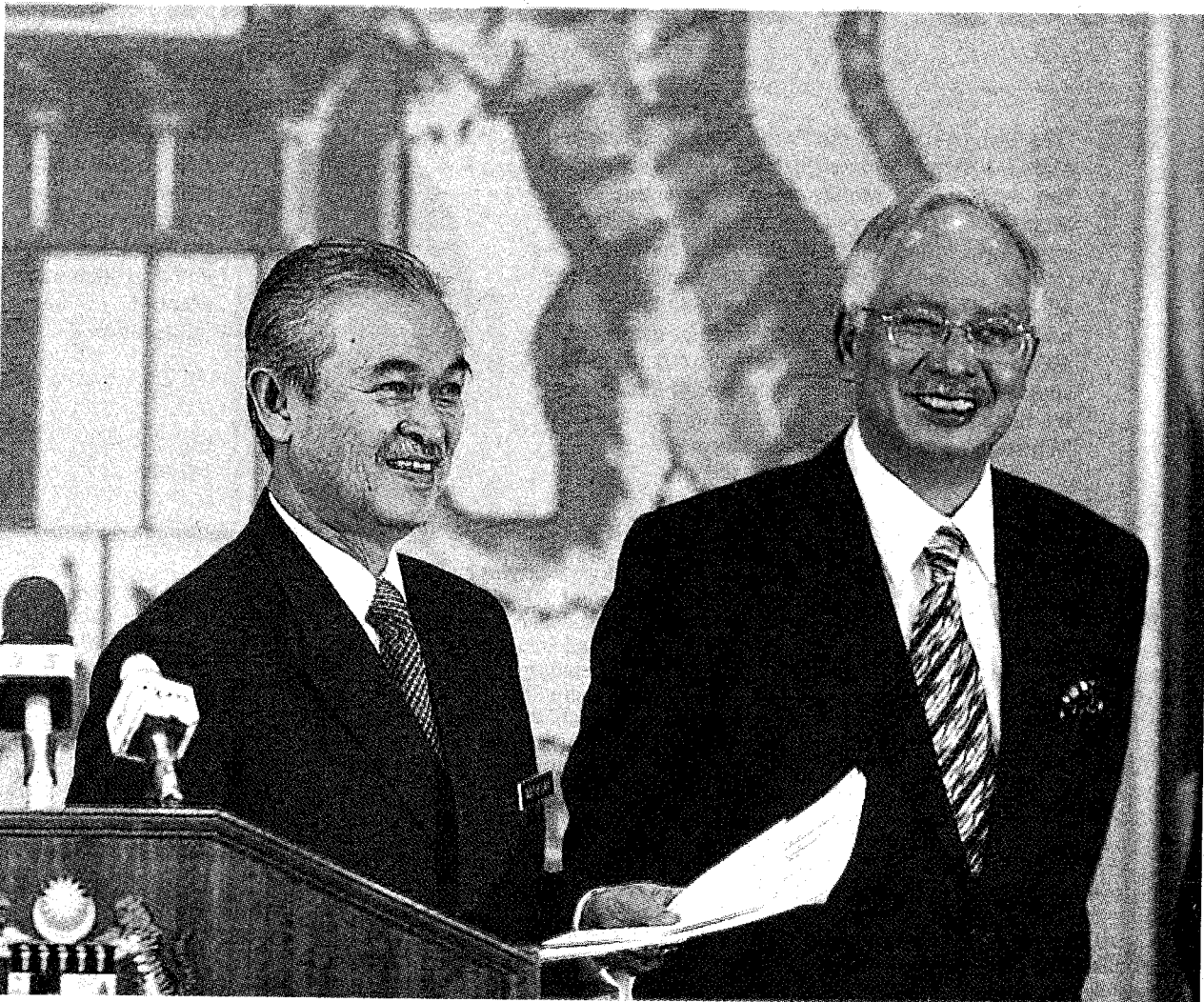


Dr M: I will voice my opinion if I see something wrong

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STANDING TOGETHER: Najib says he stands by Abdullah's leadership, adding that every Prime Minister will do what is best for the country.

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But the present Government can still do a good job; the means are there.

"But if they come under the influence of people with other agendas, it cannot be helped."

When asked who were the influential people with other agendas, he declined further commenting, stating that the media was already in the know.

Dr Mahathir said he was not interfering with the Government of the day, and it was not his plan when he decided to step down as Prime Minister.

"When I decided to step down, I planned not to interfere with the Government of the day," he said.

"There were certain things that were promised by the incoming government but it not only did not do things as promised but reversed many decisions made (by the former Government) when he (Abdullah) was still in the Government.

"I thought this would be carried out during his period in power but new things cropped up and promises were not kept."

Dr Mahathir said he had not broken any promises after making public his undertakings.

He said he was not campaigning within Umno to unseat Abdullah as "I am not capable of doing that" and "I cannot have him removed".

"I am not going about campaigning, (but) I would be failing in my duty as an ordinary citizen,

as an ex-PM, if I did not direct my attention to issues affecting national interests," he said.

"I cannot remove the present leadership, I will support the Prime Minister, but I will voice out my opinion if I see something wrong."

Dr Mahathir said he would continue to stick his neck out to be chopped by opposing decisions made by the Government, as he had done in the past.

Asked to comment on PAS' suggestion that he be an Opposition Leader, Dr Mahathir said he did not want to have anything to do with PAS as he believed it was not an Islamic party but a deviationist.

"What PAS proposed to do is not practical for the country. Of course, they think they can make use of me, (but) I will not be made use of by anyone," he said.

"Even when I was thrown out of Umno, I was not disloyal. I never wanted to have anything to do with the opposition, not for emotional reasons, but simply because I don't think they have anything to offer the country."

He also said he would not be forming another party and that he was happy being a retired man.

On being Proton advisor, Dr Mahathir said he valued the appointment and that he would not quit, but added that he could be removed if the Government felt he was an obstruction or nuisance.