

I feel indebted to Harun, says Dr M

20 OCT 2003

BANGKOK: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he felt indebted to the late Datuk Seri Harun Idris as he was the one who brought him back into Umno after being expelled in the late 1960s.

"After I was expelled from Umno, he was the one who first came to Alor Star to see me. He

tried to persuade me to return to the fold of Umno and he succeeded," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir, who is here to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Summit which begins today, was asked to say a few words about the veteran politician who died yesterday morning.

He said Harun had been jailed on certain charges and when he became Prime Minister he had tried to get him pardoned.

"After he was released, Harun returned to active politics but later, it appeared that he had disagreements with me. Our relationship became quite strained," he said.

"But I acknowledge his contributions to Umno. I am indebted to him. Although we became not so close, the fact is it was he who got me to go back to Umno."