

Good riddance, says Mahathir

N.S.T. 29 OKT 1975

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Malaysian students who choose to stay abroad after completing their studies are no loss to the country, the House was told today.

"If they choose to take up permanent residence and become citizens of other countries, then I say good-bye and good riddance to them," Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said in the Dewan Rakyat during question time.

He was replying to Dr. Tan Chee Khoon (Pekemas - Kepong) who asked what action would be taken to allay the fears of students studying in Australia that they might be detained on their return because of their progressive views.

"If they are truly afraid of returning to

THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO STAY ABROAD AFTER STUDIES 'NO LOSS TO OUR NATION'

Malaysia, it must be because they have engaged in activities that contravene the laws of this country," Dr. Mahathir said.

"It is noted that Malaysian students are very active in Australia and New Zealand but till now only one has been detained, and that was for his activities while in Malaysia."

Anti-national activities by Malaysian students overseas would continue to grow if unchecked.

That was why the Government was studying to revise the regulations for students in-

tending to continue their studies overseas.

The Government might have to impose a condition that all students register with the Education Ministry.

"The Government is also studying the relevant laws regarding activities by Malaysians in foreign countries that would threaten the security of the country."

Dr. Mahathir said information from the Australian police had shown that the demonstrators did not only wish to disrupt the visit of the Prime Minister to that country and embarrass him, but also to hurt the

Prime Minister physical-

ly. Replying to a supplementary question by Dr. Tan, Dr. Mahathir said he agreed with the view that it was progressive to discuss how to overcome poverty.

"It is obvious that students who go overseas to further their studies are capable of profound thought, such as finding ways of overcoming poverty.

In fact, suggestion and constructive criticisms on such issues are also given by Opposition members and Government backbenchers.

"We have yet to detain those who forward their views on how to overcome poverty," he added.

On the suggestion by Dr. Tan that Ministers should hold more meetings and dialogues when they are overseas, Dr. Mahathir said many students attended such sessions with closed minds.

No oppression

QUOTE

Many students do not want to listen to our explanations, let alone try and accept them. The idea that they are the champions of the less fortunate is deeply entrenched in their minds and they have the idea that only their views are right.

— DR. MAHATHIR

"They do not want to listen to our explanations, let alone try and accept it. The idea that they are the champions of the less fortunate is deeply entrenched in their minds and they have the idea that only their views are right."

Replying to a supplementary question by Haji Suhaimi bin Datuk Haji Kamaruddin (NF-Sepang), Dr. Mahathir said the Government