

PM: Press played vital role in giving clearer picture of issues

NSI 17 DEC 1992

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Press played an important role in giving a clearer picture to the people over the recent issue involving the royalty.

The Prime Minister, when asked by reporters to comment on the role of the Press on the issue, said:

"I feel the Press has not pressured for the abolition of constitutional monarchy. It has contributed towards giving clarification to the

people to avoid any confusion that may arise among the people.

"The public will be confused if they are not informed about the background to the issue," he told reporters at the Sungei Besi air base before leaving for Singapore where he met Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Brig-Gen. (R) Lee Hsien Loong. He later went to Johor Baru to attend a meeting with Johor Umno leaders.

He expressed confidence that the Rulers would accept the decision of the Government and the people to amend the Constitution to withdraw the immunity they enjoyed.

"They also realise that times have changed and old ways, including enjoying immunity, cannot be accepted anymore," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the issue of the radio station in Johor was not discussed at the Cabinet meeting today.

He also welcomed Tunku Bendahara of Johor Tengku Majid Idris' surrender to the police. Tunku Majid was charged in the magistrate's court yesterday with causing hurt to a hockey player.

Present at the air base to send off Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali were Singapore High Commissioner Low Choon Meng and his wife and Land and Co-operative Development Minister Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai.