

(F)

70:

MIT-MAHATHIR 'x'x'x'

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 8 (BERNAMA) — EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED HAS ORDERED MIT STUDENTS TO VACATE THE SHAH ALAM CAMPUS BY TOMORROW OR THE POLICE WILL MOVE IN.

HE GAVE THE WARNING TODAY FOLLOWING THE STUDENTS' TAKE OVER OF THE CAMPUS SINCE TUESDAY.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH BERNAMA AND RTM, HE SAID AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO AVOID FORCE AND PREFER THAT STUDENTS EVACUATE THE CAMPUS VOLUNTARILY.

HE SAID THAT HE WAS +VERY UNHAPPY WITH THE ATTEMPTS BY THE STUDENT LEADERS TO PREVENT THEIR COLLEAGUES FROM LEAVING THE CAMPUS.+

HE ADDED THAT IF THE STUDENT LEADERS WERE SINCERE THEY SHOULD ALLOW THOSE WANTING TO LEAVE TO DO SO.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT THE STUDENT LEADERS HAD USED FORCE AND INTIMIDATION ON FELLOW STUDENTS.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE ADDED FIVE GIRLS REPORTED THAT THEY WERE THREATENED THEY WOULD BE STRIPPED IF THEY REFUSED TO FOLLOW THE ORDERS OF THE LEADERS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT KNEW THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE +SITUATION+.

HE SAID ABOUT 200 STUDENTS WHO CALLED THEMSELVES +GESTAPO OR MUSIC BOYS+ WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WHOLE INCIDENT.

+THE MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS ARE INNOCENT AND SINCERELY WISH TO STUDY.+ HE ADDED. — BERNAMA MORE 1642/ZCM

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MIT-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ACCORDING TO DR. MAHATHIR, THERE WERE ABOUT 4,000 STUDENTS IN THE CAMPUS WHO WANTED TO LEAVE BUT WERE BEING PREVENTED BY THE LEADERS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE WELFARE OF THE STUDENTS IN THE CAMPUS.

HE ADDED THAT THE MIT ADMINISTRATION HAD MADE ALL NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS WERE SENT HOME.

DR. MAHATHIR ASSURED PARENTS THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WAS BEING DONE BY THE MIT ADMINISTRATION TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE STUDENTS.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE MIT DIRECTOR, DATO' LOKMAN MUSA AND IN THE WAY HE WAS HANDLING THE SITUATION.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID MIT WAS SPENDING ABOUT \$100,000 ON THE WHOLE OPERATION TO SEND THE STUDENTS HOME.

HE SAID MIT WOULD PROVIDE POCKET MONEY TO THOSE WHO WERE IN NEED OF IT.

ON THE UMNO YOUTH EDUCATION BUREAU'S OFFER TO MEDIATE IN THE DISPUTE, DR. MAHATHIR SAID +THE SITUATION HAS PASSED THE STAGE OF NEGOTIATION.+

+BEFORE THE AUTHORITIES CLOSED THE CAMPUS, THE STUDENTS THEMSELVES CLOSED IT AND REFUSED TO TALK,+ HE ADDED.

DR. MAHATHIR WAS CONFIDENT THAT MIT WOULD BE REOPENED AS +SOON AS THE LEADERS WERE ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF THE STUDENT POPULATION.+ — BERNAMA MORE 1644/ZCM

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MIT-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS SPENDING ABOUT \$100,000 A DAY IN THE RUNNING THE INSTITUTE.

+SINCE THE GOVERNMENT IS SPENDING SO MUCH, IT EXPECTS A PROPORTIONATE RETURN,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT THE ANNUAL INTAKE AT MIT WAS ABOUT 3,500 STUDENTS AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF GRADUANDS EACH YEAR.

+BUT DUE TO THE HIGH RATE OF FAILURES, THE INSTITUTE IS NOT CHURNING OUT THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF GRADUANDS,+ HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING RE-REGISTERING ALL MIT STUDENTS TO +WEED OUT THOSE WHO ARE NOT INTERESTED IN STUDYING.+

ON THE PRESENT DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS, HE SAID THIS WAS NOTHING NEW AS IT HAD BEEN IN FORCE SINCE 1972. — BERNAMA MORE 1700/ZCM

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MIT - MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

AT SEREMBAN, NEGRI SEMBILAN MENTRI BESAR DATUK MANSOR OSMAN WHO IS ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE MIT GOVERNING COUNCIL, SAID THE STUDENTS DID NOT HAVE ANY CAUSE FOR RASH ACTION AS THE ISSUE INVOLVED ONLY THE LENGTH OF HAIR, AND NOT MORE URGENT MATTERS LIKE LACK OF FOOD OR OPPRESSION.

— HE SAID THE ACT OF THE STUDENT LEADERS IN BLOWING UP THE +HAIR+ ISSUE UNTIL IT RESULTED IN STUDENT TAKE-OVER OF THE CAMPUS WAS SO +SHAMEFUL,+ PARTICULARLY TO THE MALAY COMMUNITY.

HE TOLD REPORTERS THE INCIDENT ALSO REFLECTED THE LACK OF MATURITY OF THE MIT STUDENT LEADERS.

DATUK MANSOR SAID THE DISCIPLINARY REGULATION ISSUE WAS A SMALL MATTER AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED THROUGH DIRECT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE STUDENTS AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE STUDENTS' WAY OF SEEKING SUPPORT FOR THEIR CAUSE SHOWED THEY WERE STILL INCAPABLE OF SOLVING THEIR PROBLEMS PROPERLY. — BERNAMA MORE 1838/BW

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MIT - MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE ISSUES IN CONTENTION WERE NOT NEW, AND THAT IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF RE-ENFORCING OLD REGULATIONS.

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL HAD GIVEN FULL MANDATE TO THE DIRECTOR, DATO' LOKMAN MUSA, TO CARRY THIS OUT.

DATUK MANSOR CLARIFIED THAT THE QUESTION OF THE STUDENTS NOT RECOGNISING DATO' LOKMAN AS THE DIRECTOR DID NOT ARISE BECAUSE DATO' LOKMAN WAS APPOINTED TO THE POST BY THE EDUCATION MINISTER. — BERNAMA 1838/BW

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MIT-MAHATHIR 6 KUALA LUMPUR (REOPENS ITEM 109)

THE UNION PRESIDENT, ENCIK ABDULLAH BABA, TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE MIT CAMPUS IN SHAH ALAM THIS EVENING THAT FOUR UNION REPRESENTATIVES HAD GONE TO SEREMBAN TODAY TO SEE DATUK MANSOR.

HE SAID THERE WERE 5,000 STUDENTS IN THE CAMPUS NOW AND THEIR SAFETY WAS GUARANTEED. — BERNAMA 1925/AZ