

Dr M hits at 'provocative' foreign Press

N.S.T. 24 MAY 1980

ALOR STAR, Fri. — The Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, has hit out at the foreign Press for carrying reports which aroused communal tension.

Such reports were only aimed at creating communal tension and chaos which might lead to rebellion against the Government, he added.

"We should be cautious about such reports and should not be easily influenced by them," he

said today when opening the Kubang Pasu Umno delegates' meeting at the Sekolah Menengah Sultan Abdul Halim in Jenan, 12 miles from here.

He said the reports in the foreign Press and magazines may have attracted the attention of the Chinese community in Malaysia because they were under the impression that foreign journalists were championing their cause.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir urged the Chinese community not to

carry this wrong impression because the main objective of such reports was to instigate them to protest against the Government and to arouse hatred against the other communities, particularly the Malays.

He also cautioned the Malays not to be affected by such reports and vent their anger at the Chinese community.

"Such actions will only fulfil the wishes of the foreign Press which is out to create communal tension through their reports," he said.

He cited the Internal Security Act as an issue which had been exploited by the foreign Press for ulterior motives.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said although Malaysia was a multi-racial country, the Government was able to bring rapid progress and prosperity to the people who had lived in peace and harmony since independence.

On Umno, he said it had to create a leadership which truly struggled for the party's interests.

"If we ignore the party's constitution, regulations and policies just for self-interest, the future of Umno and the nation will be affected."

If this happened, there would be chaos in the country and all the people would suffer.

"It is wrong to think that if there is chaos in the country, the rich will fall and the poor will become rich," he said.

He also criticised certain groups of people who had misled the Malays about Islam.