

# Nation's security still intact, says PM

By Sabry Sharif, Zulkifly Mohamed and Zulkifli Othman

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said today that he did not think that the country's security had been seriously breached by the uncovering of a spy ring involving seven Malaysians and two citizens of an **Asean** country.

The Prime Minister said as far as the Government was concerned, the country's security was intact.

However, he said that no country would be happy to see its national secrets being leaked.

He said an investigation would be carried out on the security in the Defence Ministry.

"It is clear that if there is a leak of secrets, then, there is something wrong there," Dr Mahathir told newsmen at Parliament House.

He was commenting on the disclosure by Deputy Home Minister **Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub** in the **Dewan Rakyat** yesterday that nine people, including two foreigners, had been detained under the Internal Security Act for selling national secrets to an **Asean** country which was not named.

**Datuk Megat Junid** had said that the others were five military officers and two civilian employees of the Defence Ministry.

Altogether 10 people were picked up in September for suspected involvement in the spy ring in September, but one, a civilian Defence Ministry employee, was released after questioning.

**Datuk Megat Junid** was replying to a question from **Mr Karpai Singh (DAP-Je-iutong)** who wanted to know why five Royal Malaysian Navy officers were being detained at the **Ka-munting** camp.

Asked if he would raise this matter with the uni-

## PM recalls aide's arrest over spying activities

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identified **Asean** country, **Dr Mahathir**, who is also the Home Minister, said: "This is not something that I want to speak about in public."

When asked if the **Asean** country was Singapore, his quick reply was: "Who said it was Singapore?"

**Dr Mahathir** also said the duration of detention under the Internal Security Act for the nine had not been decided as investigations were still under way.

He referred to the deten-

tion of his former political secretary under the ISA, also on spying activities.

His aide was arrested in July 1981 in the first major spying case in Malaysia and released only after a few years of detention.

Asked if more people would be arrested based on the progress of the investigations, he said up to now he only knew of the detention of the nine people.

On allegations that the military officers detained included high-ranking officials, **Dr Mahathir** said he could not confirm this.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister **Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen** declined to comment when he met reporters in Parliament. "I have no comment," he said, before going to his car.

**Tengku Rithauddeen** was said to have met Defence Forces Chief **Jen Tan Sri Hashim Aii**; the Admiral of the Navy, and the Chief of the Air Force on the matter earlier in the day.

Several high-ranking military officials, however, said today that none of the five personnel involved in the leak had been dismissed from service.

According to sources, the personnel involved include three Navy lieutenants, an RMAF quartermaster sergeant and another RMAF employee.

"They have not been dismissed yet pending the investigations still being conducted," said one official. "The military is giving close co-operation to the Home Ministry in its investigations."

The exact nature of the documents leaked to the foreign country is not known but it concerns 'military secrets'.

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