

# A KARPAL PLOT: PM

S 09 MAR 1990

'He masterminded robbery at Vijandran's house'

By June H.L. Wong<sup>P</sup> and  
Rozani Din

**KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. —  
Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he learnt of videotapes being taken from the house of then Dewan Rakyat Deputy Speaker D.P. Vijandran through the newspapers.**

And he had since come to believe that the controversy had been so planned by the DAP as to give it political mileage and do damage to the Government, the prime minister told the Dewan Rakyat today.

Before giving the scenario of what he believed happened, he said he was using the same parliamentary privilege that

DAP deputy chairman Karpal Singh enjoyed when he made allegations against Mr Vijandran.

"He (Mr Karpal Singh) used the privileges of the House. Now I am using the same privileges. I accuse the MP for Jelutong of having masterminded the robbery (at Mr Vijandran's house on Oct 3, 1988) after receiving information from certain quarters.

"He wanted to get Mr Vijandran. When he received information from some quarters that there were certain videotapes and photographs in Mr Vijandran's safe, he plotted to put the tapes into the hands of the police," Dr Mahathir added.

He was replying to questions from DAP MPs on the 11 tapes and 2,000 photographs taken from Mr Vijandran's house and later destroyed by the police on the advice of Attorney-General Tan

Sri Abu Talib Othman.

Dr Mahathir, who took up almost the entire hour allotted to question time, was frequently interrupted by Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang and Mr Karpal Singh. Three backbenchers also jumped into the fray.

The prime minister seemed unruffled by the Opposition's barrage of questions.

Although the atmosphere in the House was quite tense at times with Opposition MPs and government backbenchers booing and jeering each other, there were moments of laughter when Dr Mahathir and Mr Lim exchanged wit.

At one point, Mr Lim, visibly frustrated with Dr Mahathir's reply, stood up and "congratulated" him for "the worst performance of a prime minister in the history of Parliament."

And Dr Mahathir shot back: "I return

the compliment."

Mr Lim jumped up and called Dr Mahathir a "copycat."

"That is all he can say," Dr Mahathir replied and the MPs laughed.

Throughout the exchange, the prime minister defended the attorney-general and the police for their actions.

He also said there was nothing wrong in the solicitor-general investigating Tan Sri Talib's decision to destroy the tapes because he was the next most senior officer after the attorney-general.

Mr Lim repeatedly pressed Dr Mahathir to say whether he saw the tapes or knew what the contents were.

When Dr Mahathir replied he did not, the DAP boomed.

"Even if I swear, they will not believe me," he said.

● TURN TO PAGE FOUR

# person in the tapes: PM

FROM PAGE ONE

He also said the attorney-general had not seen the tapes. However, Tan Sri Talib was informed by the police that "there was a certain person in the tapes," he added.

When Mr. Lim asked whether all 11 tapes featured only one person, Dr Mahathir replied:

"Some people like to stand naked in front of the mirror but we cannot arrest them. Now, they can go one step further by taking Polaroid pictures and videotape themselves easily without others knowing.

"Such people are perverts and do such things for their own pleasure. The MP for Tanjung (Mr Lim) could also do the same thing... take naked pictures of himself and keep them in his safe."

Mr Lim then asked whether the other people in the tapes were filmed secretly or with knowledge, Dr Mahathir said this matter was before the court.

"But from the stories I have heard, there were others involved," he said, adding that perhaps DAP MPs had similar tapes.

"I do not know whether the MP for Jelutong has such tapes of himself but he will not show them because they may not be very flattering or interesting," he said to the MPs' amusement.

At one point, Dr Mahathir turned the tables on the DAP by asking them whether they had seen the tapes.

Mr Lim stood up to say he had not, and was booed by the backbenchers.

"I did not see the tapes and it is not my responsibility to do so. It is for the prime minister to find out what the contents of the tapes were and if he did not he was being negligent in his duty," he said.

He also asked why Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob and the CID chief Datuk Zaman Khan had made "false statements."

Datuk Megat Junid rose to say that when he was asked about the matter in the House, he had replied it would be investigated because he had not been briefed on the case.

Mr Lim then asked him about the press statements he made outside the House to which Datuk Megat Junid said such reports did not count in the House.

Dr Mahathir then asked how Mr Karpal Singh knew the tapes were with the attorney-general but before the latter could reply, Kuala Terengganu MP Zubir Embong pointed out that time was up.

Deputy Speaker Datuk Mohamed Amin Daud agreed and the House moved to other business.

Later, when reporters asked whether he thought his reply would put the matter to rest, Dr Mahathir said the Opposition would continue to harp on it and make it a political issue during the general election.

He also said he alleged that Mr Karpal Singh was the mastermind even though he did not have proof.

"But the DAP had done the same thing in the House. I said it in the House but I will not repeat it outside. I would say he (Mr Karpal Singh) is innocent," he said.

He said it was an Opposition plan not just to smear Mr Vijandran's reputation. "It is also aimed at making the MIC, Maika Holdings and the Government look bad.

"Worse comes to worse, Mr Vijandran will resign as the MP for Kapar, but the damage done to the Government is irreversible," he said, but added that the Barisan Nasional would be able to answer the DAP's allegations.

Dr Mahathir also said that the police were investigating the reports lodged by Mr Karpal Singh regarding obscene photographs.

"The investigation into the robbery is closed; the case before the court is a civil suit so there is no police investigation," he added.

Mr Lim said Dr Mahathir had failed to answer many of the questions.

"However, he has made an important admission — that Mr Vijandran was not the only one in the tapes," he said.

Mr Lim also said that the allegation against Mr Karpal Singh was ridiculous since the MP was under detention at the time.

"If he thinks Mr Karpal Singh can mastermind such a plot from Kamunting, then he is not fit to be Home Minister," he added.

Mr Karpal Singh hoped "the prime minister said it in a light vein... otherwise, I'll sue him."