

Why did Ghaz

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act now?

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Three days before he would become Malaysia's fourth Prime Minister, his former political secretary was arrested for being in the pay of the KGB.

However, the unfortunate timing of the arrest should not affect Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir's political position.

Indeed, according to sources, last Monday was the best time to make the arrest, under all the circumstances.

Following over two years' Special Branch surveillance Dr. Mahathir's former aide, Siddiq Ghouse, could have been picked up last month or even the month before.

Duplicity

But it was not thought politic to do so before the Umno general assembly last month as the arrest might have been thought to have a political motivation.

On the other hand, if Siddiq was arrested after July 16, the date on which Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad becomes Prime Minister, it would be embarrassing for the new Prime Minister — so soon after arriving at that high office.

Finally, the arrest of Siddiq Ghouse was, in all probability, fixed for Monday, July 13, because that date coincided with the opening of the UN special conference on Kampuchea in New

With Moscow preaching against intervention in the domestic affairs of Kampuchea, and accusing Asean of doing so, yet another example of Soviet duplicity and interference in the domestic affairs of others — in this case Malaysia — was probably thought to be appropriate.