

# PM to get observers' report early next week

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The full report by Commonwealth Observer group will be submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad by early next week.

The report will also be sent to the Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku.

Among others, it will contain some constructive criticisms of the Malaysian election system, the group's chairman, Mr Dudley Thompson, said here today.

Speaking briefly on the group's observations, Mr Thompson said Malaysia was a country whose efforts in making a success of a multi-racial society were most commendable, despite the fact that it has "constant tensions".

"It is a country surrounded by other countries which have not made the same efforts towards establishing that degree of democracy we all desire. These are the special circumstances of Malaysia," he told reporters this morning.

Mr Thompson also said that democracy seemed to be a matter of degree "because humans seek perfection". However, in the course of seeking that perfection, there may be some imperfections.

"If you look at the clear blue, almost perfect sky of Malaysia, there will al-

ways be one or two clouds. If you remove the clouds, then you will have perfection. You will always have clouds in human endeavour," he said.

Mr Thompson added that Malaysians live in a society in which they themselves have willingly imposed restrictions.

"They have willingly supported restrictions which they are gradually relinquishing, but which they have accepted because of the special circumstances."

An example of these laws was the restriction on political rallies.

However, Mr Thompson said the group was handicapped because they could not understand many of the languages.

On the short election period, Mr Thompson also said that none of the group had seen the "peculiar circumstances that operate in Malaysia".

"We never had to take into consideration that a lengthy period may bring disruptions in a volatile society," he said.

Reiterating the group's role was only to observe and not to criticise, Mr Thompson said they could not come into the country and tell the people how to run it.

"We are here to observe the running of the election according to the Malaysian law. If Malaysians are satisfied with the law, it is not for us to tell them that they are wrong. The choice must be theirs," he said.

Malaysians, he said, were a sincere, friendly, warm and hospitable people with a good track record of elections.

Mr Thompson said the group was also impressed with the energy of the young volunteers on polling day and the widespread interest of the people in trying to get to the polls to express their voice.