

Dr M: Peking Reds still backing CPM

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By YEE MEE FAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Government is certain that the Communist Party of China (CCP) is giving moral support to the illegal Communist Party of Malaya (CPM)

However, the authorities do not know for sure whether the CCP is giving military support to the CPM.

The Prime Minister, replying to questions about Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang's visit tomorrow, said Malaysia had asked China's strongman Deng Xiaoping to cut party links with the CPM.

Mr Deng, the Senior Vice-Premier who visited Kuala Lumpur in 1978, replied then that there was no relationship between party to party

links and Government to Government ties.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said after the Chinese leader's visit here "that, there was a "slight response" from the Chinese.

For instance, the broadcasts of the *Suara Revolusi Malaya* (Voice of the Malayan Revolution) from its South China base ceased.

Square one

However, a new radio station, believed to be based in southern Thailand, calling itself the *Voice of Malayan Democracy*, had emerged.

"Therefore, as far as we are concerned, we are back to square one," the Prime Minister told reporters after entertaining 120 orphans and handicapped children at his residence this afternoon.

He said as far as Malaysia was concerned,

there was a link between Government to Government and party to party relations. "That is our stand," he stressed.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is scheduled to have two meetings with Premier Zhao during the three-day visit, said he would seek China's understanding and co-operation on the concept of the neutralisation of the South-East Asian region (Zopfan).

The concept seeks to establish a political framework for relations among States in the region, to regulate involvement of outside powers in the region so as to deny them opportunities to involve themselves politically and militarily in the affairs of the States within the zone.

It is a principle of equidistance denying the countries within the zone from involving themselves in big power rivalries.