

# No political crisis, says Mahathir

**BUTTERWORTH**  
Mon. — There is no political crisis in the country, Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said yesterday.

He also gave an assurance that the security problem had not developed beyond the control of the Government and the security forces.

Dr. Mahathir was speaking on Politics and National Security at a picnic and political gathering organised by the Mata Kuching Umno division at Pantai Bersih in Bagan Ajam.

He said political and security problems did not pose a major threat to Malaysia which had a strong democratic Government with the full support of the people.

"We need not worry about our future. The present political happenings are normal political problems," he said.

He said the security problem had not spread far and wide beyond control.

"Within three years after independence, we had successfully contained the spread of communism.

"With the people's support, the security forces had driven the communists to the Malaysian-Thai border."

The present communist disturbances, Dr. Mahathir said, were created by only a handful of people out to disrupt the democratic system of the country.

## Rural areas

"This small group is not happy with our system and is out to grab power by illegal means.

"They terrorise people in the rural and urban areas."

Dr. Mahathir said though Malaysia practised democracy and permitted the participation of political parties in elections, it would not tolerate communism.

"This is because Malaysia would not allow the Malayan Communist Party to change the present democratic system."

Umno, as the main component of the National Front, had given privileges not only to bumiputras but also to the other races, he said.

Umno had also to co-

operate with the other component parties in order to gain their support within the National Front. "No one can deny the tolerant attitude of Umno," he said.

Dr. Mahathir said it was not the aim of Umno leaders to monopolise the party. They were elected to maintain party security which formed the backbone of the Government.

"As the present leaders will one day pass away, the present generation must equip themselves to take over," he said.