

# Bid to incite army, police

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## PM: Majority of security personnel professional

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SHAH ALAM, Mon. — Certain quarters are trying to influence police and army staff to join them in their bid to topple the Government, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said while the country had been free of the communist threat since 1990, the people were now facing a threat from within and outside the country.

This, he said, was more complex as the Government and the people would not be able to identify the actual enemies and their objectives.

"They don't seem to have any ideology and claim their struggles are for the good of the nation. Their struggles, they claim, are similar to the struggles of other nationalists. They only want to change the Government.

"That's why they don't openly attack but do it through sedition. They want to influence civil servants, gain their sympathy and paralyse Government machinery," he said when addressing senior police officers at a hotel here.

However, Dr Mahathir was grateful that the majority of the security forces had remained professional and continued to support the Government elected by the majority of the people.

He said the security forces were also highly disciplined and committed to their work to preserve peace and harmony. They understood the concept of democracy and constitutional monarchy practiced by Ma-

laysia which saw the division of powers among the executive, judiciary and the legislature.

He said although there may be a handful of staff who may have been influenced by the irresponsible characters, they would have to be rehabilitated.

"What they don't understand is that if we accept the culture of *huru hara* (chaos) once, it will forever become our culture," he said.

Dr Mahathir said once this happened, the next Government formed by those who had initiated the riots, would also be eventually overthrown.

With this, the country will not have a credible Government to administer and develop the economy.

"That Government will all the time be concerned with protecting its position from attacks from both within and abroad," he said.

Dr Mahathir said although some servicemen may have different views, they have always served the country with professionalism as they believed in being loyal to the Government elected by the majority of the people.

He said it would be the people who would have to decide who they wished to lead them and whoever was elected, the security forces should remain loyal to the Government of the day.

Dr Mahathir said he was once asked by former South African President Nelson Mandela during a meeting in Zambia how Malaysia could overcome the communist insurgency which saw guerilla tactics beign adopted to overthrow the Government.

Mandela said he was impressed with the Malaysian security forces

as any group which adopted guerilla warfare would normally be successful in overthrowing any Government.

He said he told Mandela that Malaysia, which had been fighting the communists since 1948, had been successful because of a dedicated and professional civil service and security forces.

Dr Mahathir also expressed regret with the foreign media for discrediting the police. He said they would record all police actions which were deemed brutal and portray the Malaysian Government in

a bad light whenever the police acted to quell violent demonstrations.

These stories and visuals would then be transmitted worldwide, leading to the international community having a slanted perception of the Malaysian Government.

"The foreign media will not show violence committed by the irresponsible parties. They would only show the so-called police brutality and paint a negative picture of the Malaysian police," he said, adding that Malaysia would eventually lose out in terms of lower tourist arrivals and foreign investment.

Dr Mahathir said the foreign media blamed inaccessibility to Government sources as the reason for biased reports.

However, he said in an interview with *Asiaweek* recently, he was asked whether the country was in a state of tension.

"I told them I went to the supermarket on my own in my own car during the weekends. People come and talk to me and wish me and all that and ask questions quite freely. But they (*Asiaweek*) reported that people were frightened to see the Prime Minister," he added.