

Mahathir troubled over Single Europe

By JIMMY YEOW
PRIME MINISTER Datuk
Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad

has voiced concern over the emergence of the European Union which may affect the economies of other countries, including Malaysia.

He said when countries form an economic association, the member countries become a **single** state. "Each state has its-own taxes, restrictions and the like. If in the past, we have to deal with many countries but now we have to deal with a single country.

"If it decides not to allow a certain (product) to be imported, then the market for that product will be affected in all the countries in the association," he told reporters in Kuala Lumpur after giving away prizes to children of policemen who had excelled in their studies and to exemplary police families.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said despite the assurances given by various European leaders, Malaysia fears that with the formation of the Single European Market and the Federal-European State, Europe may become **too** strong and no longer need to trade with others.

To a question on the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC), he said it is inappropriate for the US and Canada to become members of the Asian grouping as both countries belong to the North America Free Trade Area (Nafta).

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said he will meet Japanese businessmen and leaders during his visit to Japan beginning tomorrow. He will also visit Oita Prefecture which is renowned for its economic success through its "single village-single product" scheme.

While in Tokyo, the Prime Minister will also **open** the new Malaysian Embassy building. He will also take the opportunity to explain the role of the EAEC to Japanese businessmen and possibly to his Japanese counterpart, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa.

On aid to Cambodia, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysia can provide aid through its Technical Cooperation Programme and

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whatever assistance the country requires, including help in rehabilitating its estates. "A poor neighbour will not benefit its other neighbours," he pointed out.

Commenting on reports that members of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) wish to return to Malaysia, he stressed that they must meet certain conditions before they can be allowed to return.

"We do not want those who have only laid down their arms; they must also renounce their communist ideology."