

(F)

35:

MAHATHIR

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 13 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT WITHDRAWN ANY SCHOLARSHIPS FROM STUDENTS INVOLVED IN LAST YEAR'S DEMONSTRATION ALTHOUGH THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE, EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE SCHOLARSHIPS OF ABOUT 1,000 STUDENTS WERE BEING STUDIED CLOSELY BY THE AUTHORITIES AWARDING THEM.

THIS WAS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT TO SEE THOSE REALLY WISHING TO STUDY AFFECTED BY SUCH AN ACTION.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS AFTER RECEIVING FIVE SENATORS FROM THE FRENCH COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS, LED BY ITS PRESIDENT, MR JEAN DE BAGNEUX, AT HIS OFFICE HERE.

THOSE STUDENTS INVOLVED COULD APPEAL TO THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED IF THEIR SCHOLARSHIPS WERE WITHDRAWN. — BERNAMA MORE
1516/LK

(F)

36:

MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT MANY OF THE STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THE DEMONSTRATION HAD BEEN INFLUENCED BY THEIR LEADERS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE SCHOLARSHIPS WAS JUST TO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC FUNDS WERE NOT MISUSED BY STUDENTS.

THE AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS WERE TO HELP STUDENTS TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES AND NOT TO HOLD ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS. — BERNAMA MORE 1518/LK

(F)

37:

MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DIRECTOR OF THE MARA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, DR. MAHATHIR SAID HIS MINISTRY WAS STILL LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED DATUK ARSHAD AYUB.

DATUK ARSHAD HAS BEEN TIPPED TO BECOME DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF BANK NEGARA.

IN THE MEANTIME, AN ACTING DIRECTOR WILL BE APPOINTED.

ON HIS MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE VISITORS HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE TEACHING OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE IN THE COUNTRY BE EXPANDED.

HE SAID THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES MIGHT BE ENCOURAGED AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING SUCH AS THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA AND THE ITM.

MALAYSIA NEEDED MORE PEOPLE WHO WERE SKILLED IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES, ESPECIALLY THE TOURIST GUIDES.

IN VIEW OF THE MANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES BEING HELD IN THE COUNTRY, MORE TRANSLATORS SKILLED IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES WERE NEEDED. — BERNAMA MORE 1523/LK

(F)

38:

MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD DECIDED TO SET UP A TRANSLATORS SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA, BUT THE PROGRAMME HAD TO BE SHELVED BECAUSE THE OFFICER RESPONSIBLE COULD NOT CONTINUE HIS WORK DUE TO CERTAIN REASONS.

HOWEVER, A SUITABLE CANDIDATE WAS BEING SOUGHT TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAMME.

DURING THE MEETING, THE DELEGATION WAS BRIEFED ON THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY.

THE DELEGATION LATER CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, TAN SRI OMAR YOKE LIN ONG, AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

THE FRENCH SENATORS WILL LATER VISIT THE UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN, ITM, ANGKASAPURI AND MUZIUM NEGARA. — BERNAMA 1516/A1