, State Umno liaison secretary Datuk Haji Ahamed Hambal Yeop Majlis said.

He said the orang asli were taken in as party members because they had become a part of the Malay community in their areas.

Datuk Mohamed also said there was no clause in the party constitution barring Orang Asli from joining Umno. Datuk Ahamed Hambal welcomed Datuk Mohamed's proposal, saying that orang Asli should be allowed to become members because they were also bumiputras.

He said the state liason committee would carry out a recruitment drive for Orang Asli if the proposal was accepted at the meeting.

23/2/89 (The Star,24/2/89)

Former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam's decision to join Umno has neither split the Semangat 46 group nor weakened it, Datuk Rais Yatim said.

"Our group remains intact...we will continue with our struggle to revive the old Umno. We have no intention of turning back," he said.

Datuk Rais said Datuk Musa did not tell the group of his decision to join Umno, "leaving us guessing about his reasons for doing so." He could have indicated to us why he was leaving the group to join Umno. If he had, there would be no reason for us to doubt him.

Datuk Rais also said the group had not entered into any pact with the DAP as reported by some newspapers, and he had merely signed a petition urging the release of certain ISA detainees. The petition had already been signed by other Semangat'46 leaders like Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

Datuk Rais said the group was working together with the DAP because the opposition party had undergone changes under the leadership of acting secretary-general Lee Lam Thye.

"The party no longer pursues a Malaysian Malaysia concept, accepts Bahasa Malaysia as the national language and is only critical of the implementation of certain aspects of the New Economic Policy," he added.

Datuk Rais said the DAP also had liberal Malay leaders like Encik Ahmad Nor and Encik Fadzlan Yahya. The party has a great deal of influence in Penang, Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan and Malacca. It may be a friend joining us in creating an era of change.

24/2/89 (NST,25/2/89)

Six key leaders of the group calling itself "Semangat 46" have announced their decision to rejoin Umno.

The six are former Umno youth exco member Haji Tajuddin Abdul Rahman, former Negeri Sembilan Wanita Umno leader Datuk Hajah Khatimah Ibrahim, former Batu Gajah Umno division head Haji Yusof Kassim, former Seremban Umno division head Haji Zain Ibrahim, former deputy chairman Haji Mohamed Yusof Maidin.

Four of them were on the splinter group's "national supreme council." The other two were "liaison committee" members.

Haji Tajuddin speaking for the six, said they had decided to leave the splinter group and renew their Umno membership because they were satisfied that Umno had been "substantially restored." The struggle of Semangat 46 is for the revival and restoration of Umno. We are satisfied that this has been achieved, in the sense that the Umno is now open to all former members and to all Malays.

He added that none of the six had been pressured by anyone into joining Umno. He dismissed the suggestion that the decision came with Semangat 46's defeat in the Ampang Jaya by-election but said it was, to some degree, influenced by the outcome of the Johore Malay Unity Forum.

24/2/89 (NST, 25/2/89)

Every Umno member must first register with the party before his membership can be certified, Umno deputy president Ghafar Baba said. He said the renewal of membership could only be done a year after the person had become a party member.

The Deputy Prime Minister said this ruling applied to everyone including the former Umno members, as Umno itself was re-registered. He said the re-registration of all Umno members was important to prevent the party from being dragged to court again. He reminded that the registration exercise could only be done by filling up the forms issued by Umno headquarters.

24/2/89 (The Star, 25/2/89)

Kelantan Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Rastom Maher said he was once a strong supporter of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah but decided to switch support to the present Umno leadership after having carefully studied the trend of his struggle.

He asked the Kelantan people to assess for themselves what could be gained by supporting Tengku Razaleigh, the Gua Musang MP and leader of the splinter group of former Umno members.

He said the Kelantan people, especially the former Trade and Industry Minister's loyal supporters, should compare Tengku Razaleigh's present trend of struggle with that when he was still in Umno.

Speaking at a mini Semarak gathering for the Gua Musang Parliamentary constituency in Kampung Balah, 35 km from here, yesterday, Datuk

Rastom claimed Tengku Razaleigh's struggle was "inconsistent" and had lost direction.

The Kelantan people had to judge what should be the path of their struggle, whether for the interests of an individual or the religion, race and nation, he added.

He said the State was still economically backward and its people needed development, and only the present Government could fulfil their needs and aspirations.

26/2/89 (The Star, 27/2/89)

The Johore Umno Liaison Committee has received a memorandum from 35 Umno branches in the Johore Baru division on their decision not to accept Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad back into the division.

Committee chairman Tan Sri Muhyuddin Yassin said today, however, that no decision had been received from the division itself regarding the stand of the 35 branches. But the statement on the matter will be made soon.

Recently, the heads of the 35 branches said they would refuse to accept the Johore Baru MP back into the division but that he could rejoin the party through other divisions.

26/2/89 (The Star, 27/2/89)

Umno is all set to repeat its past performances in the next general election, deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba said today.

He said the party had regained its strength after overcoming re-organisation problems which arose from the de-registration of the party.

He said the party had faced three by-elections since its registration. The party had lost the first one in Johore Baru because it was still in the process of re-organisation. The others were in Parit Raja and Ampang Jaya.

Encik Ghafar said the party now had about 1.1 million members and expected to reach its target of 1.5 million members by the end of the year. He added he would start a nationwide tour to recruit more members from today.

Encik Ghafar said the Semangat 46 group should follow the wishes of the majority for unity, in line with democratic practices. He said the group promoting the "Spirit of 46" should also realise that the spirit of the movement in 1946 was to achieve unity in the community and not disunity.

He also said he was pleased to note that the party membership in Johore had reached 126 000 - 69 600 men and 59 500 women. He urged more women in the state to join Johore Umno which once had more women members than men.

26/2/89 (The Star, 27/2/89)

Umno leaders from 17 branches in the Titi Tinggi State constituency have decided to urge MP for Kangar Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad to join Umno in the interest of Malay and party unity.

Datuk Radzi formerly headed the Kangar Umno Division. After the April 1987 Umno General Assembly, he joined the faction led by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah. The meeting also named three representatives - Encik Abdullah Shafie (Jalan Padang Besar Umno branch head), Encik Ariff Chik (Kampung Aman Umno branch head) and Encik Kamis Hussein (Kampung Sena Umno branch head) - to convey the appeal to Datuk Radzi.

26/2/89 (NST, 27/2/89)

Kota Tinggi MP Datuk Musa Hitam said it is not logical for Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to try and revive the original Umno after gaining power with the help of Pas through the proposed Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah (APU).

He said that it simply did not make sense for Pas to help Tengku Razaleigh and the Semangat 46 group win the election so that the latter could then revive the original Umno. More likely, he added, Pas would demand that its leader, Haji Fadzil Noor, become Prime Minister should APU gain the power to rule.

Datuk Musa said that he differed with Tengku Razaleigh because he accepted Dr Mahathir's leadership, while the latter did not. Tengku Razaleigh wants Dr Mahathir to go while I wanted Dr Mahathir to change.

He said he was fully satisfied with the "softening" of the leadership's attitude pertaining to the Umno membership issue.

Datuk Musa also said the recent Ampang Jaya by-election proved that liberal democracy was very much alive in Malaysia. If power was to be

used to deny the basic democratic rights and freedom in Malaysia, it could have been employed in Ampang Jaya. But it was not.

26/2/89 (NST,27/2/89)

Umno Youth urged the Government to channel two-thirds of its allocation for national development to rural areas in appreciation of the support given by the people.

Its leader, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak, said : "Although Umno was facing a crisis, the villagers gave unwavering support to the government."

He said this was proven in general elections where the people elected Umno candidates as State Assemblymen and members of Parliament. The villages are Umno strongholds and as such, Umno Youth request the government to give priority to the development of villages for their loyalty to the party. They should enjoy whatever development and progress that Umno has achieved through its struggle.

26/2/89 (NST,27/2/89)

Independent MPs who have renewed their membership in Umno will be re-seated in the Barisan Nasional backbenchers row when the Dewan Rakyat sits from March 6 to 24.

However, Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Mohamed Zahir Ismail said he expected the affected MPs to notify him in writing stating that they have re-joined Umno and wanted to be re-seated.

The MPs are Datuk Musa Hitam (Kota Tinggi), Datuk Haji Kamarulzaman Ahmad (Tanjung Karang) and Encik Mohamed Tawfik Tun Ismail (Sungai Benut).

Tan Sri Zahir said only Datuk Haji Kamarulzaman had written to him requesting to be re-seated in the Barisan Nasional backbenchers row. He said he expected Datuk Musa and Encik Mohamed Tawfik to write to him soon.

The three MPs, who were once aligned to the group trying to revive the de-registered Umno, had recently renewed their membership in Umno.

The group had earlier written separately to Tan Sri Zahir declaring that they could not be seated among the government backbenchers because they were no longer in the Barisan Nasional as they were not members of Umno.

The Barisan Nasional supreme council had ruled, at its meeting last year, that it could not determine the position of MPs and state Assemblymen from the de-registered who refused to join Umno.

The thirteen other MPs who have declared themselves Independents are Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah (Gua Musang), Datuk Rais Yatim (Jelebu), Ibrahim Ali (Pasir Mas), Datuk Haji Saidin Mat Piah (Tasek Chenderoh), Haji Ibrahim Azmi Hassan (Kuala Nerus), Datuk Haji Mohamed Haji Ali (Nilam Puri), Haji Wan Omar Wan Majid (Pasir Puteh), Datin Paduka Hajah Rahmah Othman (Shah Alam), Datuk Zainal Abidin Zain (Bagan Serai), Datuk Haji Zakaria Haji Abdul Rahman (Besut), Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad (Kangar), Datuk Zainal Abidin Johari (Sik) and Datuk Shahrir Samad (Johore Bahru).

26/2/89 (NST, 27/2/89)

More than 50% of Umno members are likely to be women, Umno Wanita information chief Datin Paduka Hajah Zaleha Ismail said today. She observed that the deregistered Umno also had a similar trend.

"In the deregistered Umno, between 50 and 55% of the total membership were women," she added.

Citing her division in Selayang, she said that women members now totalled 7,101 compared with 6 630 men. Although there was no official census on the nation-wide percentage of women members in Umno, Datin Paduka Hajah Zaleha said it was definitely higher than the 30% estimated by some quarters.

26/2/89 (NST, 27/2/89)

Umno is ready to face a general election to prove that it has the people's support, its deputy president, Encik Ghafar Baba said. "We have now consolidated our strength and Umno is confident of repeating its success, as in the previous polls."

Encik Ghafar said only Umno could unite the Malays and guide them to greater progress and prosperity, adding that even Umno's founders advocated Malay unity through the party. He urged Malays to bury the

hatchet and return to the Umno fold in the interest of Malay solidarity and political strength.

He announced a \$10 million additional allocation to Johore for rural development projects.

27/2/89 (The Star, 28/2/89)

The Johore Baru Umno division has agreed to accept its former head, Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad, back into its fold if he renews his membership in Umno.

The division's information chief, Haji Mas'ud Abdul Rahman, said today that a resolution to this effect was passed at a meeting of the divisional committee on Jan 10.

