

PM's warning to Sabah trouble-makers

24 JAN 1991

By Azran Aziz

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Certain quarters have been trying to create tension between Muslims and non-Muslims in Sabah recently by writing and distributing propaganda messages on copies of pages from the Quran, the Prime Minister said today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said such action was very dangerous and the Government would not hesitate to take action against the culprits.

He disclosed this when answering questions on

Umno's proposed move to Sabah during a Press conference called to announce a wage increase for civil servants.

He said some of the copies had messages written in Rumi in red ink claiming that Christians in Sabah were being oppressed.

Dr Mahathir added that copies had been sent to several people, including one to his office, and to Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Dr Yusof Nor.

On the Umno move, he said it was still under study, but it was felt to be

proper as it was to bring the party's liberal concepts to work for all in the State.

"As the party has already accepted Orang Asli and Malaysians of Thai descent as members, we feel we can also accept non-Muslims in Sabah as Umno members," he added.

On the other hand, he said it was sad that Parti Bersatu Sabah was playing on religious sentiments.

Asked about Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin's wish to step down as Finance Minister, Dr Mahathir said he had made a

decision and an announcement would be made soon.

Replying to another question, he said "the Government has to appoint a new Finance Minister if the post is vacant".

Datuk Paduka Daim met the Prime Minister on Jan 15 to explain his reasons for wanting to resign as Finance Minister.

He also said he wanted to resign from all posts, including that of Umno treasurer, but would remain as the Member of Parliament for Merbok to avoid the hassle of a by-election.