

We'll wait and see, says Dr. M

Rahim to step down?

95

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IPOH, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today "We will wait and see" when asked to comment on the *New Straits Times* report that Pahang Menteri Besar Haji Rahim Bakar is stepping down soon.

The Prime Minister made the comment at a Press conference at the end of his two-day official visit to Perak.

Late last night, after attending a State dinner in his honour, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir had a

private talk with the Sultan of Perak at Sri Tambun Palace.

While the Prime Minister today said that it was a mere "courtesy call" observers here believe that he had briefed the Sultan on the Government's stand, as "bluntly put" by former Premier Tunku Abdul Rahman that the Rulers do not have any right to interfere with the elected representatives of the people.

There is speculation here

that the Sultan, being the most senior among the country's nine Rulers, will be expected to pass the message on.

The Prime Minister who was also asked if he will relinquish his post as chairman of Perak Umno liaison committee, said he will decide soon and will inform the Umno Supreme Council at its next meeting "if I have decided."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir took over the leadership of Perak

Umno in 1977 following a crisis between the Perak Sultan and the then Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Ghazali Jawi.

But because of his pressing duties as Prime Minister, it is believed Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir will want to give up the position to Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Haji Wan Mohamed.

In Kuantan, Haji Rahim declined to comment on the report that he may be resigning soon.

● Yesterday's headline