

Mahathir: Govt to review exams system to plug leaks

KUALA LUMPUR,
Thurs.—Education
Minister Dr. Mahathir
Mohamed told the De-
wan Rakyat today
that the Government
would review the
whole system of con-
ducting examinations.

He was replying to
criticisms on the leak-
age of this year's MCE
Bahasa Malaysia pa-
per in the debate on
the estimates for his
Ministry.

Dr. Mahathir said
the system of conduc-
ting exams had been
the same for years.

As the exam leakage
investigations had not
been completed, the
Ministry did not know
the weaknesses in the
system.

"The existing system,
particularly the secu-
rity aspects, will be
reviewed thoroughly,"
he added.

Resetting of the Ba-
hasa Malaysia paper
should make no dif-
ference to the pupils,
he said, as it was a
test of proficiency in
the language.

On student demon-
strations, Dr. Maha-
thir agreed with Mr.
Lim Kit Siang (DAP-
Kota Melaka) that
these were not peculiar
to Malaysia.

The Minister said:
"This thing is common
in many other coun-
tries. We are studying
the means used by
others to prevent such
demonstrations."

He added: "We are
particularly interested
in the manner in
which Singapore has
succeeded so well in
this field."

Replying again to
Mr. Lim (on the sub-
ject of Chinese educa-
tion), Dr. Mahathir
said: "It is because
this is a national pro-
blem that we have
formulated policies to
see that Chinese edu-
cation does not take
the Chinese people
away from the rest of
the population."

Estate schools

He said if the mat-
ter was regarded as
something concerning
the Chinese only, then
the Chinese would have
its own education sys-
tem and the Tamil and
the Malays their own
systems too.

"The nation will
then speak three dif-
ferent languages and
the different races will
never be able to speak
to each other," he ad-
ded.

Replying to pleas for
more grants, Dr. Ma-
hathir said the issue
of grants to Tamil
schools in estates was
a complicated matter
as most of these
schools were very
small.

However, the Gov-
ernment was doing its
best to improve the
facilities in these
schools.