

Mahathir 'no' to

NST 22 OCT 1981

second DPM

By HARJIT SINGH

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today rejected the MCA Youth's demand for a second Deputy Prime Minister.

He told the 42-member delegation that came to see him on the issue that certain matters should never be brought up.

The Prime Minister's political secretary, Megat Junid bin Megat Ayub told

newsmen that Dr. Mahathir told the delegation that "certain matters which are 'non-starters' will not benefit anybody."

The meeting lasted three hours.

He also said Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir took note of the other issues brought up by the MCA Youth.

The issues are on the appointment of more Chinese District Officers and Assistant District Officers, overcoming the citizenship prob-

lems of about 200,000 non-Malays, the plight of foreign wives and the illegal immigration problem.

As for the youth wing's call for more Chinese programmes and a certain series by RTM that should be improved, Megat Junid said the Prime Minister told the MCA Youth members that he will bring the matter up with the Information Minister.

However, the political secretary's version of what

transpired at the meeting (he was present) differed from that of the MCA Youth leader Datuk Lee Kim Sai.

Datuk Lee said at a Press conference at the entrance to the Prime Minister's department that two hours of the meeting was devoted to the question of the second Deputy Prime Minister.

Megat Junid said this was not quite correct as other matters were also discussed.

Both agreed that the Prime Minister told the MCA Youth delegation that the second Deputy Prime Minister issue "cannot be considered now."

Datuk Lee said the delegation told Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir about the problems being faced by the people concerned in the matters that were being raised by the MCA Youth.

"The Prime Minister appreciated our report on this and took note of our views and suggestions."

"He said follow up action will be taken to overcome these problems...he also outlined what measures will be taken but I cannot reveal them to the Press."

Here, Megat Junid said Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir only said he will take note of the matters that had been brought up.

Fruitful

On the RTM issue, Datuk Lee said "Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said he will take the matter up with Information Minister and rectify it"

At this juncture, Megat Junid, who was present at the Press conference intervened and said the Prime Minister had only said he will bring the matter up with the Information Minister.

Datuk Lee said he was sitting beside Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir and he did say that this matter will be rectified.

He also said the dialogue was fruitful and meaningful and success was attained in certain things.

He said the Prime Minister also told them that he was willing to meet the MCA Youth again if they wanted to in case of any new development.

Megat Junid said the Prime Minister reiterated his message at the recent MCA general assembly that certain matters should not be raised.

He said this was stressed by the Prime Minister to MCA Youth.