

**DON'T FIGHT IMAGINARY ENEMIES, MALAYS TOLD**

# Mahathir: Issues that do not exist

**BENTONG, Sun.** — Malays were urged today not to waste their time, talents and energy fighting "imaginary enemies and issues."

Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, opening the Bentong Umno annual delegates conference here this morning, said: "There are Malays, including Umno members, who bring up issues that do not really exist, merely for the sake of drawing attention to themselves."

"It will be more beneficial to themselves, the party and the nation if they utilise their time and efforts for important and useful issues of today."

Dr. Mahathir cited several examples of those fighting "self-created, non-existent enemies and issues."

He said: "Some Malays criticise the Government for allowing science to be taught to Muslims. They claim we indulge in a secular educational system contrary to Islamic teachings."

"But they deliberate-



**A rousing welcome for Dr. Mahathir.**

ly and conveniently choose to forget that in order to progress, we must equip ourselves with scientific and technological knowledge."

He said that it was obvious that the motive of such people was to draw attention to themselves for their own interest.

Drawing a parallel to the legendary Spanish knight, Don Quixote who tried to fight a windmill thinking it to be a dragon, he said: "Those who create make-believe enemies and try to fight them, will end up getting hurt and achieving nothing."

Dr. Mahathir also criticised those who suggested what he described as "preposterous" ideas which did not benefit anyone.

He said there were some who wanted a prayer place in a train. There were others who wanted the Quran to be kept in hotel rooms just because other religious books had been placed there.

"We must bear in mind that any prayer place, or any place where the Holy Book is to be kept, must be commensurate with the aim

and dignity that go with it.

"There must be absolutely no room for any abuse," he added.

Dr. Mahathir, who is also a Umno national vice-president, also spoke of those who criticised the Government simply because their views were not accepted.

He said that history had proved beyond any doubt that the strength and unity of Umno that prevailed when the country obtained independence still remained.

"It is our enshrined duty to ensure that we preserve and sustain this

strength and unity.

"If we allow members to create non-existent enemies and then attempt to fight them, then they may undermine this strength," he added.

Earlier, Umno Bentong head, Encik Abdul Malek Mohamed said that it was the duty of every citizen to leave no stone unturned till the communists and subversive elements were eliminated.

He added this was already being proved with the many successes over these evil elements.

Dr. Mahathir, who arrived in a Nuri helicopter, was given a rousing welcome by more than 3,000 people.

A 100-man motorcycle outriders comprising Umno members led him to the Umno headquarters here.

A 16-man kumpang group and a traditional bunga mangga party welcomed him at the entrance. He was garlanded by Encik Abdul Malek. Among those to welcome him was Deputy Education Minister, Encik Chan Siang Sun, who is also MP for Bentong.