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MAHATHIR-UNIVERSITY
BM

1974

(P)
KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 26 ((BERNAMA))— EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED STRESSED TODAY THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TAKE ANY ACTION TO CLOSE DOWN THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA UNLESS THE SITUATION REALLY MERITS IT.

HE SAID THAT PERSONALLY HE HAD NO WISH TO INTERFERE IN THE UNIVERSITY'S RECENT ON-CAMPUS EVENTS.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY INCLUDING THE SUSPENSION OF ITS STUDENTS UNION OR UMSU.

EARLIER THE MINISTER RECEIVED A CHEQUE FOR \$10,000 FROM THE DUNLOP INDUSTRIES MALAYSIA BERHAD FOR THE SCHOOLS' BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP. IT WAS HANDED OVER BY THE COMPANY'S MANAGING DIRECTOR TENGKU AHMAD BIN YAHYA.

HE EXPLAINED THAT HIS INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIR WAS UNNECESSARY AS THE SITUATION WAS NOT THAT SERIOUS.

HOWEVER HE WILL STEP IN IF THE SITUATION GETS WORSE OR DISTURBANCES OCCUR ON THE CAMPUS. —BERNAMA MORE 1751/M

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THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL IS TAKING STEPS TO RESTORE CONDITIONS TO NORMAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS POWERS UNDER THE UNIVERSITY'S CONSTITUTION.

UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES IS FINDING WAYS TO RECONCILE THE DIFFERENT GROUPS IN THE UNIVERSITY.

HE HOPED THAT THERE IS NO TRUTH IN THE REPORT THAT SOME TUTORS AND LECTURERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENTS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID ALTHOUGH CONDITIONS ARE A LITTLE TENSE THE SITUATION IS IMPROVING.

(ON THE SUSPENSION OF THE UMSU BY CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL DATUK DR. SYED MOHAMED ALWAI ALHADI, HE SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE OF UMSU'S CONDUCT WHICH HAD LED TO THE TENSION WITHIN THE CAMPUS.

(A LARGE BODY OF STUDENTS WERE AGAINST THE UMSU'S ACTION IN SETTING UP THE TEMPORARY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (TEC) WHICH TOOK OVER THE UNIVERSITY'S ADMINISTRATION.

(THIS CLEARLY SHOWED THAT THE UMSU LEADERSHIP HAD BECOME UNACCEPTABLE TO THE MAJORITY OF THE UNDERGRADUATES. —BERNAMA MORE 1801/MD

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THE UMSU'S LAST ACTION IN CALLING ON STUDENTS TO BOYCOTT CLASSES AND TUTORIALS DID NOT GET SUPPORT.

DR. MAHATHIR DID NOT SEE WHY STUDENTS SHOULD BOYCOTT LECTURES WHEN THE NATIONALIST EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WHICH WRESTED CONTROL FROM THE TEC, HAD TURNED OVER THE UNIVERSITY'S ADMINISTRATION AND UNION HOUSE TO THE AUTHORITIES.

ON ALLEGATIONS THAT THE EVENTS WERE MANIPULATED BY AN +OFF-CAMPUS+ POWER, THE MINISTER HAD THIS TO SAY:

+IT IS A FACT THAT THE INCIDENT OCCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ILLEGAL SQUATTER PROBLEM IN JOHORE. THE PARTAI RAKYAT TRIED TO TAKE UP THE ISSUE, FOLLOWED BY THE UMSU AND SOCIALIST CLUB.

+THE CONNECTION CANNOT BE DENIED.+

MEANWHILE THE UNIVERSITY IS STILL CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. FEDERAL RESERVE UNIT AND POLICE FIELD FORCE MEMBERS ARE STILL ON GUARD AT BOTH ENTRANCE GATES.

ONLY UNIVERSITY STAFF AND STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER.

A UNIVERSITY SPOKESMAN SAID CONDITIONS ON THE CAMPUS WAS CALM AND NORMAL.

THE UNIVERSITY MALAYA COUNCIL WILL MEET TOMORROW TO DETERMINE THE FATE OF THE UMSU, SUSPENDED SINCE YESTERDAY. -- BERNAMA MORE 1904/AZ

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MEANWHILE THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA STUDENTS' UNION IS NOW COLLECTING SIGNATURES OF STUDENTS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL WHICH WILL MEET TOMORROW TO DECIDE THE FATE OF THE UNION.

ITS PRESIDENT, ENCIK KAMARAZAMAN YACCOB, TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT A MEMORANDUM CALLING ON THE COUNCIL NOT TO SUSPEND THE UNION WOULD ALSO BE SUBMITTED.

HE SAID UMSU EXPECTED TO COLLECT MORE THAN 5,000 SIGNATURES.

THE SUSPENSION OF UMSU BY THE COUNCIL WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE STUDENTS, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM SUPPORTED THE UNION, HE ADDED.

ENCIK KAMARAZAMAN SAID THE SIGNATURE EXERCISE WAS BEING CARRIED OUT BECAUSE UMSU DID NOT RECOGNISE THE UNION'S SUSPENSION BY DATUK (DR.) AL HADI.

HE ADDED THAT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 6(51) OF THE UNIVERSITY CONSTITUTION, ONLY THE COUNCIL COULD SUSPEND UMSU -- NOT THE CHAIRMAN.

HE CLAIMED THAT STUDENTS FROM THE VARIOUS FACULTIES, INCLUDING DENTISTRY, LAW, MEDICINE, SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE AND ENGINEERING AND SOME ECONOMICS STUDENTS WERE BOYCOTTING TUTORIALS AND LECTURES IN SUPPORT OF UMSU. -- BERNAMA 1907/AZ