

No room for Barisan guests

1ST 21 APR 1987

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The Umno supreme council has withdrawn invitations to representatives of the Barisan Nasional and other guests to attend the opening of the party's general assembly on Friday.

The decision was made because voting would take up a lot of space in Dewan Merdeka of the Putra World Trade Centre, where the meeting will be held.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said this at a Press conference after chairing a two-hour special supreme council meeting at the party headquarters here.

He said letters would be sent soon to these guests to inform

By NURAINA SAMAD

them of the decision.

"We apologise to our friends in the Barisan Nasional and the other leaders that this time we are not able to extend our invitation to them."

Dr Mahathir said that according to procedure, voting

of divisions.

However, he added that the opening, including the presidential address, would be televised "live."

Debate on resolutions, however, would not be covered in the telecast.

Only the 1,484 delegates and observers (from the divisions

the general assembly.

The results for the top posts — from permanent chairman to the vice-presidents — will be announced immediately after vote counting is over.

All results will be officially announced the following day.

The opening ceremony will begin at 8.30am on Friday. The presidential address is scheduled for 8.45am.

Voting is scheduled to begin after the address and end at 1pm after which the proceedings will be adjourned for Friday prayers. If voting has not ended by then, it would be continued at 3pm.

Delegates will be called to cast their ballots according to their rows and not, as in the past, according to divisions.

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must be carried out in the hall.

This means that booths and ballot boxes which must be in place before voting begins will take up a lot of space.

He also said that there were more delegates this year due to the increase in the number

and guests of the supreme council members) will be attending the opening in Dewan Merdeka.

Today's supreme council meeting also discussed the voting procedures and the programme for the first day of