



**UNITY:** Dr Mahathir raising Abdullah's hand to show his support for the Deputy Prime Minister after the Umno supreme council meeting at Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

## Dr M: Don't make false claims

**S 31/10/2003 - 3 PRECISE**

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The country sometimes needs opposition parties to check on the ruling government but they should not make unsubstantiated claims or hurl wild allegations, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir, who chaired his last Umno supreme council meeting, said the Opposition could check on the Government by pointing out its mistakes but should be responsible and truthful in doing so.

He said some opposition parties held campaigns all-year round to tarnish the government's image.

"This is a waste of time and money for the Government because it has to spend money to counter all these false accusations," he said, adding that his last advice to the Opposition was to stop hurling such slanderous statements and baseless allegations.

Dr Mahathir also said PAS should accept that Umno members practised the same Islamic

faith as them and there was no difference between them as far as religion was concerned.

"I also hope they will appreciate Malaysia's achievements and not disregard these when meeting foreigners or making overseas visits," he said, adding there were times when the Opposition made false accusations against their own country when meeting foreigners.

On claims that PAS would lodge police reports against Dr Mahathir upon his retirement, he said: "They can take me to court."

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the party would defend Dr Mahathir if PAS were to take him to court as Dr Mahathir was still an Umno leader.

On the Jews, Dr Mahathir said: "The Jews must not think that they are the chosen people and cannot be criticised at all.

"When they were being massacred and killed, they ran to the Muslim nations and we were sad for them. They must

remember that when they were ill-treated by the Europeans, they had to run to Muslim countries like Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco and the Muslims never ill-treated them.

"But now they are behaving the way the Europeans behaved towards them," he said, adding that the Muslims had done nothing wrong against the Jews.

He said the Middle East conflict had nothing to do with religion but was a territorial dispute whereby the Palestinians' land was being taken away.

He also said those who had the means to fight back would do so unlike the Red Indians and aborigines.

"Do you think if land in America were taken away and given to the Jews and they called it Israel, the Americans would keep quiet and welcome them?"

"The Palestinians' land is being taken away and given to the Jews and of course they will fight for it," he said.