

18 JUL 2000

OPPOSITION INVITES DR MAHATHIR TO DISCUSSION ON SAUK INCIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, July 18 (Bernama) -- The opposition leaders today extended an invitation to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to a discussion on the implications of the Sauk incident on the multiracial and multireligious society in the country.

Opposition leader Datuk Fadzil Noor said the invitation letter signed by senior leaders of the four parties making up the Alternative Front was handed over to Dr Mahathir's representative.

He told reporters at the Parliament lobby that the opposition leaders hoped that all the Barisan Nasional component party leaders would also attend the discussion.

He said the opposition decided to organise the discussion because the tragedy in Sauk was a national issue that transcended party politics.

Fifteen members of the Al-Ma'unah devitionist group posing as senior military tricked their way into two army camps in Gerik, Perak, and escaped with more than 100 weapons and a cache of ammunition on July 2.

The group then holed up with 13 other members in Bukit Jenalek in Sauk, where they killed two security forces personnel whom they had taken hostage, before surrendering to the security forces five days later.

-- BERNAMA

NY MAI JK