Haji Mas'ud said, however, that those rejoining Umno could not expect to be given back their former posts as these had been filled. Haji Mas'ud was commenting on a Press report today saying the state liaison committee had received a memorandum from 35 branches rejecting Datuk Shahrir's return to the division.

The report also said Mentri Besar Tan Sri Muhyuddin Yassin had yet to get the resolution from the division. Haji Mas'ud said the branches should have submitted their memorandum through the division as was the practice in other Umno divisions.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the 35 branches said they would meet Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba tomorrow to submit a memorandum objecting to Datuk Shahrir's return to the division.

27/2/89 (The Star, 28/2/89)

Universiti Malaya Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Syed Hussein Alatas said today he will express "the aspirations of millions" in any discussion with Datuk Musa Hitam on Umno-related issues.

He said he was inviting Datuk Musa for a discussion on the issues after "he has seen it fit to question my sense of responsibility as vice-chancellor."

He said Datuk Musa had also "suggested that I violated the Universities Act by making pronouncements on his political manoeuvres."

"Datuk Musa has apparently not understood the Act," he said in response to a statement by Datuk Musa that Prof Syed Hussein should decide whether he wanted to be an academician or a politician.

"He has portrayed the Act as suppressive of my constitutional rights to question the kind of politicking that debilitates the government," Prof Syed Hussein told a Press conference. He said that interest in politics was not the monopoly of full-time politicians.

Prof Syed Hussein said the discussion he was suggesting should not be polemical in nature and should be hosted by a newspaper. He proposed that the main topic for the discussion be leadership Qualities Needed in Our Society.

"My intention is not to harass Datuk Musa. I am complimenting him by inviting him to a dialogue, he said. He said the discussion was also to prove to Datuk Musa that he was qualified to express views on politics.

28/2/89 (NST, 1/3/89)

Registered Umno members will get the letters of reply and their membership number from Umno headquarters from tomorrow, party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said. The list of members eligible to attend the branch and divisional general meetings would be out in April and these members had the right to speak and stand for election to any post at the meetings, he said.

A set of guidelines on meeting procedures will also be issued that month, and he hopes members will abide by the guidelines. The certificates of establishment for about 1 000 Umno branches who had yet to receive them would be sent in mid-April. Datuk Mohamed said Umno now had almost 10 000 branches and all except the estimated 1 000 had received their certificates of establishment from the Registrar of Societies.

28/2/89 (The Star, 1/3/89)

All applications for membership in Umno must be made through the branches and divisions, party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said.

He said the party headquarters would not accept any application for membership sent directly to it. The information Minister said that Umno would not change the procedures set by the old party - which required

applications to be processed at the branch level and then submitted to the division for recommendation to the supreme council.

Datuk Mohamed said more than two million forms had been distributed and more than half had been returned. Shortage of forms should not be an excuse for delaying applications.

Datuk Mohamed said the supreme council had revived most of the 8,668 former branches and created about 1 000 new ones through which those interested could apply.

Asked about a memorandum from 42 of the 45 branches in the Johore Baru division objecting to the return of Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad to the division he used to head, Datuk Mohamed said:

The problem is not whether there is an objection but whether he has, in the first place, submitted his form (to a branch in the division). He said the headquarters could not react because Datuk Shahrir had still not submitted his form.

From the middle of April, he said, the party would send to all branches their certificates of registration as well as a list of members who would be eligible to take part in branch and division elections. He also said the supreme council would meet on March 4 at the Putra World Trade Centre.

28/2/89 (The Star, 1/3/89)

The Umno Supreme Council will decide at its meeting on Saturday whether the Johore Baru Umno division should accept Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad, who is MP for the constituency, as its member.

Party deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba said this after a delegation of 42 branch chairmen from the division had called on him to explain their decision in opposing Datuk Shahrir's membership in the division. The division has 44 branches.

Encik Ghafar said he would table the 15-point memorandum, submitted to him by the 42, at the supreme council meeting.

Jalan Utama branch chairman Haji Abdullah Said, who led the delegation, told reporters that they did not object to Datuk Shahrir becoming a member in other divisions. "We only oppose Datuk Shahrir's becoming a member in our division. The branch chairmen had an emergency meeting on Feb 9 decided to protest against Datuk Shahrir's joining the division.

9/3/89 (The Star, 10/3/89)

The Wadi Hassan Umno branch of the Johore Baru division did not support the move to stop Johore Baru MP Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad rejoining the division, branch chairman Syed Ali Alattas said.

Syed Ali said the branch had also not been invited to participate in any meeting in the drafting of a memorandum against Datuk Shahrir.

He was commenting on a recent statement by division secretary Mohamed Kasbi that a representative of the Wadi Hassan branch had informed him the branch agreed with the action taken by 43 branch leaders in the division.

Syed Ali said that contrary to Encik Mohamed's statement, the Wadi Hassan branch could not have given its consent to any move because it had not been invited to participate in any meeting.

He said that it did not matter how he felt about Datuk Shahrir's readmission into the division but on principle the branch could not agree with the move against Datuk Shahrir. Syed Ali said that till today, he had not even been given a copy of the memorandum against Datuk Shahrir's admission.

9/3/89 (The Star, 10/3/89)

Umno Youth is asking the party's supreme council not to accept Johore Baru MP Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad back into Umno "until he repents."

"His reasons for wanting to come back are doubtful. It does not look like he is sincere," Umno Youth deputy head Haji Hashim Safin told a Press conference after a 35-member delegation from the Youth executive council and information bureau met Umno secretary-general and information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat at Angkasapuri.

Haji Hashim said Datuk Shahrir's track record showed that "he speaks and acts only when it suits his interests." He said that Umno Youth was worried that Datuk Shahrir might have some ulterior motive in wanting to join Umno at a time when the party was becoming strong again.

He said that Umno Youth supported the 42 branch leaders in the Johore Baru division who opposed Datuk Shahrir's application on the grounds that he had repeatedly criticised Umno when the party needed support.

Now that Umno is back on its feet, Datuk Shahrir has come out to say that he will continue the struggle of the Semangat 46 within the party rather than from outside.

9/3/89 (The Star,10/3/89)

Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad said today that Umno's treatment of him now will show whether it is sincere in wanting former members back. He also said that he wondered what some Umno members were up to in questioning his motives when the call for unity was made "in all sincerity" by the Umno leadership.

"Umno has accepted the Johore Malays' unity resolutions. On the basis of that I am joining Umno. So why are they making it so difficult for me to come back?"

"I have about 4 000 members who will follow if I join Umno. If I have trouble getting back, my supporters will also face difficulties." Delay in accepting him into the party and in the supreme council would put a question mark on the sincerity of the party, he said.

On his statement that he would continue to struggle for Semangat 46 within Umno, Datuk Shahrir said there was no issue at all.

"The new party claims that it is in essence the old party fighting for the same causes....the struggle of the old Umno was based on the spirit of 46. If the new party professes to fight for the same cause, I will be doing nothing wrong," he said.

9/3/89 (The Star,10/3/89)

Perlis Umno has said it is prepared to take back Kangar Member of Parliament Datuk Radzi Tan Sri Sheikh Ahmad without any conditions attached. Its liaison chief, Abdul Hamid Pawanteh, said it would not however make efforts to coax Datuk Radzi or other supporters of the splinter group to return.

Dr Hamid who is Perlis Menteri Besar, said everyone who supported and joined Umno would be ensuring preservation of Malay political power. Joining Umno meant supporting and upholding its struggle to safeguard Malay political interests in the present and the future.

He said following the Umno Supreme Council's acceptance of the six Johore Malay Unity Forum resolutions recently, Datuk Radzi and other supporters or members of the splinter group would be automatically accepted back into the party fold.

Dr Hamid said he did not want to coax any leader to join Umno as this was not a good way of strengthening the party. "However, I am also not preventing any member or leader from playing a role in bringing Datuk Radzi back into Umno.

9/3/89 (The Star, 10/3/89)

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said that he is prepared to hold talks with Umno leaders if it will benefit the country. The former Trade and Industry Minister said the negotiations must also meet the aspirations of a majority of the people and that have no conditions attached. He said his four-day visit to Johore was to supervise the setting up of electoral committees by the state Semangat 46 group, led by former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Othman Saat.

He said he could not assess the strength of his group in Johore, and added that "there was a small drain of members following Datuk Musa Hitam's decision to rejoin Umno."

Tengku Razaleigh said those who attended the meeting were angry with Datuk Musa for leaving the Semangat '46 group. "In fact, Datuk Musa was never with us from the start. Neither was Datuk Shahrir, who was with the new Umno from the time it was formed," he said.

He said although Datuk Shahrir had often said he was part of Semangat 46 he did not participate in the group's programmes. "He was more of a lone ranger."

He said the group was forming Barisan Alternative, and that it would include three other parties which were holding discussions with Semangat 46.

9/3/89 (The Star, 10/3/89)

A Government backbencher claimed that there is a "grand design" within Umno and the Cabinet to topple Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed and Deputy Prime Minister Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba.

Encik Shahidan Kassim (BN - Arau) said there were certain people including a few in the government who were planning to topple the two leaders through their Ministries' machinery and government agencies. Saying there were about five to six people involved in the plot, he said these hidden enemies were more dangerous than the Semangat 46 group or DAP and PAS.

Encik Shahidan said these people were also using their influence on the media to work against Dr Mahathir and Encik Ghafar Baba. He said newspapers such as the Berita Harian and The New Straits Times and also TV3 had of late appeared to be down-playing its coverage of statements by the Prime Minister and his deputy.

He urged the two leaders to be wary and to take steps to guard against the activities of these people.

10/3/89 (The Star, 11/3/89)

Wanita Umno leaders do not want Johore Bahru MP Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad in Umno, the movement's head, Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz, said.

She said Datuk Shahrir Should explain to the people his intention in wanting to join Umno. Datuk Shahrir was a strong opposer of Umno before this and he should make his stand clear before he is accepted into the party," she said.

"He had clearly gone against the party by supporting an opposition candidate in the Ampang Jaya by-election. We must have discipline in the party, nobody can come into the party at his convenience," she said.

On the statement by Semangat 46 leader Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah that he was prepared to have talks with Umno leaders, Datin Paduka Rafidah said :

"There has been enough talk about having discussions....I don't have confidence in such talks and I think it is a bit too late to have talks now."

12/3/89 (The Star, 13/3/89)

The Umno Supreme Council cannot deny any former Johore Umno member the chance to renew their membership following its acceptance of the Johore Malay unity resolutions, Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad said.

He said this was because the council had the chance to reject the resolutions during the Ampang Jaya by-election but chose not to do so.

Earlier Datuk Mohamed Rahmat had said that Datuk Shahrir had to explain what he meant when he said that he would continue the Semangat 46 struggle from within the party. He had also said Datuk Shahrir should explain his campaigning for the Semangat 46 candidate in Ampang Jaya after the council had accepted the resolutions.

Datuk Shahrir said he did not have to explain anything because of the "blanket" acceptance of the resolutions by the council.

The MP for Johore Baru said Datuk Mohamed should note that he was invited, not made an offer, to join the supreme council. Similarly Datuk Shahrir added, he was invited to renew his membership in Umno.

13/3/89 (The Star, 14/3/89)

Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said he is going stop speaking to local reporters because he doubts their sincerity.

