

IT'S A S'PORE AFFAIR, SAYS MAHATHIR

STAR JUN 1987

ALOR STAR, Fri. — The Government cannot interfere in the case of two Malaysians detained by the Singapore authorities because it is "strictly a Singapore affair," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said although it was important to ascertain whether the two, journalist Jenny Chin and engineer Chia Boon Tai, were really involved in a Marxist conspiracy to overthrow the Singapore Government as alleged, "we cannot interfere just as we would not want others to interfere in our domestic affairs."

The Prime Minister was speaking to reporters at a Hari Raya open house for more than 5,000 people at his Titi Gajah home.

On Wednesday, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew said the 16 people detained under the Internal Security Act two weeks ago would not be tried in court.

Mr Lee had said that "it is not a practice, nor will I allow subversives to get away by insisting that I've got to prove everything against them in a court of law or (produce) evidence that will stand up to the strict rules of evidence of a court of law."

State Executive Councilors and Assemblymen led by Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Haji Osman Aroff as well as Perlis Mentri Besar Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh were among the guests who braved a downpour this morning to call at the Prime Minister's house.

Hundreds of schoolchildren formed long queues to wish Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah "Selamat Hari Raya."

Earlier, the Prime Minister and his wife had an audience with the Sultan and Sultanah of Kedah at Istana Anak Bukit here.