

PM: No change in stand against the CPM

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ALOR STAR, Fri. — The Government is firm in its policy against the Communist Party of Malaya and there is no need for it to be brought up again with China, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We have made our stand clear on several occasions and the rest is up to China," said the Prime Minister who will be visiting China for nine days beginning next Wednesday.

"Our relationship with China is on a government to

government basis and is different from the ones we have with other countries which are not involved in any party that opposes our Government.

"If the Chinese leaders do not want to change their attitude, there is nothing we can do," he told reporters after meeting about 1,500 State Umno leaders here.

Dr Mahathir also explained that his visit to China was solely to study the latest developments there and to identify new avenues

for trade.

"We have to study the effects of the changes in China on other nations, especially Malaysia," he added.

"This trip is also to get to know the Chinese leaders better as we have done in the past with other nations which we have diplomatic ties with."

Earlier, Dr Mahathir criticised certain Malays whom he described as the "worst enemies of their own race."

"These people, some of

them Umno members, are even prepared to destroy the party for their own selfish interests.

"They are the worst enemies of their own kind for which they have no regard at all."

He said although these Umno members had an organisation to protect their interests, they were prepared to destroy it.

He told the Malays, especially party members, to remember that Umno was a fortress which strived for

and glorified Islam.

"We must unite to achieve this common goal."

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, reminded party members to be prepared for the general election.

When asked when the election would be, he said: "There is still a lot of time. There is still more than a year before the (current) term expires."

Dr Mahathir also ticked off PAS vice-president Us-taz Haji Nakhaie Haji Ah-

mad over his recent statement that the economic slowdown was due to poor planning and lavish spending by the Government.

He said it appeared that Haji Nakhaie did not know anything about the nation's economy.

"If he is so well-versed in the field, then why did he keep silent in the past?"

"The Government has not spent lavishly and most of our money went to rural development projects," he added.