

Party solidarity very evident at assembly, says Mahathir

mosque.
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UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the proceedings of the Umno general assembly clearly showed the solidarity of the party.

"I am satisfied with the proceedings. The delegates were positive in the deliberations. They did not just look inward.

"In previous assemblies, they came to criticise the party, ministers and Government.

"But this time, they were more outward looking and gave priority to the solidarity of the party, the problems it faces and how to tackle them, the pressures faced by the party and how to pool the resources of the party to fend off the challenges from outside.

"Solidarity of the party was very evident in this general assembly," he told newsmen at a post-assembly press conference at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Asked whether the vice-presidential contest had settled the issue of second echelon leaders, Dr Mahathir said: "It is not really settled yet. We will be having another contest (in 1993).

"But it is obvious that the people who take over will have to come from the present leadership," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the general assembly was conducted in an orderly and courteous manner, and while there was an election it took place in a "brotherly at-

He said that the party would study all the suggestions made at the assembly.

Among the recommendations made concerning the constitutional monarchy were that the party leadership forward the wishes of the party and its recommendations to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Another calls for the setting up of a committee to consider the necessary actions and later call for a special general assembly to discuss it.

On calls to amend the Sedition Act, he said the Government would study the matter, adding that this did not mean the Federal Constitution would be amended.

On the calls for stern action against the PBS government, he said that if PBS broke any law, including the Sedition Act, it would be punished.

"If not, we will take political action," he said.

Asked when the names of the appointed supreme council members would be announced, he said that the supreme council would meet as soon as possible, possibly on Jan 5 (the first Saturday of January), to decide.

On calls to allow Group A officers to participate actively in politics, the Prime Minister said the Government would study the pros and cons of the matter.

"We have a dacing, we will weigh the matter," he quipped.