He made the remarks when asked to comment on Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba's statement that he (Tengku Razaleigh) should meet Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed if he wanted to discuss current politics.

Tengku Razaleigh was reported to have said last Thursday that he was prepared to hold talks with Umno leaders if it would benefit the country.

He was also reported to have said such talks should also meet the aspirations of the majority of the people and had no conditions attached. "I am fed up of talking to the reporters because they twist the facts," he said.

14/3/89 (The Star, 15/3/89)

The Shahrir membership renewal saga has taken a new turn - 17 branches in his former Johore Baru division want him back.

The branches have conveyed their stand to state Umno chief and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Mohamed Yassin and State Umno secretary and Johore Baru division chief Datuk Mohamad Yunus Sulaiman.

Copies of their memorandum have also been sent to the chairman of the division's election co-ordinating committee, Datuk Redzuan Salim. The memorandum states that the group of 17 support Tan Sri Muhyuddin and the resolutions adopted by the Johore Malay Unity Forum.

It says that the group also welcomes the Umno supreme council agreeing to automatic membership for former members. "In view of the automatic membership, Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad's application to renew his membership should be accepted. We the chairmen of the 17 branches invite him to join any one of our branches," the memorandum said.

Some of the branch leaders who signed the memorandum were also signatories to a memorandum which was given to deputy Umno President Abdul Ghafar Baba, objecting to Datuk Shahrir's return to the Johore Baru division.

The memorandum had been signed by 35 of the 45 branch leaders in the Johore Baru division. Meanwhile about 900 supporters of Datuk Shahrir have submitted their membership renewal forms to the Johore Baru division.

14/3/89 (The Star, 15/3/89)

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said that he is open to discussion but "it must be in the interests of the Malay on the whole and the country...not just in the context of Umno unity."

Tengku Razaleigh said he had rejected the offer of a four-man meeting (made up of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba, Datuk Musa Hitam and himself) proposed by the Umno supreme council last October because they did not represent the whole Malay Community.

"What can we achieve from the discussions when we do not represent all the Malays in general? We have PAS, Berjasa, Hamim and other Malay Political parties and organisations to consider," Tengku Razaleigh said. "As far as I am concerned, any talks on Malay unity must involve all Malays. It is in this respect and context that I am willing to discuss....not merely Malay Unity in Umno or about me joining Umno. It is in this context that I brought the matter on reviving the old Umno in Parliament so that everybody could take part in the debate and their opinions recorded." he added.

14/3/89 (The Star, 15/3/89)

The Semangat 46 group will contest at least 15 state and Parliamentary seats in Penang in the next general election.

Its Penang information chief, Encik Mohamed Yusuff Jaafar, said today they included the Malay-majority areas such as the Teluk Bahang, Bayan Lepas, Teluk Kumbar and Seberang Jaya State seats and Kepala Batas and Permatang Pauh parliamentary constituencies.

Encik Mohamed Yusuff, the former Jelutong Umno division secretary, said the group had prepared a list of potential candidates.

14/3/89 (NST,15/3/89)

The group calling itself Semangat 46 will consider registering itself as a political body before the next general election, its leader Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said.

Tengku Razaleigh said the only clear move by the group for the next general election is "to see a straight fight between us and the Barisan Nasional in every constituency."

He said that the group would be negotiating with its "friends" on the allocation of seats "just as Umno will do with the other component parties of the Barisan Nasional."

He said that to date, the group had reached an understanding with PAS and Berjasa to contest against the Barisan Nasional. "We have nothing concrete with the DAP yet," he added.

15/3/89 (The Star,16/3/89)

The Johore Umno liaison committee will hold a large-scale information campaign to further strengthen the party.

State party chief Tan Sri Muhyuddin Yasin said the information committee was drawing up courses and ceramah to provide the Malays, especially party members with a better understanding of the party constitution, among other things.

On Johore Bahru MP Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad's membership in Umno, he said the meeting decided that the Johore Baru division's election coordinating chairman, Datuk Redzuan Salim, should hold discussions with leaders of the divisions and other relevant parties.

Tan Sri Muhyuddin said the three-hour meeting also asked all 18 divisions in the state to streamline their machinery to face the branch and divisional meetings so that no problems would crop up.

16/3/89 (NST, 17/3/89)

The High Court has fixed April 11 for the hearing of an application by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and three others to strike out a suit filed by 11 former Umno members.

The other three are Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Utusan Melayu (M) Berhad and Sistem Televisyen Malaysia, which owns TV3.

The 11 had filed their action against them and The New Straits Times Press (M'sia) Berhad, Star Publications (M) Berhad and the Registrar of Societies on Sept 16 last year.

They are seeking an injunction to restrain Dr Mahathir, Datuk Mohamed and the respective media organisations from further publishing and promoting articles intended to injure them or to give the public the impression that the deregistered Umno and Umno are one and the same.

The 11 claimed that Umno executive members made defamatory, false, misleading and malicious statements concerning them between June and September last year.

The plaintiffs are also asking for damages and a declaration that the Registrar of Societies had wrongly and unreasonably caused a certificate of registration with the words Pertubuhan Kebangsaan Melayu Bersatu (Baru) United Malays National Organisation - giving the impression the Malay and English words are one and the same.

(The deregistered party was declared unlawful by the High Court on February 4 last year. Subsequently, Pertubuhan Kebangsaan Melayu Bersatu (Baru) or UMNO was registered by the Registrar).

17/3/89 (18/3/89)

Johore Umno is trailing behind the others in recruiting former Umno members, party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said.

He said Johore Umno had only 123 454 members as at March 14, compared with 271 000 members in the former party. This was only 45 percent of the strength of the former Johore Umno. The information Minister said this was the reason for Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah claiming that Johore was his "frontline" state. On the number of former Umno members joining the party following the adoption of the Johore Malay Unity forum resolutions, Datuk Mohamed said that less than 1 000 people had done so.

He said that of the 18 divisions in Johore, only Pulai, of which he is chairman, had succeeded in recruiting more members than the former Umno. It now has 10 110 members compared with 9 900 previously.

Datuk Mohamed said that in Trengganu, the party's membership was now 89 621 compared with 59 000 before and Kedah now had 130 766 members compared with the 131 566 previously.

All the other States had reached between 70 and 90 per cent of the strength of the former Umno, he said, adding that the total party membership was 1.053 million members.

Meanwhile, although the Johore Unity forum had recommended that all former members in the State apply for the membership through forms with a special stamp stating that they were renewing their membership, those joining the Sri Pantai branch chose to use the forms meant for all others applying for membership, he said.

19/3/89 (NST, 20/3/89)

Umno Youth leader Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak today rejected a challenge by Johore Baru MP Datuk Shahrir Samad for an open debate. Instead, he suggested that Datuk Shahrir explain to Umno members what he meant by his recent pledge to continue to "fight for Semangat 46 from within the party."

He said he was speaking on behalf of Umno members when he urged Datuk Shahrir recently to explain these remarks, adding "the debate, therefore, has no relevance to me."

19/3/89 (The Star, 20/3/89)

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and all State leaders of the Semangat 46 group have been invited to attend the PAS Muktamar (general assembly) in Kuala Lumpur on March 31.

PAS information chief Subky Latif said today that they had been invited as a "gesture of friendship." He said the alliance between the group and PAS was expected to be debated by the 450 delegates.

Although PAS leaders have publicly encouraged moves to forge an alliance with the group and to work towards an electoral understanding, there have also been opposition from some leaders and members.

Some including former vice-president Ustaz Haji Nakhaie Haji Ahmad, have openly questioned the wisdom of aligning with the former Umno leaders. They felt that the group had yet to accept the party's policies or recognise its aim of setting up an Islamic government.

20/3/89 (The Star, 21/3/89)

The Perak Umno Liaison committee said today it will not entertain any request from former party members for membership forms. "They must go through the proper channel and get their forms from the secretaries of their respective divisions as stated in the party constitutions," committee secretary Datuk Haji Ahamed Hambal Yeop Majlis said.

He said this was to ensure smooth implementation of the state's membership drive and to be fair to other members. Datuk Ahamed Hambal said the committee would supply the various divisions in the state with sufficient membership forms to be distributed to those who are interested in rejoining.

20/3/89 (The Star, 21/3/89)

Wanita Umno is not facing any leadership threat or problem at any of its level, its vice-president Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail said.

She said every level of the movement gave its undivided support to the leadership and rumours of there being a challenge to the movement's leadership were without basis.

Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail, who is Deputy Transport Minister, said such lies were similar to the allegations of the existence of a plot to topple the Umno top leadership.

20/3/89 (NST, 21/3/89)

The Wadi Hassan Umno branch here has decided not to accept Johore Bahru MP Datuk Shahrir Samad back into the Johore Baru division. The branch among other reasons feel Datuk Shahrir had previously opposed Umno and its leadership, and his return to Umno is purely to serve his own interests.

Syed Ali described as "just a ploy" Datuk Shahrir's basing his decision to rejoin Umno on the supreme council acceptance of the Johore Malay unity Forum resolutions.

21/3/89 (NST, 22/3/89)

Malayan Banking Berhad filed an application in the High Court seeking to act as an intervenor and be free to participate in future proceedings relating to the auction of the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), the adjoining Menara Datuk Onn, and the land on which the properties stand.

The bank's application was supported by an affidavit from its manager, who, among other things, said that Malayan Banking has an interest as charge in respect of the properties, whose rights and rank is pari passu (equal) to Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Berhad in future conduct of the proceedings.

The affidavit also said that \$60,404,305.56 was outstanding to Malayan Banking while the amount due to the United Malaysian Banking Corporation Berhad was \$13,161,787.43 and Perwira Habib Bank Berhad, \$13,294,016 .08.

Malayan Banking's application was made pursuant to the order sale dated February 28.

The properties were ordered to be sold by public auction by then High Court judge Datuk Ajaib Singh (now a Supreme Court judge) on Dec 28 last year to recover a sum owed by the deregistered Umno to BBMB. The judge confirmed his order on January 10 this year.

The amount owed to the bank as at Dec 28 was \$308,466,725.75 and daily interest was fixed at \$60,739.16. (The debt came from a \$200 million loan granted on Sept 2, 1983, by BBMB to finance the construction of the PWTC.

The official assignee, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam, Finance Minister Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin and former Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid were named as defendants by BBMB in its action.

23/3/89(NST,24/3/89)

Nine Umno State Assemblymen are likely to decline invitations to royal functions marking the 39th birthday of the Sultan of Kelantan. The move, it is believed, is being taken as a show of solidarity with those not invited to the functions.

The celebrations, which begin on March 30, will be a State affair with all executive council members attending, except for Haji Mustafa Yaakub, who has not been invited. It is understood that seven other Umno Assemblymen have also not been invited. Sources said the decision not to attend the functions was made at the Menteri Besar's residence.

25/3/89 (NST, 26/3/89)

The Umno branch delegates meetings have been rescheduled for between May 15 and June 30, said party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat.

He said the party decided to change the dates, originally May 1 to May 30, because they clashed with the fasting month and the Umno anniversary celebrations here on May 11.

He said the Umno divisions delegates meeting will be held from July 1 to August 31. He added Umno branches should ensure three things before holding their meetings :

*That they have been issued branch registration certificates by the Registrar of Societies.

