

PBS and Usno to decide on

By Nuraina Samad

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Barisan Nasional wants the Parti Bersatu Sabah and Usno to decide between themselves the allocation of parliamentary seats in the State for the coming general election, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

If they failed to agree, they might have to contest against each other in the coming polls. In such an eventuality, they would not

be able to use the Barisan Nasional symbol but the winning candidate would still be accepted as a BN member, he said.

At a Press conference at the international airport in Subang on his return from an official visit to South Korea, Dr Mahathir said he was hopeful that the parties could agree on the allocation.

He said the seat allocation was an issue that had yet to be resolved with Sabah Chief Minister Da-

tuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan, who had gone along on the four-day visit.

He was asked to comment on his discussions on the matter with Datuk Seri Pairin.

Dr Mahathir said it was a problem that was "not easy to resolve" because "the view of the PBS contradicts that of Usno".

"We will find ways to resolve the problem through mutual agreement."

Dr Mahathir said PBS' victory in the recent State election had strengthened

Datuk Seri Pairin's claim that his party was entitled to more seats in the parliamentary election.

"I believe Usno would make the same claim ... both are in the Barisan."

Observer team

In last July's State election, the PBS won 36 of the 48 seats while Usno won 12.

In the 1986 general election, the PBS won 10 seats, Usno five and the DAP four. There was one Independent MP.

polls seats, says Dr M

Dr Mahathir, who has yet to include Sabah in his itinerary of State visits, said he would do so after "several issues are resolved".

Asked to give an update on the status of the Commonwealth observer team for the general election, the Prime Minister said the Government was agreeable to one whose role was only to observe the election proceedings in the country.

He said he had informed the Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku that the Gov-

ernment was interested in a team being sent here.

If the Commonwealth Secretariat wanted a consensus from all political parties in the country before deciding to send a team, Dr Mahathir said there was nothing the Government could do if it could not obtain one.

Dr Mahathir said he had received a letter from Semangat 46 leader Datuk Haji Suhaimi Haji Kamaruddin, claiming to represent all opposition parties,

proposing that a body with the powers of a commission of inquiry be set up to monitor the general election.

"I replied to him that the Government cannot agree ... we only agree to an observer team ... I have asked them to reply whether they agree or not, but until now I have not received any."

On the DAP's intention to invite the Commonwealth Secretariat to send representatives here for the general election, Dr Mahathir said it was their

right if they wanted to do so.

On the decision by the four warring Cambodian factions to end the 12-year-old conflict, Dr Mahathir said this was a good development.

"We hope that there would be an immediate end to the war and that a meeting among them be held as soon as possible so that the question of who would represent Cambodia at the United Nations can be resolved."