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Mahathir warns extremists

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat.
— **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** today reminded religious extremists, deviationists and would-be revolutionaries of the existence of the ISA.

In a warning to them, the Prime Minister said the Act will be used against those who threaten the security and unity of the country.

"It is important to remember that we still have the ISA," he said.

"If certain people pose a threat to the country, we can arrest them."

He, however, said he could not foresee any arrests being made under the ISA in the "immediate future."

"What happens after that, I cannot say," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said some members of an Opposition party have become so extreme they consider themselves apart from other Muslims in the country.

"We can have opposition parties in the country but they should not go to the extreme of telling lies to destroy the unity of the people over things which are not political," he said.

To this party, nothing that the Government is doing to help the people, the Malays in particular, is right or good, he added.

When the Amanah Saham Nasional scheme was launched to

help Malays get their share of the corporate wealth in the country, he said, the party had criticised it.

"Yet, if we had not launched such a scheme, it will, instead, be criticising us and asking what the Government, in particular Umno, has done for the Malays after 26 years in power," the Prime Minister said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir told reporters after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting, that apart from taking such action as arresting those whose activities threaten the security of the nation, the Government will just have to continue explaining its policies to the people.

He noted that some members of the party at the lower levels have been known to have connections with the outlawed Communist Party of Malaya (CPM).

They have also had meetings with the communists, who are aiming at this particular group of people for support.

The communists have also voiced their support for the so-called Muslim struggle.

Asked whether the Government would arrest party members with such links, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir merely said there was no need to identify them at the moment.

Asked which group — the communists or extremist fundamen

talists — posed the bigger threat to the nation's security, the Prime Minister said: "Both pose different threats."

He also differentiated between the harmless fundamentalists and the deviationists.

The fundamentalists are those who adhere to the teachings of the Quran; the deviationists are the ones who go to the extreme and move from the actual teachings into something quite different.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said there was a move among some members of the Opposition party to create a revolution in the country.

These would-be revolutionaries worked on the basis that the existing system was bad and hence should be replaced, he added.