

# NOT SEDITIOUS: PM

By Saad Hashim

LONDON, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that it is not seditious to criticise the behaviour of any Ruler who misbehave.

The Prime Minister said the Sedition Act only made it seditious if a person advocated the abolition of the monarchy.

He said Umno would continue to speak out against any Ruler deemed to have overstepped his role as a constitutional

monarch.

"As an immediate step, an Umno committee headed by Ghafar Baba will hold individual meetings with the Rulers to explain the nature of Umno resolution on this matter," he told Malaysian journalists based here.

Dr Mahathir said that the people, too, should know a little bit more about the system of constitutional monarchy.

In a dialogue with students at Malaysia Hall three days ago, he said

that if the people were kept in the dark about what was going on, "someday it will explode into the open."

"We may be able to shut the people's eyes but we can't shut their hearts," he added.

After the last Umno supreme council meeting, Dr Mahathir said the Umno committee would soon choose its members and then decide how it should carry out its task.

He indicated today that the committee would

probably call on the Rulers individually and brief them on the details of the resolution.

He also said that the Sedition Act was adequate in its present form and need not be amended.

On his one-hour meeting with new British Prime Minister John Major, Dr Mahathir said they discussed bilateral matters, as well as the situation in the Gulf, Eastern Europe and Asia.

Mr Major hoped for a postponement of the

meeting of the 10 heads of government on the high-level appraisal of the Commonwealth but Dr Mahathir said it was not easy to get 10 heads of government together.

Dr Mahathir will chair the meeting in London on Jan 21 and 22.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher also called on Dr Mahathir at the government apartment in Kensington.

Dr Mahathir left for home today.

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