

27/10/1997

(Snippets)

"COWS to look into HOGS needs." This was one of the notices on the display board at the CHOGM secretariat.

"Has CHOGM turned into an animal farm?" came a query from an amused observer. Apparently not. COWS refer to the Committee of the Whole, the parallel meeting of senior officials. And HOGS refer to ... well ... Heads of Government.

* MANY foreign officials and observers in Edinburgh are quite surprised at Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's relatively low-key approach. But the fact is he is still very much sought after by the Press.

Officials at the Malaysian secretariat said there had been numerous requests for interviews with the Prime Minister - from CNN, ABC and other international networks and broadcasting organisations.

The officials said almost the entire BBC television and radio channels wanted an interview with the Prime Minister. But all the requests had to be turned down because of Dr Mahathir's heavy schedule.

* HEADS of Government moved to their weekend retreat at St Andrews yesterday. The leaders meet in a less formal atmosphere minus the suit-and-tie protocol. St Andrews is the acclaimed "home of golf".

* THE whispers from many African delegates were that South African President Nelson Mandela should be made the symbolic head of the Commonwealth, replacing the queen "who has been there too long".

"Yes, we respect the queen," said an African official, "but we look up to Mandela."

* KRIS, a Malaysian restaurant down London Road, never had it so good - it registered a full house on Saturday night. This probably proved too much for the cooks and waiters because the orders took such a long time to come. But the sambal belacan was worth the wait.

(END)