

# Dr M speaks for Asia at Non-Aligned Summit

# Our faith in shared destiny

From LIM THOW BOON

31 SEP 1986

**HARARE, Tues. — Malaysia has expressed scepticism about the intentions of the industrialised countries towards the less developed ones, saying there is at least a strategy to "keep us down."**

However, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said "we would not abandon our underlying faith in international co-operation though the doors we knock on remain unopen."

He was responding to the nomination of Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe as the new chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) yesterday. His speech, made on behalf of Asia, was read by Foreign Minister Datuk Rais Yatim.

(Dr Mahathir was in Tanzania yesterday to invite Julius Nyerere to head the proposed South Commission which will chart strategies

on economic and development issues facing the South. The commission was proposed at the second South-South Summit in Kuala Lumpur in May).

In his speech, Dr Mahathir said NAM was due for stock-taking after 25 years of existence.

He said: "If in our early years we scored resounding victories, bringing independence and freedom to many, it does not mean the way ahead is going to be smooth."

## □ MORE REPORTS ON PAGE 12

"On the contrary, we face multifarious issues with multifacet dimensions. We face sophisticated adversaries who have perfected the art of diffusing into the winds our challenges.

"Having had to concede to our political freedom, the process of emasculation cuts back into us."

Dr Mahathir said the dream of a new international economic order on the basis of a shared destiny, interdependence and a just world order might still turn out to be "at best, an unfulfilled expectation, at worst, a mirage."

Advanced technology in the hands of a hostile industrialised world could make useless and unnecessary our commodities and raw materials.

Developing countries have seen the fate of their minerals and the once mighty petroleum.

"If it is not conspiracy, at least the strategy is there to keep us down," Dr Mahathir said.

"If the developed world really wants to decouple from us, so be it.

"We, however, will not abandon our underlying faith in international co-operation, though the doors we knock on remain unopen."

Turning to the nomination of Mr Mugabe as the chairman of NAM, Dr Mahathir said he was mindful of the heavy burden that would be placed on the Zimbabwean Prime Minister.

He noted that Zimbabwe has emerged in triumph from a long struggle. It deserves a period of happy reconstruction and yet South Africa looms menacingly.

"Without flinching, he has taken on that challenge," Dr Mahathir said. "We now add on to your overburdened shoulders the weight and responsibilities of the movement.

"Yet with pride and full confidence we do so, certain that we are in his safe and able hands."