

# Setting up of South Commission by year end

*P Mahathir -*

*Oversee trip*  
From LIM THOW BOON

HARARE, Thurs. — The South Commission — an independent body whose objective is to draw up proposals for solving problems facing poor countries — will be set up by the end of the year.

Announcing this at a Press conference yesterday, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he expected the commission would take about two years to complete its work. Its recommendations will then be submitted to various countries for implementation.

Members of the commission — they are expected to number 20 — will be picked by its chairman, Tanzanian statesman Julius Nyerere, with the assistance of the steering committee which prepared the groundwork for the establishment of the body.

The committee, set up at the second South-South conference in Kuala Lumpur in May, is chaired by Dr Mahathir.

The choice of the location for the commission's headquarters will also be left to Mr Nyerere.

Replying to a question, Dr Mahathir said there was no move to include the formation of the commission in the declaration of the current Non-Aligned summit.

This is because the commission is an independent body outside the umbrella of NAM or the Group of 77 (the developing countries' voice in the United Nations) or any other organisation.

All he wants is an expression of support from NAM leaders.

For the same reason, no attempt will be made to solicit large donations so that no Government or

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organisation can dictate to the commission. The body will depend on small financial assistance.

Replying to another question, Dr Mahathir hoped that the recommendations of the South Commission would not end up like the Brandt Commission report on North-South co-operation.

He remarked that perhaps the Brandt Commission report was not implemented because the "North was not keen" about it.

In the case of the South Commission, it is being set up to help poor countries of the South. It will be in their interest to come together and solve their problems.