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# IV: Regrettable if hardliners have taken over

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said it would be regrettable if hardliners had taken over in the Soviet Union as it would affect world peace and stability. "We do not know whether the hardliners have taken over. The (new) leaders have said they would not reverse the processes start-

ed by Mr Gorbachev. "If the hardliners were to turn to their old ways then there will be bad repercussions for the peace and stability of the world," he said. He was responding to questions from reporters after attending the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Public Bank tonight.

He said Malaysia hoped the statement that the change in leadership was due to Mr Gorbachev's ill-health was true, adding that if he had been ousted by hardliners it may have adverse effects on the Soviet Union and its relationship with other countries. "If the USSR goes back to its old ways we fear that

instigation and other such activities may start again. We hope they will not return to these old ways and instead focus on calming the situation in the country and reviving their economy," he said. He said Malaysia was awaiting a more detailed report from the Malaysian embassy in Moscow.