

No seditious elements in DAP's 'No to 929' campaign pamphlets

Net 2 4 SEP 2002

ALTHOUGH police have not found seditious elements in pamphlets used in the DAP's "No to 929" campaign, they may widen investigations into the issue based on other laws, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung (BN-Alor Star) said.

"Preliminary investigations show that there are no seditious elements in the pamphlets, but police are looking at other angles under other laws, including the Printing Presses and Publications Act."

The investigation papers will be sent to the Attorney-General.

Chor was replying to Tan Kok Wai (DAP-Cheras) who asked why police had seized the pamphlets and arrested party members who were distributing the material in several

places around the country.

(The campaign was to protest against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that Malaysia was an Islamic state.)

In a supplementary question, Tan said the police had acted with prejudice when the campaign was genuine and was based on the Federal Constitution, which said Malaysia was a secular state with Islam as the official religion, and that other religions could be freely practised.

BN backbenchers then began heckling Tan and shouting at him to rephrase his question.

"We have to arrest first and then investigate. The police are just doing their duty and not prejudiced," Chor said.