*That they obtain their respective lists of registered members from party headquarters.

*That all members have paid up their membership fees. Those who have not done so cannot stand for elections.

26/3/89 (NST,27/3/89)

Partai Sosialis Rakyat Malaysia (PSRM) has denied that 230 of its members crossed over to Umno yesterday.

Party secretary-general Hassan Karim, in a statement today, said, "Only a few members had defected to Umno and they were those who had either been sacked, suspended or faced disciplinary action."

It was reported yesterday that a PSRM member, Encik Rahman Ali handed over the Umno membership forms of the 230 to Johore Umno liaison chief Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Mohamed Yassin.

26/3/89 (NST, 27/3/89)

About 500 000 Umno members from throughout the country will gather at the Istana Besar here on May 11 to commemorate the formation of the party in 1946.

The mammoth gathering is expected to be the single biggest political event in the history of the country, Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said.

He said that it would be a massive show of solidarity among the Malays and their commitment to unite under Umno. He said the gathering would also serve to reaffirm that the Umno today is the same in form, spirit and political struggle as it was when it was first formed at the Istana Besar Banquet hall here on May 11, 1946.

It would further help the public reflect on Umno's 43 year history and how the pioneer leaders fought to oppose the Malayan union which eventually led to the formation of Umno.

He said the Sultan of Johore, would take part in the ceremony. The Sultan would strike a specially made 10 tonne tabuh (mosque drum) to symbolise the assembly of Malays at the Istana to mark the formation of Umno.

He would also unveil a plaque, written, in Jawi and English, as a historical record that Umno was formed at the Istana Besar banquet hall with the assent of the late Sultan Ibrahim.

Dr Mahathir will address the giant assembly together with Johore Umno chief Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Yassin. Among the highlights will be the hoisting of a 12 metre by 9 metre giant Umno flag made of silk by party Youth and Wanita chiefs. A huge billboard will also be erected in the Istana grounds as a backdrop to the gathering.

The majority of the 500 000 crowd expected here for the celebrations would be from Johore, Malacca and Negeri Sembilan.

26/3/89 (NST, 27/3/89)

The Malay Unity Forum held in Johore Bahru last December has been effective in getting former Umno members to renew their membership with the party, state Umno liaison committee chairman Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Mohamed Yassin said.

He said preliminary reports showed that the number of Umno members in Johore had increased. Commenting on a statement by Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat yesterday that only 2 879 applications had

been received under the automatic membership renewal scheme for former members in Johore, he said the processing of the applications at the headquarters takes some time as they have to be keyed into the computer.

26/3/89 (The Star, 27/3/89)

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat has lamented over what he regards as the lack of political consciousness among Malay youth. He said they were not as politically conscious "as the other races who are concerned about things around them."

Datuk Mohamed said a survey had found that one million Malay youth above the age of 21 had not registered as voters. "As such they did not exercise their right in electing the country's leaders."

Datuk Mohamed said that Umno headquarters had processed more than one million application forms and 60 per cent of them were from those under 40 years old. Out of the number only 2 879 were renewals, he said.

27/3/89 (The Star, 28/3/89)

The Johore Baru Umno Division has agreed to re-accept its former head Datuk Shahrir Samad if he renews his membership in Umno. The division's information chief, Haji Mas'ud Abdul Rahman, said today a resolution to this effect was passed as a meeting of the divisional committee on Jan 10.

Haji Ma'sud said the division also accepted all former Umno members re-joining their respective branches under the division.

30/3/89 (NST, 31/3/89)

Eighteen Umno State Assemblymen were absent from the investiture ceremony to mark the 39th birthday of the Sultan of Kelantan at Istana Balai Besar.

However, six other Umno State Assemblymen attended the function in their capacities as State Executive Council members. The State Umno liaison committee meeting last week had decided that the six should attend on behalf of the State Government. This is the first time a large number of State Assemblymen of a ruling party have stayed away from an investiture ceremony.

Among those who were absent were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Mohamed Yaakob and Executive Council members Haji Ariffin Mahmood and Haji Mustafa Yaakob.

It was reported last week the Umno State Assemblymen had declined the invitation to all the functions for the birthday celebrations to show their solidarity to those who are not invited.

Haji Annuar Musa (Peringat Assemblyman), Hajah Zaleha Hussin (Salor), Datuk Haji Ariffin Said (Paloh), Haji Abdul Latif Haji Abdul Rahman (Bukit Panau), Haji Hassan Haji Mohamed (Chetok) and Haji Mustapha had said last week they were not invited to the function.

All Opposition State Assemblymen except State Pas Commissioner Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat (Semut Api) and Haji Raja Mahmud Raja Mamat (Limbongan) were present.

Barisan Nasional State Assemblyman from Hamim Zaid Fadzil and State Executive Council member from the MCA Lim Jit Keng also attended the ceremony.

31/3/89 (NST,1/4/89)

The deadline for automatic registration of Umno members, which is today, will not be extended. Party Deputy President Ghafar Baba said from tomorrow Umno would screen all applications.

He said too many former members were rejoining the party after openly supporting opposition candidates in by-elections. We do not want people who will destroy the party.

Asked to comment on reports that Umno was short of membership application forms, Encik Ghafar said there should be enough because two million were printed. "We only have about 1.1 million members now," he said, "What happened to the other 900 000 forms?"

However, he added, he had told the Johore Umno, which had complained of shortage, that it could print the forms on condition that they were similar to the ones distributed by the party headquarters. He said those finding it difficult to get forms should try the headquarters.

1/4/89 (NST,2/4/89)

The Umno Supreme Council will seriously consider the views of Malay intellectuals when deciding on the post-1990 New Economic Policy, Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim said.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed had directed all ministers in the Supreme Council to listen to the views of Malay intellectuals. Their views would be tabled at the party's Supreme Council. Encik Anwar said the Supreme Council's proposals on the post-1990 NEP policy would be tabled at the Barisan Nasional Supreme Council for a final decision.

1/4/89 (The Star, 2/4/89)

Umno has a total membership of 1.1 million with Johore topping the list with the most number of members, party secretary General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said.

"We are confident of reaching our target of 1.5 million by the end of the year, provided the division and branch leaders continue to bring in members," he added.

1/4/89 (The Star, 2/4/89)

As a result of the recent visits to Kota Baru by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba and Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim, many people had anticipated that the political atmosphere in Kelantan would improve, because both the Umno leaders had been received in audience by the Sultan.

However, it would appear that relations between the palace and Umno leaders, who form the state Government, are getting worse instead of better. Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Yacob went abroad on a holiday that is just long enough for his deputy to officially-act as Menteri Besar during his absence, extending beyond the Sultan's birthday.

As it turned out, the Menteri Besar's absence did not help to reduce the political tension. Certain actions originating from the palace clearly indicate royal displeasure with the political leadership not only at the state but also the national level.

Soon after Tan Sri Mohamed left for his holiday, the political leaders in the State were confronted with an embarrassing situation. A religious function was fixed to be held in the royal presence on the same day on which the State Assembly had been scheduled to meet. Opposition members led by PAS sought to have the state Assembly put off to a later

date but Umno leaders, who control the Assembly, would not agree to the proposal on the ground that the scheduled Assembly meeting, fixed earlier with the consent of the palace, could not be changed to another day.

As a result, all the 10 PAS Assemblymen, together with three members of Semangat 46 group and one Hamim Assemblymen, decided to turn up for the religious function.

The Umno Assemblymen rushed through and completed all the business of the assembly-which was originally scheduled to last two days-in a matter of 45 minutes. By the time the opposition Assemblymen returned from the religious function, everything was over.

Then emerged another thorny issue. Some Umno Assemblymen, including a couple of Executive Councillors, claimed that they had not received the traditional invitation to the Sultan's birthday investiture ceremony.

Their colleagues, who had been invited, decided to stay away from the royal birthday party. Except for members of the State Government - State Executive Councillors - 18 Umno Assemblymen boycotted the royal function.

At this ceremonial palace event, the Acting Menteri Besar was denied the privilege of delivering the traditional address, pledging allegiance to the Sultan on behalf of the people of the State.

This honour was, instead, given to Datuk Haji Mohamad Nasir who has been a close friend and supporter of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah since he was Mentri Besar in 1974.

It was the attempt by PAS, then under the leadership of Datuk Asri to replace Datuk Nasir as Mentri Besar that triggered off the subsequent exclusion of the party from the Barisan Nasional and led to the end of the 18 year PAS rule of the state in 1977.

Datuk Nasir was appointed a senator and joined the federal Cabinet as Public Enterprise Minister. When new elections were held for the Kelantan State Assembly, after some months of direct rule from the centre, PAS suffered a disastrous defeat and Umno took over the Government. Everybody acknowledged Tengku Razaleigh, who was then the Kelantan Umno chief, as the architect of Umno's success in ousting PAS as the Government in the State.

Berjasa is not a strong party. It has been eclipsed by Hamim which was formed by Datuk Asri when he was pushed out of PAS. Berjasa has no seat in Parliament. Hamim, which joined Barisan Nasional, was allotted two

parliamentary seats to contest in Kelantan and managed to win one of them in the 1986 election.

Datuk Asri tried to dissolve Hamim a few months ago, so that its members could be direct members of Umno. His move was frustrated because the proposal was aborted. It was short by just one vote of the required majority. So Datuk Asri left the party and took a few of his supporters to join Umno as individual members.

In the recent Ampang Jaya by-election, some Hamim members were known to have joined the dissident Umno group in campaigning on behalf of independent candidate Datuk Harun Idris. But officially, the party is still a component of Barisan Nasional, though Tengku Razaleigh and his friends are hoping that it may join the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah (APU) which they are trying to form in alliance with PAS.

Berjasa has been more open and defiantly courting expulsion from the Barisan, supporting the Semangat 46 group in all the three recent by-elections against Barisan candidates. There is talk that a letter is on the way from Barisan asking its leaders to show cause why Berjasa should not be excluded from the coalition.

At the Sultan's birthday this time, Acting Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Rastom was, however, allowed to deliver an address of loyalty on behalf of the members of the state Executive Council - the state Government.

Datuk Ahmad was one of Tengku's Razaleigh active supporters when the former Finance Minister contested against Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the Umno Presidency in 1987, but he decided to remain with Umno and keep his position in the State Government, and did not join the Semangat 46 group.

More people have been made Datuks by the Sultan of Kelantan this year. But not a single Umno leader has been conferred this honour this time. Can this be taken as an indicator of the state of regard which the ruler now has for these political leaders?

2/4/89(The Star, 3/4/89)

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Mohamed Yassin said that some Umno division and branch leaders could have withheld some membership forms. This would explain why many forms were "missing" in Johore, he said.

He said these leaders could have used some forms but kept the rest for future applicants. He said the need for application forms became acute in Johore because several former members had rushed to renew their Umno membership before the March 31 deadline.

Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin said it was not possible to keep track of the forms because there were about 1 000 Umno branches in Johore.

2/4/89 (The Star, 3/4/89)

PAS Youth is prepared to hold talks with any quarter, including Umno Youth, on Malay unity if this was done sincerely.

Movement president Haji Abu Bakar Chik said that the movement had to be cautious because "the word unity has been politicised in the interests of those who made such calls."

