

We had no knowledge of Dollah's speech: PM

STAR 15 SEP 1986

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Top Umno leaders had no prior knowledge of the contents of the speech given by Kok Lanas MP Datuk Abdullah Ahmad in Singapore recently, party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"I have no connection whatsoever with the speech.

"The views were not motivated by the party and it was Datuk Abdullah's own views," he added in an interview published today in *Mingguan Malaysia*.

The Prime Minister reiterated that the views expressed by Datuk Abdullah, who was a former Deputy Minister in the

Prime Minister's Department, were not those of the party.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on an editorial in the Singapore *Sunday Times* which said that although Datuk Abdullah came to the country not as a representative of Umno or the Government, "his views should be viewed seriously because it reflected the views of his party which has governed the country through an alliance of all races since Independence."

The editorial added that the full text play-up of Datuk Abdullah's speech by Malaysian newspapers further strengthened the fact that his views were in

line with statements made by top Umno leaders after the recent general election.

This is the second time that Dr Mahathir had commented on the speech. He said on his return from Harere last Monday that the speech was the personal opinion of Datuk Abdullah.

Comments over the speech have continued to appear in the mass media.

Datuk Abdullah made the speech at a forum on *Issues in Malaysian Politics* at the International Affairs Institute in Singapore. Among others, he said the politics in Malaysia was based on Malay dominance.