

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1981

## BAD GUEST

The exposure of Siddiq Mohamed Ghouse as an agent working for the Soviets is disturbing, not for any real damage he may have done to the security of the country, but for the very proximity of his position to the office of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir. We welcome the assurance that Siddiq's nefarious activities have been under surveillance by the authorities since 1979, effectively cutting him off from any sensitive information. It must have been difficult for Dr. Mahathir to maintain the facade of a working relationship with Siddiq for so long while investigations were being conducted. Together with the arrest of the two key aides of former Prime Minister, the late Tun Abdul Razak, in 1976, it shows that there are elements who, for ideological or personal reasons and in spite of the eminent positions they had attained in the country, are prepared to sell out their stake in this country.

The expulsion of the three Soviet diplomats who are implicated in the turning of Siddiq's loyalties must convey to the Soviet government that, while Malaysia is prepared to give substance to the professions of improving relationships between both countries, this does not mean that we will be blindly vulnerable to subversion. We are not so naive as to expect functionaries in an embassy not to engage in information gathering about the country they serve in. However, there is a distinction between getting to understand and know a country better and infiltrating or subverting people at important levels of government with a more than passive role. This abuse of diplomatic status and the hospitality of this country certainly tests relations between both countries. After this embarrassment for the KGB, our cordiality must be tinged with an extra large dose of wariness. It would take a lot from the Soviets to disabuse us of our suspicions of Soviet duplicity.

Bahar asal dari Arkib

Negara Malaysia