"As far as we are concerned, unity among the Malays and the Muslims and that of Malaysians in general is of utmost importance. But one must be sincere in making the call and wanting unity. What we have seen so far is people politicising the word and issue," he said.

2/4/89 (NST, 3/4/89)

Umno deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba has directed party leaders to boost membership to 1.5 million from the current 1.1 million to ensure a good showing in the next general election which might be held before 1991.

He said Umno had grown stronger after the recent crisis but he and the party's president, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, wanted it to become even stronger.

He said he was confident the party could achieve this if its members remained united and worked hard to further boost its strength. He also told them to prepare for the general election which he said might be held before 1991.

2/4/89 (NST, 3/4/89)

Umno members below 40 years of age have the choice of joining the Youth or Wanita movements or can remain ordinary members, party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said.

He said the party was allowing them the choice because it was in line with the democratic concept and that there were now 60 per cent of Umno members who were below 40.

He said the party would also release the list of names of the youth and wanita members in June before their annual meetings start. Prior to this, all male and female Umno members under 40 years old were automatically members of the Youth and Wanita movements.

3/4/89 (NST, 4/4/89)

Umno Youth will hand over a protest note to the Australian high commissioner here on Friday in connection with the showing of a documentary film in Australia recently.

The movement's international affairs bureau chairman Haji Mustapha Yaakob said today the film *Slow Boat To Surabaya*, subtitled *Rich, Clever, Homeless*, contained elements insulting to the Malays.

He said the film was about the Chinese community in this country but facts had been distorted to portray the Malays as lazy people whose chief concerns were food, sleep and play.

5/4/89 (The Star, 6/4/89)

Umno deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba said today that the party is willing to hold talks with PAS.

The Deputy Prime Minister was responding to a recent statement by PAS Ulamak Chief Haji Nik Aziz Nik Mat that the Party was willing to consider any invitation for cooperation with Umno.

Haji Nik Aziz had stated that the invitation should come from a leader in a higher position in Umno than the Minister in the PM's Department Datuk Dr Yusof Noor.

Dr Yusof had said that PAS should work with Umno instead of the Semangat 46 group.

6/4/89 (The Star, 7/4/89)

PAS is willing to hold talks with Umno if it is really " serious and sincere" in uniting the Malays, Party chief Haji Fadzil Noor said. He said he was surprised by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba's invitation to hold talks with PAS.

However, he said, Umno must still make the first move by extending an official invitation to PAS. Haji Fadzil said if such a meeting to be held, Umno should send its top leaders.

6/4/89 (NST,7/4/89)

PAS is ready to meet Umno for preliminary talks on Islamic and Malay unity, adding that it will not impose pre-conditions for the meeting. PAS president Haji Fadzil Noor said that the party has adopted a policy of opening its doors to any quarter which was serious and sincere in cooperating with the party.

This position of trying to forge Islamic and Malay unity was adopted at its 35th general assembly last week.

He said : "We should begin with heart-to-heart meetings between the top leaders of the two parties to establish common areas of understanding. This will be preferable to having special committees.

He added that he would ask for a meeting of the Pas central committee once the invitation was received to get the mandate. The committee could then go over the areas likely to be covered should the talks materialise.

Discussions on Pas-Umno talks resurfaced last Monday when Umno supreme council member Datuk Dr Yusof Nor said Malay unity talks, if any, should be between Umno and Pas, and not between Pas and the group calling itself Semangat 46.

8/4/89 (The Star,9/4/89)

Dismissed Umno Batu division secretary Shamsuri Shahrom will challenge incumbent Senator Azman Attar for the post of division chairman. Encik Shamsuri said 21 out of 39 branch leaders in the division leaders had pledged support for him.

"My decision to contest against Senator Azman was made about three weeks before I was dismissed from my post. Senator Azman dismissed me as a secretary of the division and chairman of the Taman Seri Setapak branch

on March 24, after learning of my intention to contest against him." he said.

The 8 000 Umno branches are required to hold their elections from May to June, and the 133 divisions from July to August.

11/4/89 (The NST, 12/4/89)

The High Court today postponed to May 25 and 26 the hearing of an application by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and three others to strike out a suit by 11 former Umno members.

Datuk Ajaib Singh, now a Supreme Court judge, postponed the case because counsel for the 11, Encik Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, was ill.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Utusan Melayu (M) Berhad and Sistem Televisyen Malaysia, which owns TV3, are the other applicants.

16/4/89 (NST, 17/4/89)

The Umno supreme council will look into the membership application by MP for Johore Baru Datuk Shahrir Samad after Hari Raya, Party secretary general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said.

The meeting would also decide on the reply by Datuk Shahrir to the council's invitation to him to be a member.

Datuk Shahrir, former Deputy Home Affairs Minister Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, former Deputy Transport Minister Datin Paduka Rahmah Othman and former Deputy Energy, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zain and Lawyer Hajah Marina Yusuf were invited by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last year to join the supreme council.

All except Datuk Shahrir had rejected the invitation.

17/4/89 (The Star, 18/4/89)

Kedah Umno has passed a resolutions supporting any action, expulsion, against Berjasa for publicly acting against the Barisan Nasional.

"Berjasa has gone too far. It has become a burden to the Barisan," Kedah Umno secretary Datuk Haji Zakaria Said said. He said Berjasa had caused much problem by its actions, including supporting the Semangat 46 candidate in the Ampang Jaya by-elections and other activities.

Berjasa vice-president Drs Abdul Jalil Ahmad said the party, together with PAS and the Semangat 46 group, were in the final stages of forming a Muslim united front to fight the Barisan in the next general election.

Drs Jalil had said that Berjasa had submitted an application in February to register the front, to be called the angkatan Perpaduan Ummah (Apu).

Berjasa would pull out of the Barisan once Apu was registered, he said.

17/4/89 (The Star,18/4/89)

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that Umno has regained its strength as the largest political party in the country.

The Prime Minister said Umno needed only 40 000 members more to match the total membership of the party before it was declared unlawful. Up to March 31,1281,633 people had registered with Umno, accounting for 97 % of the old membership figure of 1,326,627.

Dr Mahathir expressed confidence the Umno membership would increase and exceed the old membership within this year. However, the old membership figure was inaccurate as there was duplication in the registration process in several branches and divisions.

He said those who registered after March 31 would still become members but would not be able to participate in the annual general meetings. Dr Mahathir said that of those who registered, 200, 000 had not been listed in the computer.

He said Johore had the most number of members, accounting for 80% (216 548) of the 271 450 members previously. Kelantan had 121 973 members or 89.3% of the old membership of 136,559.

17/4/89 (The Star,18/4/89)

The Negeri Sembilan Umno Liaison committee is facing hitches in the membership drive as some divisions were found to have "phantom" members previously.

The Chairman Datuk Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad said more than 40% of the membership of some divisions such as Rasah apparently had "phantom members in the past.

He said this was the reason the division had only 8 640 members now compared with the purported 15 000 previously. Datuk Isa did not discount the possibility of such members existing in other divisions previously, saying that the largest figure was found in the Rasah division.

17/4/89 (NST, 18/4/89)

Umno Youth today expressed its appreciation to the General System of Preferences (GSP) sub-committee and the United States Government for allowing Malaysia to retain the GSP status.

Its International Affairs Bureau chairman Naim Haji Mohamad, in a statement said the movement commended the Malaysian Government for effectively replying to allegations made by the AFL-CIO with regards to the country's labour policies.

Encik Naim also praised the close co-operation given by the US Embassy here in providing a true and accurate report of the country's labour situation.

In this regard, Umno Youth has called on the Government to take stern action against whoever was responsible in raising, the labour issue, thus prompting the AFL-CIO to bring the matter to the attention of the US Government.

18/4/89 (The Star, 19/4/89)

More academicians and young leaders are expected to join Umno soon, party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said.

"This is a positive development which we can be proud of. The response to Umno is very great. Our attempts at reviving the party have created a great awareness which has resulted in Malays of all levels wanting to join Umno," he said.

"We are expecting a lot of membership applications from academicians and young leaders soon," he added.

18/4/89 (The Star, 19/4/89)

Former PAS vice-president Haji Nakhaie Ahmad, who met Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today is likely to join Umno soon.

At a Press conference at the Umno headquarters later, Haji Nakhaie said : "As of today, I am still a PAS member although I have already made up 90% of my mind on which political path I'll be taking.

"I am confident I will be making the right decision after considering the views of friends. I feel my decision will enable me to play a more effective role in the interests of muslims."

Haji Nakhaie said he had sought the views of friends in PAS before meeting the Prime Minister.

18/4/89 (The Star, 19/4/89)

Berjasa challenged Umno and the Barisan Nasional to expel it from the ruling coalition.

Its vice-president, Drs Abdul Jalil Ahmad, said the party was "sick of expulsion threats" from the Barisan component. He said Berjasa had not decided to pull out of the Barisan "although we no longer have faith in it."

Drs Abdul Jall, who is Berjasa Youth leader, was commenting on a newspaper report that the Kedah Umno had passed a resolution supporting any action, including expulsion against Berjasa for allegedly going against the Barisan.

State Umno secretary Datuk Haji Zakaria Said had said that Berjasa's support of the Semangat 46 candidate in the Ampang Jaya by-election and other such actions were damaging to the ruling coalition.

19/4/89 (NST, 20/4/89)

Three years ago, Pas former vice-president Haji Nakhaie Ahmad, who has since fallen out with some of the top party leaders and is likely to join Umno, suggested the formation of an Islamic Front to strengthen Muslim unity in the country.

Although similar calls have been made periodically in the last few years for the two parties to close ranks and settle their differences, they came naught. Since PAS left the Barisan Nasional 13 years ago, leaders of both parties have had meetings to exchange views. But nothing came out of the meetings.

After the last general elections, there were moves to hold talks between the two parties. It is something which both parties have been talking about since the Umno-Pas debate was cancelled in 1984. The subject has cropped out and again despite both sides having accused the other of just talking about it.

The subject of Umno-Pas unity talks resurfaced when Umno supreme council member Datuk Dr Yusof Nor made a casual remark that Umno is the party which Pas should meet in any talks on Malay and muslim unity.

Pas leaders particularly Dewan Ulama Chief Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat responded warmly to this and suggested that Umno should extend the invitation to Pas. Subsequently Pas president Haji Fadzil Noor said the party was keen to meet Umno any time and ruled out major differences in approaches to Islamic and Malay unity in talks between the two parties.

The conciliatory mood was attributed to Pas' policy under Haji Fadzil of forging unity among the Muslims and the Malays and holding talks with non-Muslim political parties.

Described as a moderate and a pragmatic leader, many believe that Haji Fadzil would make the relationship between Pas and Umno a little easier considering his friendship with Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim, which goes back to their Abim (Malaysian Muslim Youth movement) days.

But Pas Refusal last week to hold talks with Umno because of ideological differences-one day after agreeing to it pending the date, time and venue of the proposed talks - has once again raised the question as to whether the call was made to test the waters.

Pas information chief Haji Subky Latif told a Press conference that the party would not compromise its principles because Pas struggle was based on Islam, while Umno's was on nationalism. The statement seems a "little odd" and the reasoning "certainly weak" coming at a time when party is about to seal a pact with the Umno splinter group, which is no less secular than Umno.

