

# Ban on party remains, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Communist Party of Malaya will continue to be banned although it has signed a peace pact with the Government, Iatuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the CPM has agreed to give up its armed struggle but not its ideology.

"Therefore, the CPM remains banned," Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, said when asked if the Government would lift its ban on the CPM imposed in 1948.

He was speaking to newsmen after the Umno supreme council meeting.

Asked to comment on Thai newspaper reports which stated that about 400 CPM members planned to settle in Malaysia, Dr Mahathir said he was not aware of it.

However, he made it clear that the Government would not tolerate any move to propagate communism by CPM members who have plans to settle in Malaysia.

## Rehabilitation

CPM members who wanted to settle in Malaysia would have to abide by the country's laws.

"If it is not in violation of the country's laws, we can entertain requests for them to resettle here," he said.

Asked if the CPM members would have to undergo rehabilitation as a condition for resettlement, Dr Mahathir said this would depend on individual cases.

He said the counter-insurgency role of the Armed Forces would be reviewed now that the communist armed struggle was over.

The focus will now be on improving conventional military power to protect the country's land and sea resources.