

PM: Review apology not correct move

By SYED ABU BAKAR

- 6 JUN 1987

ALOR STAR, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described as "inappropriate" the *Far Eastern Economic Review's* apology on the Limbang issue.

Responding in Bahasa Malaysia on whether he was satisfied by the Hong Kong-based magazine's apology, he said it was "*tak tepat*."

He refused to elaborate, but added: "Just say it's *tak tepat*. The Government will consider what further action (is) to be taken."

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters during Hari Raya open house at his residence at Titi Gajah today.

The *Review* carried an article in its May 21 issue saying that the Prime Minister had discussed the possible sale of Limbang, in north-east Sarawak, to Brunei for US\$6 billion (\$15 billion) during his visit to the Sultanate in March.

The *Review* subsequently issued a retraction and an apology to Dr Mahathir, which was carried by the Press. The apology and retraction are expected to be published in the June 4 issue of the *Review*.

"The apology is not accurate. We will decide what action the Government should take on the matter," Dr Mahathir said.

He stressed that the Government could only take action against any publication which published libel or anything that adversely affected the image of the country.

On his return to Kuala Lumpur later in the afternoon, Dr Mahathir was asked by newsmen to clarify what he meant by "*tak tepat*."

His reply was: "The *Review's* reaction to our denial by coming out with an apology is not the correct move."

Asked if this meant he was not satisfied with the apology, he said: "The *Review* will understand."

Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, speaking to newsmen on his return from a tour of Asean countries, said he briefed the Brunei Prime Minister on the *Review's* article and its retraction.

"I told him that this subject will be further discussed by our Government," he said.

Datuk Abu Hassan added that he could not say whether the Government was happy or not with the retraction or what action would be taken.

"But I believe the Cabinet will discuss the matter at its next meeting," he said.

PM: We have no right to interfere in S'pore

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ALOR STAR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia had no right to interfere in the affairs of another country just as "we do not want others to interfere in our internal affairs."

Malaysia too has its Internal Security Act (ISA), he said when commenting on the detention of *New Straits Times* journalist Jenny Chin and engineer Chia Boon Tai under the ISA by the Singapore Government.

Dr Mahathir said it was important to verify the allegation that the two Malaysians were involved in the Marxist conspiracy to topple the Singapore Government.

He was speaking to reporters during an open house at his resi-

dence in Titi Gajah near here today.

In Kuala Lumpur, Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Haji Abu Hassan Omar said relevant agencies from both countries are keep-

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ing in touch over the matter.

"I have instructed our High Commission there to help the Malaysians on consular grounds," he told reporters at Subang airport after returning from a four-day familiarisation tour of the Asean countries.