

PM firm on call for Pas to dissolve

MSI - 1 MAR 1990

(1) THE PRIME Minister said yesterday that he does not propose yet to withdraw his suggestion that Pas dissolve itself.

In a written reply to Haji Nik Abdullah Arshad (Pas-Pengkalan Chepa), Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Pas' political ambitions had always been rejected by the people.

"The majority of the people are of the opinion that what is said to be Pas' ambitions are being successfully fought for through Umno.

"Based on the spirit of uniting Muslims, I am of the opinion that it would be good for Pas to dissolve itself and for its members to join Umno."

Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, added that just because a party was registered did not mean that it was acceptable to the people.

Liberal

In the case of the Communist Party of Malaya, it had been banned and still could not be registered.

He also said the Government did not have a liberal attitude to the communists just because it had signed a pact with the CPM last year, ending its armed struggle.

"This is because it would be very foolish for any Government to expose its soldiers and civilians to the danger of war when the enemy has offered to lay down arms."