

Down memory lane

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PUTRAJAYA, Wed. — They may not have always seen eye-to-eye in the past but congeniality was certainly in the air when Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad met Lee Kuan Yew today.

The two former Prime Ministers spent the best part of an hour exchanging notes on how the world was faring after they took a step back from active politics.

Dr Mahathir said they had spoken about old times when they were both heading their respective governments.

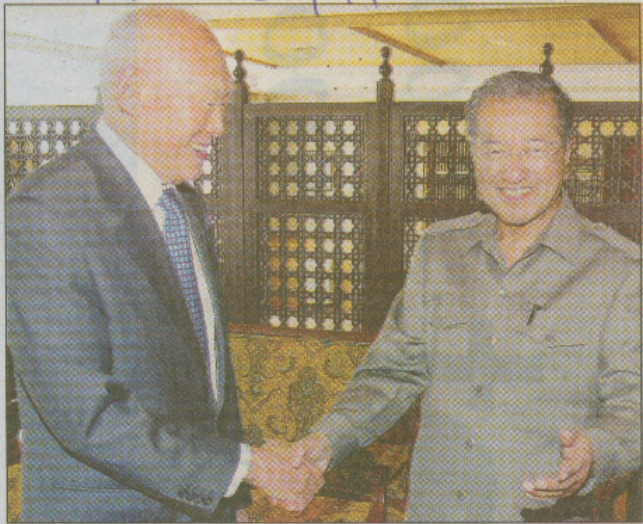
Reminiscence aside, they also spoke of memoirs.

"He told me how he had written his memoirs. I explained to him that I was slow, I write in longhand," he said after meeting Lee at the Perdana Leadership Foundation here.

Lee is here to speak at the two-day World Ethics and Integrity Forum 2005, organised by the Asian Leadership Institute, in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir was happy to note that Lee was keeping abreast of current developments worldwide and bilaterally, adding that two-way ties "looked very good".

He said Lee wanted to know whether former



GREETINGS: Dr Mahathir receiving Lee at his office in Putrajaya yesterday.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had a chance of making a comeback to active politics.

"I think he still has the capacity to cause trouble if he comes back but I doubt whether he can make any headway."

On Lee's question as to whether Malaysia could eventually be governed by Islamists, he said he told the Singapore Minister Mentor that he did not think so.

He said there was concern

among many outside the country, especially among European countries, that Malaysia could become an extremist Islamic country.

"My view is that I don't think so. The Malay Muslims (in Malaysia) are very rational people. There are some who are not that knowledgeable about Islam and who can be misled, but the majority know what Islam is all about and they cannot be easily misled by people who pretend to be Islamists."