

Raja Muda of Perak to meet Dr M

1983
KUALA LUMPUR,

Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he would be meeting the Raja Muda of Perak tomorrow and the counter-proposals agreed upon by the Rulers would then be conveyed to him.

The Rulers came up with the counter-proposals at a meeting yesterday following a lengthy discussion of the suggestions put forward by the Prime Minister in a letter to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong dated Friday Dec 9.

Yesterday's meeting, which was hosted by the King, was attended by the Rulers of Perlis, Kedah, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Johore and Kelantan and the Regent of Pahang and the Raja Muda of Perak, Raja Tun Azlan Shah. Also present were the Rulers' legal adviser, Raja Aziz Addruse, and Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, who was invited as an unofficial Government representative.

The Prime Minister was speaking to about 30

reporters who had waited for him at the University of Malaya this morning, where he had addressed delegates to the International Symposium on Technology, Culture and Development.

He said he had not received the Rulers' counter-proposals. "But whatever they are we will look at them and consider them."

'Opportunists'

Will you be meeting the Yang di-Pertuan Agong tomorrow?

I won't be meeting the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, I will be meeting the Raja Muda of Perak.

Have you been told by Tengku Rithauddeen what actually transpired?

I cannot talk because this is something that is being negotiated.

Are you confident that this issue will be solved?

I am beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel, I can say.

What is the content of the letter that you sent to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong?

Well, it is a counter-

proposal on our part which we think is very reasonable and which should satisfy both sides, what exactly they are I cannot say. We hope, of course, that it will satisfy the Rulers.

The counter proposals that (the Rulers) made yesterday...does that mean they rejected your proposals?

No, I think what they are thinking about is some modification of our proposals, which is usual in the process of negotiation.

Are you optimistic of the outcome?

I am always optimistic, I have to be.

But there are speculations about the proposals before this, can you confirm any of this?

I can't confirm anything because it is something that is being negotiated. If I start hardening my position in the Press, then I have no more room to move.

Was there any withdrawal of any amendments in your proposals?

Well, we will see when the final results come...whether it is a withdrawal or not.

Datuk, what's the time for tomorrow's meeting?

Haven't been fixed yet.

Will you be meeting the Press after the meeting?

That all depends, we will decide.

Who will be at the meeting?

The Raja Muda (of Perak, Raja Tun Azlan Shah) and the legal adviser, Raja Aziz Addruse.

Just the three of you?

There may be other people, I don't know.

There was a call by Pemuda Umno for you to expose the petualangs (opportunists) now?

Well, I have to think about the good and bad effects of making the statement now. I can't just make a decision like... (unintelligible chatter of more questions from reporters as aides and bodyguards moved in to surround the Prime Minister as he signalled an end to the interview.)