

# Ghafar: Dr M freed many ISA detainees

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BANGI: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had directed a review of cases involving some 3,000 detainees under the Internal Security Act (ISA) the moment he became Prime Minister in 1981.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba said the Prime Minister had then subsequently ordered the release of most of the

detainees. *517 10 98*

Speaking to over 1,000 members of the Malaysian Association of Youth Clubs at its 44th Annual General Meeting at Universiti Kebangsaan, Ghafar cited the incident as an indication of the Prime Minister's personal dislike of the use of the ISA.

"Most of the detainees were re-

leased then except for a few who preferred to remain behind as they were afraid of their enemies or could not find work," he said.

Ghafar said the Government had wanted to abolish the ISA after the communist threat had ended but was advised otherwise by the police.