

DR M: NO POINT IN MORE TALKS WITH RAZALEIGH

S 22 SEP 1990

ALOR STAR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad feels that another round of "peace talk" with Semangat 46 leader Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah is unnecessary because of the approaching general election.

The Prime Minister said today that this was because Umno's doors had been opened "to all (Malays)," including Semangat 46 and PAS members.

Dr Mahathir said Tengku Razaleigh had also rejected his offer to him to join the Cabinet for the sake of Malay unity.

"As such, there is no need for further peace talks. We have al-

ready opened up Umno. They (PAS and Semangat members) have just to enter," Dr Mahathir told newsmen after addressing a large gathering at the Sekolah Menengah Changloon.

(On Dec 12, Dr Mahathir and Tengku Razaleigh met for 45 minutes to discuss Malay unity, which both leaders described as "useful." Dr Mahathir had also on Oct 30, 1988, invited Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa Hitam to join the Cabinet as ministers without portfolio for the sake of Malay unity.)

Asked whether the invitation to Tengku Razaleigh to join the Cab-

inet was still open, Dr Mahathir said: "The offer has closed. We want to give a chance to the others. But we will accept PAS and Semangat members who want to come back to us. We have already accepted thousands of PAS members in Kedah, Kelantan and Selangor."

Dr Mahathir said he was saddened by the attitude of the present PAS leaders who had "deviated from the party's original struggles and aims."

"In fact, the party does not exist anymore. Only its shadows remain," he said. "PAS leaders are giving up many parliamentary

seats for Semangat and the DAP to contest. Only between 20 and 30 of its self-interested leaders want to contest."

Dr Mahathir said although he did not agree with the PAS policies, "one expects its leaders to hold on to their principles."

On whether PAS members should seek the party's dissolution, Dr Mahathir said: "It is their party. We can only advise them that the PAS struggle is not true anymore."

Dr Mahathir later attended Friday prayers at the Masjid Kampung Imam, Padang Perahu before returning to Kuala Lumpur.