Indeed in agreeing to work with the group, observers say Pas has conveniently chosen to gloss over the Islamic as opposed to nationalist differences between them, concentrating on the common goal of Malay and Muslim unity in its pact.

From contradictory statements by party leaders, it appears that Pas is divided over the issue of co-operation. Party insiders concede that the party is split between those who want to co-operate with Tengku Razaleigh

and those who want to cooperate with Tengku Razaleigh and those who want the party to work with Umno.

Already arrangements are being made by certain quarters in Pas for a meeting between Pas and Umno leaders. The moderates in the party like Haji Nakhaie and former party legal adviser Suhaimi Said believe that "the exchange of views between the leaders of the two parties will be good for Pas" and will help resolve the problem of disunity among the Malays and the muslims. Another former Pas leader and a close associate of Haji Fadzil has expressed the hope that the Pas-Umno talks would materialise in the interests of the ummah.

This group questioned the wisdom of working with Tengku Razaleigh, the man responsible for Pas' defeat in Kelantan. Haji Fadzil in an interview denies that there is a split over the issue.

"The central committee feels that it is not appropriate to have talks with Umno since the invitation by Umno to hold talks came at a time when the party was holding discussions with the Semangat 46 group. It is a collective decision not a personal decision.....but one arrived at by consensus because we truly believe that Malay and Muslim unity can be resolved through a pact with the group.

"Let us forget what and who they (members of the Umno splinter group) were before. What is important is that they have begun to accept us and believe that Islam should be the basis of unity. We have a common ground to work on. We share the same grievances over common issues."

He also says that Pas wants to consolidate itself and strengthen the party machinery in preparation for the general election "although we are prepared to work with the government on matters which we believe could benefit the people and the nation".

But to observers, the refusal to hold talks with Umno stems from the party's confidence in negotiating with the splinter group. Haji Fadzil concedes that the splinter group has no power.

It is not a political organisation and has no platform. On the other hand, although Pas is in the opposition, it is a political party. Such is the case, nobody can dominate or exploit us. We are free to talk....to discuss. We can be more open to negotiate before reaching some sort of understanding," says Haji Fadzil.

But party insiders say that despite the outward show of support, Pas leaders will have a hard time convincing the grassroots of the need for political co-operation with other political parties, including the Umno splinter group.

Observers say that the rank and file had never fully supported the leadership over this issue. This was evident in the last general election when they opposed the formation of an opposition Front and the Chinese Consultative Committee (CCC).

Pas, say observers, had visualised an opposition Front along the lines of the Barisan Nasional, but the Malay representative in the front must be Islamic.

"If in the Barisan, there is Umno, the opposition can have Pas. The main difference is that the forces the opposition Front generate will be Islamic," an observer says.

Indeed, Pas began to work on shedding its racialist image three years ago. In a move that shocked the Muslims and the Malays, Pas vice-president Haji Hadi Awang publicly announced that Islam was a universal religion and that even a non-Malay could become a Prime Minister if he was a pious Muslim.

Such an assertion strikes at the very foundation upon which Malay politics has rested since the ill-fated Malayan Union proposal of 1946. However it remains to be seen whether Pas will succeed in its call for religious unity in a nation where ethnic allegiances have played a crucial role in the political scene for more than a century.

23/4/89 (NST, 24/4/89)

Umno Youth protested against several measures taken by the Singapore Government recently which it feared could sour relations between Malaysia and the republic.

The measures included making it compulsory for vehicles from the republic entering Malaysia through the causeway to have at least half-tank full of petrol and disallowing SIA tickets from being sold in Johore Baru.

Head of affairs pertaining to Muslim countries and the organisation of Islamic conference (OIC) of Umno Youth's International Affairs Bureau, Haji Mustapha Yaakub, said the measures were against the principles of solidarity in Asean.

23/4/89 (NST, 24/4/89)

Umno Titiwangsa division plans to set up a "Titiwangsa Foundation" to help the poor in the area. Titiwangsa MP Dr Sulaiman Mohamad said the

move was one way for the party to help the poor overcome their problems such as lack of clothing and food.

He added that the foundation would also be able to help existing bodies such as the Federal Territory Foundation to eradicate poverty in the city.

26/4/89 (NST,27/4/89)

A businessman today obtained a High Court injunction restraining Umno from holding its 43rd anniversary celebrations on May 10 and 11 in Johore Bahru.

The injunction also restrains Umno, its officers, servants or agents, from making any further statements, oral or return, whether through the mass media or otherwise, pertaining to the anniversary celebrations except to announce its cancellations.

High Court judge Mr Justice Mustapha Hussain granted the injunction following the filing of an ex parte summons in chambers by the businessman, former Umno member Abdul Rahim bin Abdul Rahman, of Kampung Tanjung Agas, Port Dickson, at the High Court registry in Seremban.

The application was filed by council for the plaintiff Mr Christopher Fernando and Datuk Haji Suhaimi bin Datuk Haji Kamaruddin. Mr Fernando in filing the writ of summons, urged an early hearing on the grounds that the issues involved in the case were of serious public interest and were indirectly linked to the political situation in the country.

Any delay, he said, would affect the interests of the applicant and would result in irreparable damage to them, for which there would be no remedy.

The writ of summons named Datuk Mohammed Rahmat, the secretary general of Umno, as defendant on his behalf of all members of Umno. It asked for a declaration that the defendant was not entitled to hold the 43rd anniversary celebrations of Umno on May 10 and 11 at the Istana grounds in Johore Bahru.

In his affidavit, Encik Abdul Rahim said the holding of such celebrations had the effect of nullifying the cancellation of the registration of Umno and the pronouncements of the courts and was therefore unlawful and illegal.

He added that he was prepared to give an undertaking through his counsel on damages in the event and injunction was granted. Datuk Mohamed Rahmat has 12 days after the service of the writ to make an appearance in

the suit brought by Encik Abdul Rahim, failing which the plaintiff may proceed to get judgement.

27/4/89 (The Star, 28/4/89)

Umno lawyers will apply for a court order to set aside the injunction granted by the Seremban High Court yesterday restraining the party from holding its 43rd anniversary celebrations in Johore Baru on May 10 and 11, Encik Abdul Ghafar said.

The Deputy Prime Minister declined to elaborate, adding the court also restrained Umno, its officers or agents from making any further oral or written statements, whether through the mass media or otherwise, pertaining to the anniversary celebrations, except to announce its cancellation.

27/4/89 (The Star, 28/4/89)

Former Pas vice-president Haji Nakhaie Ahmad and former Pas legal adviser Suhaimi Said said they will apply to join Umno soon. Haji Nakhaie said he wanted to move away from a narrow-based political struggle to a broader one for the ummah and the nation.

"Umno and Pas are two established political institutions for the Malays and my involvement in Pas has given me valuable political experience to continue my struggle (in Umno) in defence of the religion (of Islam),(the Malay) race and the nation," he said.

Haji Nakhaie said he would be joining an Umno branch in Baling, Kedah and his application form would be submitted immediately. He said he would outline in detail his reasons for joining Umno in a working paper which he would present at an Islamic seminar at Universiti Malaya on May 2.

27/4/89 (The Star,28/4/89)

Umno will introduce a party identity card similar to credit cards for members by the end of the year, secretary general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said.

It will bear the member's code number, photograph, address and branch, he said after handing reply letters and subscription receipts of 120,000 Selangor members to the Menteri Besar.

27/4/89 (NST.28/4/89)

Umno will use legal means to ensure that the party's 43rd anniversary celebrations will be held as scheduled, its president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

Earlier, Umno deputy president Encik Ghafar Baba, speaking to reporters at the party headquarters, said Umno had instructed its lawyers to apply to the Seremban high Court to set aside an injunction obtained by a businessman yesterday, restraining the party from holding the celebrations. He expects the lawyers to act soon. "What is important is that we want the injunction lifted."

High Court judge Mr Justice Mustapha Hussain granted the injunction following the filing of an ex-parte summons in chambers by businessman and former Umno member Abdul Rahim Abdul Rahman of Kampung Tanjung Agas, Port Dickson, at the Seremban High Court yesterday.

The injunction restrains Umno, its officers, servants or agents, from making any further statements, oral or written, whether through the mass media or otherwise, pertaining to the anniversary celebrations, except to announce its cancellation.

In Shah Alam, Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said that the injunction would not deter preparations for the celebrations. He was confident that the problem could be resolved before May 10.

He regretted the attitude of some Malays who seemed to have forgotten the struggle of the pre-Independence Malays in ensuring the special privileges of the community were not taken away under the British-proposed Malayan Union.

"This younger generation of Malays realise that the Malays now have Umno and the Government to protect their interests," he said.

"But they are not appreciative of the struggle that took place 43 years ago, when Malays under the threat of losing their rights with the implementation of the British-proposed Malayan Union rallied their forces on May 11 and 12 in Johore Baru culminating in the birth of Umno."

Dr Mahathir said that the Malays then were able to put aside their differences and unite behind Umno to protect and defend their rights, adding the same spirit should continue to guide them 43 years later.

He said without this spirit, Malays would not be a respected race today ; neither for that matter would Malaysia or then Malaya have achieved so much success.

He urged Malays to remember March 1-4 (when Malay social and political organisations gathered to discuss the establishment of a single Malay organisation to fight the Malayan Union) and May 11 and 12, 1946, regardless of any attempt to stop them from doing so.

"Even if the court declares the party anniversary celebrations illegal, nobody can stop the Malays from celebrating Umno's birth because it is a party not only for Umno members but all Malays," said Dr Mahathir.

27/4/89 (NST.28/4/89)

Former Pas vice-president Haji Nakhaie Ahmad today applied to join Umno on the conviction that the latter's leaders are committed to Islamic unity and sincere in wanting to hold talks with PAS.

Haji Nakhaie said he had carefully studied all aspects of his move including his commitment to Islamic struggle. Haji Nakhaie also brought with him four other Pas members. They are Universiti Pertanian Malaysia lecturer Fuad Haji Zarakashi, UPM graduate Saifuddin Nasiton Islamil, Universiti Malaya graduate Che Johan Che Pa and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia graduate Mohamed Zuki Mohamed Zain.

Haji Nakhaie said Umno's dynamic policies allowed latitude for him to espouse his Islamic political ideals. He also expressed satisfaction that he had the support of Umno leaders and the party constitution to "defend, expand and uphold Islam."

He was also convinced that the Government led by Malay leaders is the "one and only machinery and channel to enhance the well-being of the Islamic community." In an apparent reference to the Pas-Semangat 46 pact, he said he would not allow himself as a muslim and a Malay to be involved in any pact to undermine the government now dominated and influenced by Muslims and Malays.

"I cannot accept an alternative Government sponsored by those who only want 40 parliamentary seats for Malays in Peninsular Malaysia with the remainder to be given to non-Malays." he said, apparently referring to the

Semangat 46 recent announcement of its electoral arithmetic which purports to place them in sight of forming a Government.

29/4/89 (The Star, 30/4/89)

The High Court in Seremban will hear on Tuesday an application to set aside an injunction stopping Umno from holding its 43rd anniversary celebrations in Johore Baru on May 10 and 11.

