

WE'RE KEEPING AN EYE ON SABAH'S IDS: PM

By Wong Chun Wai

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Government is keeping watch on the Sabah Institute of Development Studies (IDS) headed by Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan as it is allegedly inciting anti-federal feelings among Sabahans.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that anti-government sentiments were fanned through its supposedly motivation courses.

"The people of Sabah, especially the youths, are being taught at self-improvement centres (set up by the IDS) to be anti-government. In other words, they are being brain-washed by the IDS," the Prime Minister said.

The IDS is a government agency under the Sabah Chief Minister's Department which acts as

a think-tank for policy studies for the state.

The IDS, set up in 1985, receives the bulk of its funding from the Sabah Government. In 1988, it had a reported budget of \$5 million compared with \$4 million in 1987.

The IDS is governed by a 12-member board appointed by Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, the brother of executive chairman Dr Jeffrey Kitingan.

Speaking to newsmen after presenting the Prime Minister's quality awards at the Putra World Trade Centre here, Dr Mahathir said that Sabah had refused to abide by policies set by the Federal Government and had deliberately created ill-feelings against the Federal Government.

The Prime Minister said there was no evi-



Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan
... heads the IDS

dence at this stage to show that the activities of the IDS had threatened the security of the nation.

"But if security is affected or if they were to resort to means to get Sabah out of Malaysia, we will act," he said.

On the move by Sabah

Forest Industries Sdn Bhd (SFI) in replacing Finance Ministry secretary-general Tan Sri Zain Azraai Zainal Abidin as its chairman, Dr Mahathir said he did not know whether the company was acting within its rights.

"But I know that the Federal Government had stood as guarantor (for the company) for loans and had also provided allocations for the company to resolve its financial woes," Dr Mahathir said, adding that the Federal Government would have to review its responsibilities to the SFI.

On calls by the Federal Government to Sabah to reduce its logging activities, Dr Mahathir said the advice was not heeded.

He however said the Federal Government had no power to intervene as it was a state matter.