

SUBVERSIVES MUST BE KEPT AWAY: MAHATHIR

# Tighten discipline in schools, heads told

KUALA LUMPUR, May 1975

SCHOOL heads have been urged to tighten discipline in their schools so that students will not be misled by "subversive elements."

The Education Ministry will stand firm behind officers who act honestly and sincerely to safeguard the national interest", Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today when opening the 50th State Education Directors conference here.

"This will also enable students who genuinely wish to pursue their education to study without being harrassed by irresponsible students."

Dr. Mahathir said that the recent student unrest in universities and schools had been "very disturbing."

"There may be reasons for the unrest, but this country cannot afford this luxury during its present stage of development," he said.

"The nation expects good returns for every single cent of public money it spends on education."

It was obvious, he added that "undesirable elements" had managed to use students for their own ends.

Because of this, the students were now facing difficulties which were worrisome to their parents.

## Screening

Dr. Mahathir asked schools to screen all peo-

ple and organisations in contact with pupils during extracurricular activities so as to weed out these bad elements.

The Ministry has already directed all States and school heads to do this.

With tighter discipline, the students who had thus far enjoyed unlimited freedom, might "create issues and resort to irresponsible actions by boycotting lessons to express their dissatisfaction," Dr. Mahathir said.

This would have to be met with further disciplinary action, he said.

Dr. Mahathir also warned students that bad reports on them could adversely affect their futures.

He then asked parents to supervise their children more closely so that they would grow up to be responsible citizens.