

Mahathir hits at small group in Umno

N.S.T. 15 MAY 1978

ALOR STAR, Fri. — Datuk Seri (Dr.) Mahathir hit out today at the small group in Umno which refuse to accept the new leaders and which refuse to co-operate with the majority group who accept the new leadership.

He said the small group in doing what it was doing would only weaken the party.

He said Umno practised democracy which meant that all members must accept the majority voice or the consensus of opinion. This must be clearly understood by all members.

"If any group, no matter how small, refuse to accept the majority voice it would bring chaos to the party," he said when he opened the annual delegates' conference of Alor Star Umno division.

Similarly, if any decision had been taken by the majority, it must be accepted by all.

He warned of the seriousness of not accepting a majority voice.

Datuk Seri (Dr.) Mahathir said the recent assassination of former Italian Prime Minister Dr. Aldo Moro was the work of a small group of people who refused to accept the majority voice by resorting to terrorism to achieve their aims.

He urged Umno mem-

bers to abide by party discipline and follow all its directives from headquarters.

He also urged them to abide by the party's rules and regulations. If all members did so, Umno would continue to be strong, otherwise it would be destroyed.

He further called on Umno members to support all National Front candidates in the coming elections irrespective of whatever component party the candidate represents.

He also pledged to continue to help Alor Star Umno division although he was no more its leader.

Many reasons

Datuk Seri (Dr.) Mahathir said there were many reasons why he did not accept re-nomination for the post of the division's chairman this year.

He said one of the reasons was that he could not hold two posts as he had already been elected as chairman of Kubang Pasu division.

Another reason was that the change of leadership in the party was a usual thing, and changes must take place.

No matter how popular or capable a leader is, he will have to go because of sickness or death or other unavoidable reasons.

"That is why changes are taking place not only amongst leaders but also in various other fields. Therefore, outgoing leaders have to give way willingly to the new leaders.