It is learnt that the application will be heard in open court before Mr Justice Mustapha Hussain. The council for Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Encik Rashid Manaf and Encik Zaki Tun Azmi, filed the application at the High Court registry here at 11.45 am today.

The lawyers, however, declined to disclose to reporters the grounds for the application. The High Court here granted the injunction last Wednesday following the filing of an ex-parte summons in chambers by businessman Abdul Rahim Abdul Rahmah, who is a former Umno member, of Kampung Tanjung Agas, Port Dickson.

The injunction also restrains Umno, its officers, servants or agents, from making further statements, oral or written, whether through the mass media or otherwise, on the celebrations.

Encik Rahim was represented by Mr Christopher Fernando. The plaintiff had named Datuk Mohamed as the defendant on his own behalf and on behalf of all members of Umno.

29/4/89 (The Star, 30/4/89)

The time has come for all of us to sit back and think soberly about the question of national unity. There is no doubt that every one wants to see national unity forged. We all want the whole Malaysian nation to be united and strong.

We have all been worried about ethnic polarisation and we all hope that instead of being divided on racial lines, we can unite as one strong and stable nation made up of all our existing races and religions.

The truth is, ethnic polarisation is not the only thing we are worried about. With the passing of each day, we are also seeing the growing division taking place in every community. Malays, in particular are divided than ever before.

In 1946, the Malays were all united. They came together in a Malay National Congress held in Kuala Lumpur at which they decided to form the United Malay National Organisation (Umno).

They backed the Rulers of the four Federated Malay States and the Rulers of the five pre-war Unfederated Malay States in their struggle against the British plan to turn all these nine Malay States-which were British Protectorates - into component States of a British colony to be known as the Malayan Union.

The first Malay group to break away from Umno in 1946 was the radical Malay Nationalist Party after it failed to persuade Umno to adopt the red-and-white national flag of Indonesia as the Umno party flag.

The MNP formed a coalition with other Malay groups known as Putera (Pusat Tenaga Rakyat - People's Power Centre) which linked up with the MCP-led All-Malaya Council of Joint Action (AMCJA) as the political opposition to Umno.

With the backing of Umno, the Malay Rulers succeeded in getting the British Government to abandon the Malayan Union plan. Britain entered into a new treaty with the Malay Rulers and Umno to establish an interim diarchy between the British Crown and the Malay Rulers, which was inaugurated on Feb 1, 1948 as the Federation of Malaya, with a solemn promise of independence as soon as possible.

Steps to introduce self-government proceeded in the early 1950s with the introduction of elections to village, town, municipal and state councils. It was in the first Municipal Council election in Kuala Lumpur in 1952 that the local MCA formed an Alliance with the local Umno. It was their success that led to the formation of the Umno-MCA-MIC Alliance to contest the State elections that followed later which proved practical and successful.

Before the first general elections was held in 1955 for the Federal Legislative Council, the Persatuan Islam Sa-Malaya which had originated from the conference of Muslim religious leaders convened by Umno earlier, broke away from Umno to contest the 1955 election as the Pan-Malaya Islamic Party.

The Islamic party managed to win only one of the 52 seats. The other 51 seats were captured by the Umno-MCA-MIC Alliance. Umno which contested 35 seats, won 34, losing the solitary seat to PMIP (Pan Malayan Islamic Party - as Pas was then known).

MCA won all the 15 seats it contested and MIC too won both the seats it contested in 1955. As a result of the successful co-operation between the three major communities as represented by Umno, MCA and MIC, the British Government kept their promise and granted independence to Malaya on August 31, 1957.

In the first general election after independence, held in 1959, the Alliance succeeded in winning the majority of seats to form a multiracial coalition in the federal Government, and Tengku Abdul Rahman continued as Prime Minister.

However as a result of the 1959 general election, Pas emerged as the main opposition party in the country, Pas won the majority of seats in the Kelantan and Trengganu State Legislative Assemblies and provided the Mentris Besar to head the respective governments of these two states.

Since then the Malays were bitterly split between Umno and Pas. The relation between the followers and supporters of these two Malay parties became so strained that families were split.

They would not even pray in the same mosque. They would not mix socially and refused to attend each other's social functions. They would not even carry out their religious obligation to bury the dead who is a member of the other party. Pas members went so far as to regard Umno members as Kafir (apostates) - no longer recognised as true Muslim).

It took the May 13 affair, after the 1969 general election, to shock these bitter political enemies in Umno and Pas to come together in the National Consultative Council where a new national concord was established as a result of the national consensus achieved.

Pas was persuaded, together with such other opposition parties as the People's Progressive Party (PPP), Gerakan, Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) to join the Barisan Nasional (National Front).

Like the other leaders of former opposition parties that had joined the Barisan Nasional, many Pas leaders also joined the national front government led by Tun Abdul Razak and became Federal Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

Some Pas leaders were appointed as Ambassadors, while some others were given positions in Federal and State Government agencies and public corporations after the 1974 general elections in which the Barisan Nasional scored a clear majority throughout the nation.

The national reconciliation period however lasted only a short while. By 1977, the split between Umno and and Pas again took place when Tengku

Razaleigh successfully put an end to the almost 20 year political hold that Pas had over the State Government of Kelantan because of the political crisis created over the quarrel about who should be the Menteri Besar of Kelantan.

Pas leaders ousted Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamed Nasir, one of their members who was accused of being Tengku Razaleigh's Stooqe. Datuk Mohamed Nasir, left Pas and was made a Senator and appointed as Federal Minister for Public Enterprise. He formed a new Muslim-Malay party known as Berjasa which replaced Pas as a component member of Barisan which had expelled Pas.

A state of emergency was proclaimed in Kelantan, the state Constitution was suspended, and a Federal Government official was appointed as Administrator of the State. A few months later, new elections were held in Kelantan in which Umno defeated Pas and took over the government in the state. Datuk Mohamed Yaakob became Mentri Besar and has remained in the post up to now.

Then followed another political crisis in Pas which resulted in the ousting of Datuk Mohamed Asri Muda from his position as president. Datuk Asri took some of his supporters out of Pas and formed another new Muslim-Malay party called Hamim, practically eclipsed Berjasa which was no longer led by Datuk Mohamed Nasir.

In the last general election in 1986 Hamim managed to win a parliamentary seat on behalf of BN, while Berjasa is not at all represented in Parliament. A short while ago, Datuk Asri tried to persuade Hamim to dissolve the party so that its members could join Umno as individual members.

He failed in this move by just one vote short of the required two-thirds majority. He has since resigned from Hamim and many of his followers have joined him in becoming individual members of Umno.

During the recent Ampang Jaya by-election some Hamim leaders were seen to campaign actively together with Tengku Razaleigh's supporters in the Semangat 46 group, on behalf of Datuk Harun who was put up by the dissident Umno group. Berjasa leaders also did the same thing not only in Ampang Jaya but also in the earlier by-election in Johore.

They appear to be adopted a defiant attitude in refusing to respond to a request from the Barisan Nasional leadership to clarify the status and position of Berjasa as a member of BN.

It is understood that Berjasa leaders have been the ones who had submitted an application to the Registrar of Societies for the Registration of a new

political organisation called Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah (APU- Muslim People's Unity Movement).

This is obviously on behalf of Tengku Razaleigh who has openly been talking about setting up this new national front as the counter to Umno, to give leadership to a projected new opposition united front which will include DAP and other political groups, in the next general election.

As Tengku Razaleigh's supporters do not have a legally registered political party to which they can belong, it is likely that APU will be so structured that besides being a federation of the existing parties that are likely to join APU- such as Pas, Berjasa and Hamim - there will be provision for politicians, like the Semangat 46 independent Members of Parliament and state Assemblymen, to join APU as individual members.

The Chinese are equally divided politically. They are in MCA, Gerakan, DAP and other parties. In BN they are on the Government side. And they are in the opposition as well. So are the Indians.

Perhaps, it is time we begin to think clearly about seeking the unity of a particular ethnic community-racial or religious-within the framework of any particular political party, whether it be Umno or MCA or MIC or PAS.

Perhaps, we have now to think in terms of having organisations that can serve as the vehicle for the promotion of unity and progress of the various communities which can override the political affiliations.

We must accept the inevitable reality that, in time, should political organisations take the form of multiracial and multi-religious coalitions and united fronts, the political organisations and the various social, cultural and religious organisations must co-exist with them.

We must accept that national unity is possible, and must be realised, even while preserving ethnic cooperation and unity in the racial, social, cultural and religious sub-groups within the larger multiracial and multi-religious society of the united Malaysian nation-and even while our people may almost be equally divided in two political groupings facing one another in the next general election.

30/4/89 (1/5/89)

The Application by a group of former Umno members to register Angkatan Semangat 46 as a political party has been rejected by the registrar of societies, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub said.

He said the application was rejected recently on the ground that their symbol contained various similarities to a registered political party. He said the group can make a fresh application and it would be considered for registration if it satisfied all necessary conditions.

He also said the registrar had received an application to register a Barisan Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah (APU), comprising Opposition parties DAP and PAS, and the Semangat 46 group. The application is being processed.

1/5/89 (The Star, 2/5/89)

May 11 is a date of historical importance because it was on that day that a political party representing the interests of the Malays came into being, Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said in an affidavit in support of his application to set aside an injunction restraining Umno from holding its 43rd anniversary celebrations on May 11 at the Johore Istana grounds.

The date has continued to be remembered and honoured throughout the years since 1946, when the former Umno was formed at its birthplace at the Istana Besar in Johore Baru, he said. In his application, which was filed by his counsel Messrs Rashid and Lee on Saturday, Datuk Mohamed is asking for the injunction order dated April 26 to be set aside with costs, contending that the plaintiff did not have locus standi to maintain his claim.

The injunction also restrains Umno, its officers, servants or agents, from making any further statements, oral or written, whether through the mass media or otherwise, pertaining to the anniversary celebrations, except to announce its cancellation.

High Court judge Mr Justice Mustapha Hussain granted the injunction following the filing of an *ex parte* summons in chambers by businessman and former Umno member, Abdul Rahim Abdul Rahman. The writ of summons named Datuk Mohamed as defendant on his behalf and for all Umno members.

In his affidavit, Datuk Mohamed described Encik Abdul Rahim's claim as "frivolous", "vexatious", and with "no merit whatsoever" in law. He said Umno had planned the celebrations to commemorate the date and to remind the Malays of the historic event.

Datuk Mohamed denied that the celebrations were an attempt by Umno to mislead the public into believing that the former Umno was still in existence.

He also denied that representations were made to the public that the proposed function was the 43rd anniversary celebrations of the former Umno, and that it was disrespectful to the Sultan of Johore.

He said the acts of Umno pertaining to the celebrations were in accordance with its rights as a lawful society carrying out its aims as a political party for the Malays.

He said he believed Encik Abdul Rahim had no cause of action against Umno nor the locus standi to maintain his claim. He said grave damage and irreparable harm had been occasioned to Umno. He said no damage had been occasioned to Encik Abdul Rahim and that Encik Abdul Rahim was also in no position to compensate Umno for all expenses incurred.

3/5/89(The Star,4/5/89)

The High Court set aside today an injunction it granted a businessman to prevent Umno from holding celebrations next week to commemorate the formation of the deregistered Umno 43 years ago.

