

Offer open to Chinese Akar members only

STAR 22 MAY 2001

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said only Chinese who are former members of Parti Akar would be allowed to join Umno.

"We have decided to accept them into Umno ranks but this covers only former Akar members who are Chinese," he clarified after chairing a

supreme council meeting here.

Dr Mahathir said that the offer was made because many of the members were bumiputra Chinese.

On Sunday, Dr Mahathir announced that Umno was willing to accept former Akar members who were Chinese because of the keen interest

shown by Chinese members.

Akar was dissolved on Sunday.

Dr Mahathir said the acceptance of these members was on an ad hoc basis just as the special case of non-Muslim bumiputras, including Christians, who became Umno members when the party spread its wings to

Sabah in 1991.

To a question on him appointing two Chinese as his special aides, the Prime Minister confirmed the appointments but did not name them.

"I want direct feedback from the community. I want to know their thinking and the issues affecting the Chinese in the country," Dr

Mahathir added.

To a question on the outcome of investigations into allegation made by Pahang assemblyman Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman against Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Dr Mahathir said "We did not discuss the matter. I have not been given a final report about the matter either."