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MAHATHIR-MIT
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KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 26 (BERNAMA)—EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY THAT THE MARA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY WILL NOT REDUCE ITS PRESENT STUDENT POPULATION TO 4,500.

EVEN IF THERE WAS INTENTION TO EXPEL SOME STUDENTS, THIS WOULD ONLY AFFECT ABOUT 200 STUDENTS WHO WERE REALLY INVOLVED IN THE TAKE-OVER OF THE MIT CAMPUS RECENTLY AND INSTIGATING OTHER STUDENTS TO JOIN THEM.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE STUDENTS WOULD BE ASKED, IN INTERVIEWS LATER, IF THEY WANTED TO STUDY AND OBEY ALL THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED.

+IF THEY DO NOT WANT TO STUDY AND DO NOT WANT TO OBEY ALL THE CONDITIONS LAID DOWN, THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE IN THE MIT AT ALL, + HE STRESSED.

HE SAID THAT ABOUT 1,120 STUDENTS UNDERGOING FOREIGN UNIVERSITY

DEGREE AND SECRETARIAL SCIENCE COURSES IN THE JALAN OTHMAN, PETALING JAYA, CAMPUS, AND NEW ENTRANTS THIS YEAR WOULD NOT BE VETTED BUT THEY WOULD HAVE TO TAKE AN OATH TO OBEY ALL THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED.—BERNAMA MORE 1916/NB

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PROBLEM NOW WAS TO PROVIDE SUITABLE FACILITIES SO THAT EACH STUDENT COULD STUDY UNDER IDEAL CONDITIONS THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS WOULD BE REDUCED AND SCHOLARSHIP - HOLDERS WOULD BE ASKED TO SEEK ACCOMMODATION NEAR THE CAMPUS.

IN THIS WAY, THE RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE, HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID ALL MEASURES TAKEN WERE AIMED AT MAKING THE MIT INTO A PREMIER INSTITUTION.

HE ALSO SAID THAT SINCE THE CLOSING DOWN OF THE MIT, NO PARENT HAD CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT ON ITS MOVE.

HE HAD RECEIVED LETTERS FROM STUDENTS WHO WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE TAKE-OVER URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO RE-OPEN THE MIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.—BERNAMA MORE 1920/NB

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ON ALLEGATIONS THAT THE MIT STUDENTS DID NOT GET PROPER FOOD, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT SPENT \$600,000 A MONTH ON THEIR FOOD.

HE SAID THAT IN CATERING FOOD FOR SUCH A LARGE POPULATION, THERE WERE BOUND TO BE SHORTCOMINGS BUT THIS WOULD BE REMEDIED THROUGH PROPER SUPERVISION.

HE HAD DIRECTED THE MIT ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE PROPER FACILITIES IN THE HOSTELS BEFORE THE RE-OPENING OF THE INSTITUTE.—BERNAMA 1922/NB