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TENGGU Abdul Rahman has said that the "secret letter" sent to him by Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed and later made public has shattered all the good he has done for the nation over the last 17 years.

He said this in an exclusive interview with the Utusan Zaman published today on its front page under the headline:

"There are groups instigating students to hate me—A drop of ink and a piece of paper have shattered my sacrifices and services to the nation over the last 17 years."

In relating his past role and the sacrifices he has made for the people, especially the Malays, the Tengku said: "Dr. Mahathir himself knows the sacrifices I have made for the nation which has left me a pauper."

He had little money now and he had to sell some of his property to pay his income tax which he was now doing in instalments of \$2,000 a month

Saved Malays

Dr. Mahathir was also aware of how he saved the Malays after the Japanese surrender without any care for his personal safety.

"But now all this burden seems to have been placed upon my shoulders," he said.

The Prime Minister rejected the suggestion that the May 13 disturbances were the result of Government action in commuting the death sentences of the 11 Chinese youths for consorting with Indonesians during confrontation.

"Why must the pardon for the 11 Chinese be only mentioned and not the two Malay youths who were also pardoned?" he asked.

This had nothing to do with the riots as "the disturbances only happened a year after the sentence."

The Tengku said that he was now being blamed for the death of innocent people.

But what had exacerbated the situation was the procession through

the Federal capital for the youth shot dead by the police in Kepong a few days before the general election.

The procession carried placards and slogans of Mao Tsetung. One said: "Blood will be paid with blood" and this angered the Malays," the Tengku said.

The action taken by the Government to commute the death sentences of the condemned youth followed strong pressure from all sections of the community.

Avoid clashes

Some newspapers had also campaigned to save their lives.

At that time, he felt that if their sentences were not commuted then clashes could have taken place in the country.

What he did was to save the lives of the people and the steps he took prevented any incidents from taking place.

The Tengku emphasised that he was determined to ensure the safety of the people and their property.

"If not why should I work for the existence of harmony among the people of this country," he said.

The instigators

He then referred to the recent student demonstrations at the University of Malaya, the Mara Institute of Technology and the Muslim Colleges.

Lecturers at the university who took part in the general election campaign were responsible for instigating the students to hate him.

"They did that by distributing copies of the letters (Dr. Mahathir's) sent to me."

He believed that this was done in an attempt to oust him as the in-

fluent leader of the Alliance.

"They know that I am the symbol of the Alliance. I have to be ousted in order to topple the Alliance.

"What I regret is when youths whom we have financed to further their studies are spoilt by irresponsible people," he said.

A slogan was found in the University Mosque which read "Tengku's regime is the colonial and feudal regime." Was this not the work of the Communist Party and Party Rakyat? he asked.

Citizens' right

On the results of the general election, the Tengku said all citizens had the right to choose the parties they liked.

He was confident that the Malays could maintain a two-thirds majority in Parliament if they were not divided but their own deeds would destroy their political power.

The Government was doing everything to help the Malays. In fact, they were being cared for from the womb to the tomb.

The infant mortality rate of the Malays in the rurals areas had been reduced.

Clarification

The Tengku also brushed aside foreign newspaper reports that his deputy, Tun Abdul Razak, had taken over power from him.

He made it clear that Tun Razak had not robbed him of power, rather he had delegated his power to him.

The state of emergency needed an active person like Tun Razak.

"I myself realise that I am not strong from the health point of view, but I still took part in the elections because of the party.

"If I did not take part, then the people could have said that I no longer care for the party and its interests," he added.