

NO79
PPP

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 9⁸¹ (BERNAMA) --- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS DECLINED TO MEET THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) LEADERS UNTIL THEY HAVE RESOLVED THEIR PRESENT LEADERSHIP SQUABBLE, SOURCES SAID TODAY.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE REASON FOR THE REJECTION WAS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD NOT WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PARTY'S PRESENT LEADERSHIP CRISIS.

+THE PRIME MINISTER HOPES THAT THE PPP LEADERS COULD SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS BEFORE MEETING HIM, + A SOURCE SAID.

A LOCAL NEWSPAPER YESTERDAY REPORTED THE +NEWLY ELECTED+ PPP PRESIDENT, ENCIK PARAMJIT SINGH AS SAYING THAT THE PARTY HAD WRITTEN TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TO BRIEF HIM ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PARTY.

THE LETTER WAS SENT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PARTY ENCIK CHIN KEE SEONG ONE WEEK BEFORE THE NOV. 30 ELECTION OF NEW OFFICE BEARERS OF THE PARTY.

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HOWEVER THE APPOINTMENT WAS TURNED DOWN IN A LETTER SENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S POLITICAL SECRETARY, MEGAT JUNID AYUB, A WEEK AFTER THE ELECTION.

THE PPP IS PRESENTLY FACING A LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE WITH ITS +OUSTED+ PRESIDENT, SENATOR S. I. RAJAH CLAIMING THAT HE IS TILL THE RIGHTFUL PRESIDENT.

SENATOR S. RAJAH'S FACTION CHARGED THAT THE ELECTION OF ENCIK PARAMJIT SINGH AND THE NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY AT THE TRIENNIAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE IN IPOH WAS INVALID.

—BERNAMA 1659/AN