

PM EXPOSES NEW THREAT

By P.K. KATHARASON

KOTA BARU, Mon. — Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) today exposed the activities of a certain group that is inciting the army to hate the Government and create chaos.

The group is spreading seeds of discontent among army and police personnel by saying, among other things, that they are shouldering the burden of security but are not being paid enough, he said.

If the activities of the group are left unchecked, there will be chaos, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir told about 5,000 Barisan Nasional leaders at a tea party at Palm Manor, the residence of Finance Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah. He did not identify the group.

"If the armed forces or police personnel are influenced and they feel disheartened, this will result in them neglecting their responsi-

bility of maintaining security, thus leaving the way open for the enemy to create chaos."

He said that if disturbances occurred again in the country, it would not be possible to put an end to them because experience in other countries showed that efforts to topple the Government through violence would result in prolonged chaos.

Describing the group as irresponsible, the Prime Minister said that in a democratic country like Malaysia, it was everyone's right to replace the Government so long as it was done legally, and not through deceit and use of sentiments which could arouse enmity.

"As the ruling party, Barisan Nasional would not make use of illegal methods to achieve victory or to maintain its position."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said that the group was misleading the people by manipulating religious issues.

However, he warned that "those who do hold firm to religion and make use of it as they pleased with the aim of deceiving the people are sure to be defeated".

Barisan Nasional component parties should strengthen their position to overcome the dirty tactics of Opposition parties, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that Barisan Nasional was a unique party and there was none parallel to it anywhere in the world.

"Barisan Nasional comprises a group of parties with different ideas but have come to an understanding in the interest of the nation."

He said Barisan component parties should not treat those who were influenced by the Opposition parties as their enemies.

"We should not persecute them just because they were misled by some quarters."

Speaking at a State dinner at Istana Balai Besar here, he said the moderation shown by the Government showed that it was a true Islamic Government.

ASSURANCE

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Islam emphasised peace and well-being and he gave the assurance that

the Government would continue to hold firm to the teachings of Islam in its administration at all times.

He regretted that there were some quarters for whom the religion only meant "chopping off of heads and hands" and for whom there would be no Islam so long as such things were not implemented.

"We know that Islam is more than that. Islam, in fact, stresses well-being and happiness of the people."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also regretted that politics which disregarded the teachings of Islam had redeveloped in Kelantan, resulting in a split among Muslims to the extent that more efforts were being focussed on party politics than on development of Muslims.