

Dr M's move is unusual, say Umno leaders

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KOTA TINGGI: Unusual and inappropriate.

These are among the views of several Umno leaders on the intention of former Umno president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to offer himself as a delegate to the party's general assembly in November, although the party does not prevent him from doing so.

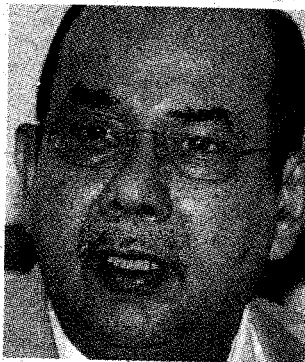
"It has never happened in the history of Umno that former prime ministers and former Umno presidents would contest to be in the G7 and become a delegate," said Umno supreme council member and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

(G7 is the group of seven party members elected to be divisional delegates to attend the general assembly).

However, Syed Hamid said Umno would not deprive him of his rights as a party member, and in this matter the decision lies with the Kubang Pasu Umno division, of which Dr Mahathir is a member.

However, he advised Dr Mahathir to think about his action wisely and decide whether he truly wanted to contest to become a divisional delegate.

This was because Dr Mahathir's action could be misinterpreted, he said after the



Syed Hamid says Dr Mahathir's action is unprecedented

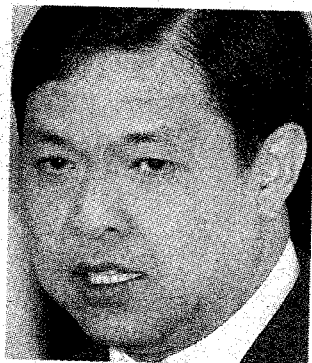
opening of the Kota Tinggi Umno divisional delegates meeting, here yesterday.

The Umno supreme council, at its meeting on Friday night, felt that Umno should not prevent Dr Mahathir from contesting to become a delegate.

And Umno president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said it was up to the Kubang Pasu division to decide.

In **Kuala Pilah**, another council member, Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, said Dr Mahathir should not lower his dignity as a statesman to become a delegate at the general assembly.

"His position should not go down too low. I think Tun must



Zahid says Dr Mahathir should not lower his dignity

have been advised to do so," the Deputy Information Minister said after opening the Kuala Pilah Umno division meeting.

In **Kubang Pasu**, Datuk Mohamed Johari Baharum said Dr Mahathir had never been prevented from becoming a delegate and his name was on the list of 17 people offering to contest for the seven places to the general assembly in Kuala Lumpur.

Speaking after the opening of the Kubang Pasu Umno Youth delegates meeting, Johari said he was sad that some people claimed he had tried to prevent Dr Mahathir from becoming a delegate.