27 OCT 1996
Speaker-Died
FORMER STATE ASSEMBLY SPEAKER DIES

   PULAU PINANG, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- Former Pulau Pinang State Assembly
Speaker Haji Sulaiman Ahmad, better known as Haji Sulaiman Palestin, 73,
died in his father's house in Kampung Kebun Sireh, Bukit Mertajam, near
here, today.
   He was the speaker for 10 years from 1959 and was the Umno Youth deputy
president in 1962.
   He was admitted to the Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) of Hospital Pulau Pinang
a week ago after suffering a heart attack and kidney failure.
   He leaves behind two wives, Aishah Mahmud, 60, and Aminah Saad, 55, and
six sons and two daughters aged between 17 and 38.
   His nephew, Khairudin Abu Hassan 32, said Sulaiman will be buried at
the Kebun Sireh Muslim Cemetery at noon tomorrow.
   He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been informed
of the death and is expected to pay his respects at about 10 am tomorrow.
   Haji Sulaiman who went to Mecca at the age of 12 used to reside in
Mecca and Palestine for 21 years for religious studies.
   He also travelled to India and was active in the International Youth
Movement in New Delhi.
   While in India, he had citizenship problem as the British government
then did not recognise his Malayan citizenship but with the help of then
Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who accompanied him back to the
Federation of Malaya, he was given back his Malayan citizenship.
   Upon his return to Malaya in 1946, he became one of the founder members
of Umno with Datuk Onn Jaafar, with the membership number "003".
   During the first general election in 1955, he contested in the Nibong
Tebal parliamentary constituency but lost to the Pas candidate, Haji Ahmad
Hussin.
   During the second general election, he contested on an Alliance ticket
in the State constituency of Alma and won. He was appointed as Pulau Pinang
state speaker for 10 years from 1959.
   He was deputy head of Umno Youth from 1962 until 1963.
   He was again active in the national political arena when he was
appointed Umno Special Information Officer before being appointed Umno
Information Chief on May 29, 1977 by Datuk Hussein Onn who was then Umno
president.
   However, he was relieved from his post as Umno Information Chief on
April 9, 1978, for his "action and statement which contradicted party
policy."
   Sulaiman broke party tradition when he challenged Hussein for the post
of Umno president in the 1978 party elections. He garnered 250 votes
against Hussein's 750.
   He also failed in his bid for a Supreme Council seat in the 1987 Umno
elections and joined former Finance Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah who
formed Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) and was chosen as a member of the S46
Supreme Council on Oct 12, 1989. -- BERNAMA
   TEAM/AO