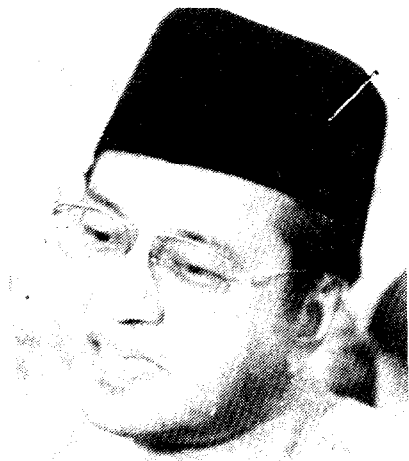
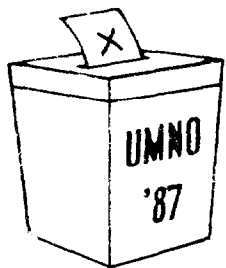


I WON'T GO: Dr M



Dr Mahathir... "It is a natural instinct for a man to retaliate."

By P.K.Poh
ALOR STAR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he would resign as Umno president "when the time comes — but I will not be forced out."
"I have to fight back such force created by a certain group as it is a natural instinct for a man to retaliate," he said when opening the meeting of the Umno Kubang Pasu division, which is his own division.
The Prime Minister warned aspiring Umno leaders against "toppling those at the top" and urged them to await their turn to move up. They should abide by the party's tradition for a peaceful succession.

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"Umno presidents and former Prime Ministers have never been forced out of office because we have a tradition that must be maintained," he said.
Tun Abdul Razak, he said, waited for 13 years before succeeding Tunku Abdul Rahman when the latter retired. Tun Hussein Onn also never tried to force his way to replace Tun Razak.
"In a similar spirit, I never tried to topple Tun Hussein but took over when he retired due to health reasons," he said. "This is the Umno tradition and this must be maintained."
Dr Mahathir said he had originally intended to remain silent during the

campaign leading to the April 24 Umno elections, but was forced to change his mind because too many allegations have been made.
"Accusations have become so wild that some have even alleged that I am among the richest Prime Ministers in the world," he said, adding that such baseless allegations should not have been made just because of the party elections.
Dr Mahathir said the criticisms and allegations were being made by a "selfish lot" who were impatient to take over.
He said this group had once described the Penang Bridge as a pride of the nation. Now, suddenly, they had done an about turn and were criticising the project.

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 - Nominations table
 - Query over sale of Daim's shares
- On Page 7:
- How reliable are the nominations?
- On Page 8:
- Come together before it's too late

They ignored the implications and consequences of their actions which could only damage Umno and the Government.
Dr Mahathir also said that changing leaders at random would only split Umno. "Some people now claim that there is a crisis in Umno. In fact, they are the ones trying to create one to facilitate their struggle for power," he said.
"The present Umno leadership had been accepted by the people. We have managed to strengthen unity among the races," he said.
"All this was achieved because we have a strong and tolerant Umno, the backbone of the ruling Barisan Nasional and the Government."