

Umno happy with the outcome of major issues

STAR 13 JUN 1986

By I. RAJESWARY and
WONG SAI WAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — The Umno Supreme Council emerged from a three-hour meeting this evening satisfied that the Government had overcome major issues such as the Sabah crisis, the civil servants wage claims and the recession.

Party chief Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told a press conference that they discussed many political developments in the Barisan Nasional "and we decided to wait and see the further development of these problems."

The Prime Minister said the council members gave their views on problems and issues and how to overcome them.

He admitted that there were other problems which were not fully resolved: "Economic problems are not fully resolved and certain political problems that need to be resolved."

However, he said, there were signs of an economic recovery especially in the electronics and timber industries: "I believe the economy will improve but it will take some time."

Dr Mahathir said the council also touched on the allocation of seats "which is always a problem."

"But I believe people are sensible enough to appreciate that there should be a lot of give and take, if we are going to work together," he added.

On plans for the next general election, Dr Mahathir said the party was planning many things soon and it discussed generally that the party should campaign for the election.

Asked if he would be able to say at this juncture whether the election would be this year or next year, he said: "At this juncture, no."

The council also decided to set up an election commission, chaired by Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Mohamed Zahir Ismail, to oversee the Youth and Wanita elections next month.

The other members of the commission are Tan Sri Kadir Yusof, Tan Sri Mohamed Khir Johari, Tan Sri Jen. Hamid Bidin, Tan Sri Samad Idris, Tan Sri Fatimah Hashim and Tan Sri Aishah Abdul Ghani.

Seven people were also admitted into the party.

They are: former PSRM member Abdul Rahman Yunus, former PAS members Jamaluddin Mohamed Diah, Abdullah Din, Bakar Salleh and Talib Fajar, former Umno members Osman Ismail and Kamarulzaman Yaakob.

The council also decided to postpone the party's annual general meeting by a week, from July 31 to Aug. 3 because of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's daughter's wedding.

On the country's current account deficit which is already large, Dr Mahathir said he expected it to be bigger next year: "Unless there is a dramatic rise in the prices of our commodities, chances are that the current account deficit will remain."

Asked if the council discussed moves by certain people to set up Umno branches in Sabah, Dr Mahathir said this was not discussed although he said he was waiting to see these people.

The meeting at Sri Perdana began at 8.30 and ended at 11.45.