

# **Dr M: No amnesty for Reds - 3 APR 1987 who gave up to Thais**

ALOR STAR, Thurs. — The Government will not give amnesty to members of the outlawed Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) who surrendered in Thailand last month but will accept them if they are willing to be rehabilitated.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that members of the 8th Regiment of the outlawed CPM who claimed they are Malaysians will be allowed to undergo rehabilitation programmes in the country.

"But we will not accept the Thai communists," he told reporters after opening the Tunku Bendahara Primary School in Kodiang, about 40km from here.

He was commenting on reports from Bangkok that the entire force of the 8th Regiment of the CPM had surrendered to Thai authorities.

The total force, numbering 114, including 84 guerillas claiming to be of Malaysian origin and 30 Thais had surrendered in Sadao in Songkhla province and in Bangkok last month.

The guerillas, including 49 women in two batches, gave up on March 13 and March 26.

They had cited failure in their struggles as one of the reasons for laying down arms.

The 8th Regiment is also known as the Marxist-Leninist faction (CPM-ML) and had split from the CPM proper or Revolutionary Faction (CPM-RF) due to ideological differences.

The Prime Minister also said that he had sent a letter to the Thai Prime Minister Gen Prem Tisulanonda today to congratulate Thailand on its success in persuading the guerillas to stop their armed struggle.

The letter also thanked Thailand for the efforts they had put in.

According to the reports, Thai authorities were also trying to persuade the remaining guerillas belonging to the 12th Regiment operating in Yala province and the 10th Regiment in Narathiwat to end their struggle.