

Mahathir: No one will be bullied

§ 25.3.87

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Umno president Datuk Seri ~~Dr. Mahathir Mohamad~~ said today that he is confident the party leadership will not victimise any party member aligned to anyone in the campaigns for the Umno supreme council elections next month.

"I believe if Tengku Razaleigh wins, he will also not victimise the others," Bernama quoted him as telling reporters after opening the seminar on the *New Economic Policy After 1990* here today.

(It is speculated that Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah will challenge Dr Mahathir for the Umno presidency in the elections at the party general assembly on April 24.)

Asked to comment on claims that several Ministers would resign, Dr Mahathir said he had not heard this from the Ministers concerned.

He said that so far, the claims were made by others and not the Ministers concerned.

Asked to comment on Foreign Minister Datuk Rais Yatim's statement recently that he was prepared to face whatever consequences for supporting Tengku Razaleigh, Dr Mahathir said he respected the statement.

"Datuk Rais is a brave man and I respect his stand," he said.

He said one of the problems he faced as Prime Minister was that he was unable to satisfy everyone's requests for help.

He added that he still had letters from some people who were now dissatisfied with him because "I was unable to help them with their private problems."

He declined to name those involved but said that their problems ranged from "trouble with their banks to asking for Senatorships to wanting to sit on the board of MAS."

"I keep telling them that if I have only one lorry licence and there are 10 people who ask me for it, I'm bound to disappoint nine of them. There is no means in my position to satisfy everybody," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that he still had the letter in which Datuk Musa Hitam threatened to resign if Tengku Razaleigh was appointed a Minister in 1984.

Asked if his supporters were using the letter against Datuk Musa in the election campaign, Dr Mahathir said someone could have made a copy of it.

"I had to pass the letter around to show that it existed," he added.

On the various books being written during the current Umno election campaign, some of which were critical of him, Dr Mahathir claimed that one writer offered to write a book about him for a \$30,000 fee.

"But I didn't think I needed to pay \$30,000 for a book to praise me sky high. That writer subsequently went elsewhere and found some other people who were willing to pay," he said.

He also expressed distaste at "the lies and filth that people write to make money for themselves."

Dr Mahathir said he might write another book himself if he had the time.

"Maybe I'll write another *Malay Dilemma*; the dilemma of a particular Malay — me," he quipped.

On criticism that he was using the mass media, Dr Mahathir said the newspapers were not compelled to publish what he said.