

NO RIFT, SAY 2MS

530 SEP 1985

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad defended his colleagues in Umno and the Government today and vouched for their dedication and sincerity.

The Prime Minister and Umno president also reiterated that there was no rift between him and his deputy, Datuk Musa Hitam, and appealed to party members to stop such talk.

And Datuk Musa broke his long silence over his relationship with Dr Mahathir at today's special sitting of the Umno general assembly, saying that they understood each other and that "we have never quarrelled."

During the assembly, which started on Friday, several delegates had criticised the party leadership and asked them to practise what they preached.

They had also asked party leaders to stop the rivalry among themselves if they wanted the same among the ranks.

In his winding-up speech, Dr Mahathir admitted that there were minor weaknesses among Umno and government leaders but added that people should not pick on one bad point when there were nine good ones.

"We know we are not perfect. But please give credit where it is due," he said.

"Leaders are human. We try to practise good things. Follow their dedication, hard work and sincerity but leave out the bad points."

He also expressed full confidence in Datuk Musa.

"I have never doubted Datuk Musa's loyalty to the party or Government," he said and urged people to stop talking about a rift between them.

Despite earlier denials by Dr Mahathir on the alleged rift, talk was still rife that he and Datuk Musa did not get along.

Many Umno members also specu-

lated that there was a rift because all the denials had come from Dr Mahathir and Datuk Musa had remained silent.

Referring to this, Dr Mahathir said: "Although many people had asked me why it was I, and not Datuk Musa, who always denied there was a rift, my confidence in Datuk Musa's loyalty as a colleague in the party and Government never wavered."

Datuk Musa, in denying that there was a rift between him and Dr Mahathir, pledged his undivided support for the party president.

"I was said to have quarrelled with Dr Mahathir and people said I went overseas (during Hari Raya) because I was sulking," said Datuk Musa.

"I was not in the country at that time because of personal problems.

"I have been able to settle my problems amicably and there is no bitterness between me and my ex-wife.

"I have not remarried secretly and neither have I had a child in secret," he said.

OTHER REPORTS

CLOSE RANKS SAYS DR M

Dr Mahathir appealed to Umno members to be united, give their full support to the leadership and be prepared to face the general election. — 2

CUEPACS GETS A WARNING

THE Prime Minister has warned Cuepacs that action would be taken against it if its industrial action led to civil disturbances. — 2

I SUPPORT PM: MUSA

Datuk Musa Hitam said he always supported Dr Mahathir and his policies and will continue to do so. — 3

'YES' TO THE CHANGES

UMNO delegates unanimously passed amendments to the party constitution to curb money politics and abuse of power. — 4