

Mahathir confirms receipt of PBDS telex

IST - 4 APR 1987

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. (P)
Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today confirmed that he had received a telex from PBDS that the party would contest under its own symbol during the coming Sarawak State election.

He said the PBDS action was against the recent decision of the Barisan Nasional supreme council.

The Prime Minister said the supreme council would decide on its course of action against the party at its next meeting which is yet to be fixed.

He said all the other three parties contesting would be using the coalition's symbol for the elections.

He was speaking to reporters after the Esso-

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Gapena dinner at the Hilton Hotel here tonight.

He also said he may go to Sarawak to help campaign for the Barisan Nasional candidates.

He said today he had yet to finalise dates for his visit to the State.

Monday is nomination day and polling will be on April 15 and 16.

Earlier in the day when speaking to reporters after opening the meeting of the Asia-Pacific Council of the American Chambers of Commerce here, the Prime Minister referred to Persatuan Rakyat Malaysia Sarawak (Permas).

He confirmed that the BN supreme council had received Permas' application to join the Barisan if it succeeded in forming the next State Government with the PBDS.

"We have not considered it yet. The BN supreme council will decide on it. It is not for me to make the decision," he added.

The Prime Minister said

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the council had not decided when to hold its next meeting.

Permas, which has a pact with PBDS in the elections, has sent the application letter to BN secretary-general, Encik Ghafar Baba, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister, three days ago.

On the election campaign, Dr Mahathir said the BN component party leaders would certainly campaign in Sarawak.

On the allocation of the six seats now held by independent Assemblymen, Encik Ghafar said the seats would be divided accordingly among the BN component parties as in the previous election.

He also said he might not be able to go to Sarawak to campaign for the Barisan Nasional because of the Umno elections.