

DR M: NO PROBLEMS WITH MCA

STAR 23 NOV 1988

By Kerry Fong

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — There are no problems between the MCA and the Barisan Nasional, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister confirmed that he and MCA president Datuk Dr Ling Liong Sik

had met. He did not say when but it is understood that the meeting took place this morning.

Asked what they talked about, he said it was a "normal discussion."

"It was just a talk ... there were no issues. There has been no problem," Dr Mahathir told reporters after a ceremony to accept new members into Umno.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Umno president, said the "problem" had been a matter of "different wording" only.

Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, went on six-week no-pay leave at the beginning of last month, saying that he was "tired" and wanted time to reflect on various issues facing the party.

Dr Ling had said that the Barisan had not kept its 1986 election promises and that the party had

yet to be consulted on the economic policy after 1990.

He returned to resume his duties as party president and Transport Minister last Saturday.

He said then that after six weeks of reflection, his one basic view had not changed — that multiracial co-operation in Malaysia is a must.

"But that co-operation must be sincere, meaningful, effective and not be called co-operation," he said.