

# PM: Bar Council lied about dismissal

NSM 03 NOV 1991

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat.— Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Bar Council had, “by acts of commission and omission”, spread lies about the Judiciary to the American Bar Association.

Dr Mahathir (right) said the claim by the ABA that

the Government had sacked (Tun Salleh Abas) as Lord President was based on what was provided to it by the Council.

“In fact it was not the Government who sacked the Lord President as it did not have the power to do so. It could only be done by a

tribunal of judges set up under the Constitution.

“The claim that the Government had sacked him was then a lie. I have proof (that the Bar Council had spread this lie) but this is based on what was told to me verbally (by the ABA).”

Dr Mahathir said this

when asked to comment on the Council’s statement yesterday that it would take action against any of its members if he could provide proof that they had spread abroad lies about the Judiciary.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting at Putra World

Trade Centre with Umno divisional delegates for next week’s general assembly, the Prime Minister added:

“They (the Council) also did not tell the ABA that five judges had tried to block the process of law by trying to prevent the tribunal’s report from reaching

## of Salleh Abas

the King.

“They also did not tell the ABA of their attempts to sack another Lord President by bringing contempt proceedings against him though there were no such provisions for this method in the Constitution.

“We know many judges

who pass judgments against the Government or a Government party.

“But if we were interfering with the Judiciary, we could have stopped such judges from doing so.

“But why didn’t the Council tell that (to the ABA)

also?”