

# Dr M: Third country behind plot

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KOTA KINABALU, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad believes that a third country may be involved in a secession plot hatched by a group in Sabah but did not identify the country.

Responding to a question at a Press conference at the end of his one-day visit to Sabah, the Prime Minister said a definite plot had been initiated to take Sabah out of Malaysia.

Several people, including a senior police officer, have been arrested here between the middle of last year and last month under the Inter-

nal Security Act (ISA) for alleged involvement in the plot.

Asked why Sabah Foundation Director Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan is still a free man despite allegation that he is fuelling anti-Federal sentiments, Dr Mahathir said he would remain so until and unless he was seen as a threat to the security of the country.

So far, despite Datuk Dr Jeffrey's activities, there was no evidence the Sabah people were going to stage a revolution or to use violence against the Federal

Government. Datuk Dr Jeffrey is the chief executive of the Institute for Development Studies, Sabah (IDS).

On the publications of several books allegedly aimed at inciting anti-Federal sentiments, the Prime Minister said he was not surprised, adding that this was what the PBS had been doing.

Repeating his earlier statement when launching Sabah Umno and opening the 23rd Usno annual general assembly here, he said there was no anti-Federal feelings among Sabahans

until the PBS came to power.

He said although the PBS had been using such propaganda as the 20-points agreement governing the entry of Sabah into Malaysia 27 years ago, the people of Sabah knew that their livelihood had improved since independence.

On Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan's allegation that the Federal Government has been pressuring and harrasing PBS leaders, he said if they had not committed any offence, there was no way for the Govern-

ment to act against them.

Asked if former Usno president Tun Datu Haji Mustapha Datu Harun would be appointed to sit on the Umno supreme council, Dr Mahathir said there was no provision for it but the party would consider such possibility.

To another question, the Umno president said that the party, including its Youth and Wanita wings, would conduct courses to inculcate correct values and culture among its members in Sabah. But this might take a long time to achieve, he said.