Mr Justice Mustapha Hussain said the court had been misled by the plaintiff's application, which was based on Newspaper reports, into granting the injunction on an ex parte basis.

"With the wisdom of hindsight, the court should have ordered an inter parte hearing of the application for the injunction at the beginning itself," the judge said when allowing an application by Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat to set aside the injunction.

The injunction given to Encik Abdul Rahim Abdul Rahman was to stop the celebration, which he said was to mark Umno's 43rd anniversary, scheduled to be held in Johore Baru next Wednesday and Thursday.

Mr Justice Mustapha said Encik Rahim was defeated on all four points of law raised by Umno's counsel, Encik Zaki Tun Azmi:

- * The plaintiff's right and how it was going to be affected by the celebrations ;
- * The matter of Locus Standi;
- * The misrepresentation of facts.

The judge said : "The law is clear that the plaintiff must show what his right is and how his right is going to be affected.

"The plaintiff is, in law, in the same position as any citizen. He may have a grouse because the present Umno is going to bask in the glory and achievement of the old Umno, but then it is only a moral right."

"Definitely, this plaintiff has no legal right that can be affected by the defendant holding the celebrations. Likewise if the plaintiff or the Semangat 46 group is going to hold a celebration to commemorate (old Umno's formation on) May 11, the defendant or anybody else cannot stop it.

"The plaintiff had been endeavouring to revive the old Umno but until it is so revived, the plaintiff's standing is just like any Malay member of any other political body whose rights will not be affected by the celebrations."

Mr Justice Mustapha said that because Encik Rahim was not a member of the present Umno, he had no locus Standi. On the "balance of convenience," the judge said this favoured Datuk Mohamed because the amount of time and money spent on planning the celebrations would be wasted if the injunction was not lifted.

"On the other hand, no special damages have been forwarded or shown as to how the plaintiff would suffer if the injunction is lifted. Hence the balance of convenience is overwhelmingly in favour of the defendant to proceed with the celebrations."

Mr Justice Mustapha said there was a "misrepresentation of facts which cannot sustain the injunction" when Encik Rahim only depended on "inaccurate Press reports" to support his application.

"The plaintiff had based his injunction on the reports of The Star. The defendant had denied the accuracy of the reports. "Since the plaintiff had relied on the reports to base his claims and the injunction, and after the denial by the defendant, the plaintiff should have filed an affidavit by the reporter to substantiate the report's accuracy," he added.

Mr Justice Mustapha turned down a submission by Encik Rahim's counsel, Mr Christopher Fernando, that the order be varied to allow Umno to carry on with the celebration without reference to any 43rd anniversary. "The court has no power, nor the reason or rhyme, to do so," he said.

However, the judge remarked that Umno, as a defunct body, could not go about celebrating its 43rd anniversary. And neither could the defendant's present Umno celebrate its 43rd anniversary as it was only registered in February, last year, he added.

The judge awarded Datuk Mohamed cost and damages, to be assessed by the court's Senior Assistant Registrar.

5/5/89 (The Star, 6/5/89)

Hundreds of Wanita Umno members throughout the country are taking time off from their Hari Raya preparations to sew 16 759 party flags in time for the celebrations next week to mark the formation of the deregistered Umno.

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the flags represented the total number of days since the formation of Umno on May 11, 1946.

8/5/89 (NST, 9/5/89)

The fate of the Malay race, religion and the nation will continue to be safeguarded so long as Umno struggles for the Malays and gets their strong support, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said Umno, the political party with the biggest membership-which was still increasing, was the most respected party in Malaysia now and would remain so in the future.

Dr Mahathir said Umno was not free from challenges but these had been overcome with the prayers and support of members who loved the party. He said the party was formed 43 years ago out of the need for Malays to unite and oppose the colonialists and the Malayan Union proposal as well as to fight for the country's independence.

"The unity then in struggling for the rights and interests of the religion, race and nation had given the Malays the strength and encouragement to make sacrifices for the sake of achieving their noble aims," he added.

"The strong will had made it easier for the sacrifices and the success achieved belongs to us all. Such is the blessing for the Malays."

In his message, Umno deputy president Encik Ghafar Baba said the success of Umno was achieved not only through the consensus existing among the Malays but all races in the country.

Encik Ghafar Baba said the country would be safe and development intensified in this unity was maintained. Umno would continue with its struggle to make Malaysia more well known internationally in all fields, he said.

He called for a renewal of the determination to strengthen the party so that Malaysia would continue to be safe and progressive.

8/5/89 (NST,9/5/89)

Deputy Home Affairs Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob today reminded the organisers of Umno's gathering to mark the formation of the deregistered Umno that they have to apply for a permit.

He said even though the large gathering was organised by Umno, the backbone of the ruling Barisan Nasional, it was not exempted from the regulation requiring an approval permit to hold the gathering.

Police were prepared to consider the application for the permit from the organisers, he told reporters here last night. He said the police had not received an application yet, adding that the Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Haniff Omar had informed him that the gathering required a police permit.

10/5/89 (The Star, 11/5/89)

Events to mark the birth of Umno 43 years ago got underway here this evening before one of the largest mass gatherings in recent years takes place tomorrow to relive that historic day.

Continuity in the struggle to defend Malay sovereignty will be symbolised in the gathering at the Istana Besar grounds, where Umno came into being in 1946.

The celebrations started off with a Tahlil at Masjid Abu Bakar which was attended by more than 1 000 people, among them party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba.

After maghrib prayers, a dinner was held in the mosque compound. Among the party leaders were Johore Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyuddin Yassin and Umno Cabinet ministers.

A tableau and drama re-enacting Umno's formation was staged tonight at the istana grounds made soggy by a late afternoon downpour. A crowd of

several thousand watched the show, which included cultural dances. It was carried "live" by RTM.

Tomorrow, after Encik Ghafar opens an exhibition on Umno in the morning, Dr Mahathir will address a mammoth rally at the istana grounds in the afternoon.

In his speech, the party president is expected to set out the party's direction with emphasis on greater Malay unity.

11/5/89 (NST,12/5/89)

Umno recaptured the moments of its birth 43 years ago today in the grounds of the Istana Besar with a sober reminder of the importance of unity to ensure the survival of the Malays.

Both Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the Sultan of Johore told the Malays of the supreme importance of unity in safeguarding the country and its future generations. Dr Mahathir in an hour-long speech to tens of thousands of party members gathered in and around the area, said the Malay struggle for development, a better standard of living and an equitable share in the economic wealth of the nation had not ended.

"The Malays have not yet achieved a standard of development that will enable them to compete well with the other communities in the country, or with the rest of the world," he said.

Whatever progress the Malays have achieved thus far under the New Economic Policy had been due to the existence of Umno, and its ability to protect and provide for the community. And Umno, said Dr Mahathir, had been born from a sense of unity among Malays in their fight for their rights against the British and the Malayan Union.

"It was unity that made the Malays, hitherto so parochial, come together from different States and organisations in 1946 to fight as one when their survival was threatened by the creation of the Malayan Union."

Malays from all walks of life, from the elite to the poorest classes, came together, supported by the Rulers and formed Umno, which today has created a politically stable and sophisticated society. Dr. Mahathir said the success of the Malay struggle to defeat the Malayan Union and subsequently attain independence had not been based on armed revolution, violence or material rewards, but rather on selflessness and complete support of the members for their leaders.

The Prime Minister said these elements continued as Umno tradition, where leadership succession from the time of Datuk Onn Jaffar to Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak and then Tun Hussein Onn, had been largely without contest and had gone smoothly.

Even if there had been contests for party posts, these had been conducted without malice, money campaigns or resulting disunity-until 1984. In that year, Dr Mahathir said, one person had insisted, against all advise, to challenge the then deputy president. In 1987, this same person went on to challenge the president of the party - and the consequence of it all was the deregistration of Umno after it was declared an unlawful society by the High Court in 1988.

The actions of this person reflected ambition and self-interest, and had only created disunity among the Malays. Dr Mahathir said those who really treasured unity and harmony should lend themselves to the party and accept its will and policies, not form a minority or splinter group among themselves to oppose the majority.

The doors of Umno, he said, were still open and those who truly had the spirit of 1946 should return to the fold. Dr Mahathir said Umno had maintained its credibility because the leaders received the support of its members, but this did not mean they could do as they pleased.

"Party leaders are free to act only insofar as their actions do not deviate from party principles and objectives," he said. Dr Mahathir reminded the Malays to always remember the history of the struggle of Umno, and what the past could teach. "If we forget the past, we will continue to repeat its mistakes; but if we remember the contributions of our former leaders, the story and the spirit behind the formation of Umno, its struggles for the Malays, and be thankful for what we have, God willing, we will become a proud, brave and respected people."

The highlight of the event was the beating of the giant Beduk Raja by the Sultan of Johore at about 6pm to signify the official formation of Umno on the very same steps of the istana 53 years ago.

The Sultan then announced that the Beduk Raja would be kept in the dining hall of the Istana Besar, where the first meeting to form Umno took place.

11/5/89 (NST,12/5/89)

Umno veterans expressed strong feelings of pride and patriotism at the rally here today to mark the formation of the party 43 years ago.

They said the gathering at the Istana Besar grounds was a testimony to the struggle and accomplishments of the Malays under Umno over the last four decades. The veterans said they felt a strong sense of unity and solidarity and hoped Umno would continue to lead the country to greater heights of peace, progress and stability in the years ahead.

13/5/89 (NST,14/5/89)

Bentong By-Election polling day.

13/5/89 (The Star, 14/5/89)

Selangor Umno has urged the government to urgently amend certain sections of the Elections Act to prevent by-elections being held indiscriminately and without strong reasons. State Umno liaison Committee secretary Datuk Onn Ismail said today that of late, many people were taking advantage of certain loose sections in the Act to resign as Members of Parliament or State Assembly without strong reasons and forcing by-elections to be held in their areas.

He told Bernama that if the situations was not curtailed by tightening certain sections in the Act, the nation would be faced with many by-elections in a year which would be a waste of money, time and energy.

He was commenting on the decision of labour Minister Lee Kim Sai, who is MP for Hulu Langat, to resign his seat on May 19 to face a challenge by DAP deputy secretary-general and MP for Bukit Bintang Lee Lam Thye to contest in a by-election in the Seputeh parliamentary constituency.

Datuk Onn said that under the elections Act, a by-election could only be held if the MP or assemblyman died, resigned, lost his citizenship or eligibility to be an MP under section 48 of the Federal Constitution.

He said even though the section mentioned resignation as one of the reasons, there was no special requirement in the Act which said that a by-election could be held just because the MP resigned to accept a challenge to contest in another constituency.

Datuk Onn said that if the Act was not amended, more legislators would be encouraged to follow the example of Mr Lee Kim Sai and Mr Lee Lam Thye. To avoid continuous by-elections, he suggested that a regulation be created to give the government powers to postpone until the next general election of a representative to parliament or state

Assembly when the MP or Assemblyman resigned without a strong reason.

Datuk Onn also urged the Barisan Nasional leadership not to accept Mr Lee Kim Sai's resignation and to advise him to reconsider his actions. He said that if the two Lees wanted to test their strength, they should not contest in a by-election but should wait for the next general election.