

# DR M: NO QUIT ORDER

STAR 27 APR 1987

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he had no plans to ask those Cabinet Ministers who had opposed him in the party elections to resign.**

He said he would have to first see how things go before deciding whether to reshuffle the Cabinet.

"I do not know yet . . . I will have to think about it," he told a Press conference at the end of the three-day Umno general assembly.

Dr Mahathir declined to reply when he was asked whether he would retain Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah in the Cabinet. Tengku Razaleigh had lost in his bid to unseat Dr Mahathir as party president.

On the question of loyalty among his Cabinet members, Dr Mahathir said he had explained to the general assembly the responsibilities of Ministers.

Dr Mahathir had told the assembly earlier that Ministers took two pledges and both did not mention loyalty to the Prime Minister.

"But if it does not happen, what can we do?" he asked.

Asked how long he intended to serve as party president and Prime Minister

run the party and also to become the Prime Minister.

"Anything can happen . . . we are a democratic party," he added.

Dr Mahathir said he could not tell whether the party was weak or strong but added that "obviously, Umno is now experienced."

He said his narrow victory did not necessarily reflect the feelings of members.

The figures, he said, should be taken with reference to the other factors.

"Just like the number of nominations and the number of votes.

"It reflected the members' ability to think on their own and decide accordingly," he added.

On the declassifying of certain secret documents, Dr Mahathir said it was done so that the people would not be confused.

"When those people who were also involved in the decision-making raised issues to confuse the people, then we must explain to the people," he added.

Asked how the Government's move to instil Islamic values would affect the non-Muslims, Dr Mahathir said there was no problem.

"We only asked them to follow the Islamic values which are accepted

He said Ministers pledged not reveal any secrets. They also pledged to carry out their duties faithfully and remain loyal to Malaysia and uphold the Constitution.

Asked whether he was giving a hint to the Ministers who had opposed him to resign, Dr Mahathir said:

"You can interpret what you want. I was merely explaining the responsibilities of a Minister. All of us must adhere to our oath," he added.

Asked why some Ministers had opposed him, Dr Mahathir said it was normal to have differences in opinion.

When told that in some countries, those who lost would have to give up their posts, Dr Mahathir said it should be that way.

ter, Dr Mahathir said: "I will stay as long as my service is needed and as long as I am capable."

To another question, Dr Mahathir said he had no plans to ask the Cabinet to resign en bloc to give him a free hand to appoint new members.

"It is not necessary that a supreme council member must be appointed to the Cabinet. It is not automatic," he said.

"If there is an opportunity and a vacancy, then it can be considered," he added.

Asked about the fate of the losers, Dr Mahathir said it depended on them.

He said he had lost once (in the party elections) and was also "kicked" out of the party "but that's the way we

Dr Mahathir said that the election did not affect party unity and strength.

The fact that there was no untoward incident despite rumours that there would be demonstrations and booing and jeering at the general assembly showed that Umno members were mature and responsible, he added.

"In fact, there is no faction as the voting was done under secrecy and nobody can claim he is from this faction or that faction," Dr Mahathir said.

"Everybody accepted the results including former deputy president Datuk Musa Hitam who handed over his post to Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba," he added.

universally, such as honesty and trustworthiness."

*Bernama* reports that the delegates were seen shaking hands and embracing each other as soon as the assembly adjourned at about 6pm.

The exits at Dewan Merdeka — the assembly venue — were crowded with supporters waiting for their leaders to emerge so as to exchange greetings and extend congratulations.

Permanent chairman Tan Sri Sulaiman Ninam Shah, in adjourning the assembly, thanked the delegates for their co-operation in ensuring the success of the assembly.

Datuk Seri Wan Mokhtar then read the doa selamat and the Umno choir led those present in singing the Umno and national anthems.