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99:

MAHATHIR-SECURITY

IPOH, JUNE 18 (BERNAMA) -- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID TODAY ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO PLUG LOOPHOLES IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO WIPE OUT THE COMMUNIST TERRORIST THREAT IN PERAK.

HE TOLD REPORTERS THIS EVENING THERE WERE +SOME INCOMPLETE AREAS+ IN THE SECURITY STRATEGY IN THE STATE.

+I WILL REPORT ON THESE PROBLEMS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.+

HE SAID ON THE WHOLE, HOWEVER, THE SECURITY ACTIVITIES IN PERAK WERE GOING ON VERY WELL.

DR. MAHATHIR FELT THE GOVERNMENT'S PSYCHOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN SHOULD BE STEPPED UP.

+WE HAVE TO STEP UP THE PEOPLE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR. WE HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO THEM WHAT THIS WAR IS ABOUT.+

+IT IS NOT JUST A CLASS WAR BUT ONE INVOLVING IDEOLOGY. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE A COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY AS THIS WILL LEAD TO ALL SORTS OF IMPLICATIONS.+ -- BERNAMA MORE 1916/AI

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102:

MAHATHIR-SECURITY 2 IPOH

DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD VALUE WHAT THEY HAD AND CONSIDER THEMSELVES FORTUNATE THAT THEY HAD A GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS SENSITIVE TO THEIR NEEDS.

+ A DICTATORIAL GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BOTHER ABOUT THEIR NEEDS,+ HE SAID.

ON HIS MEETING WITH STATE BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS HERE THIS EVENING, DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE EXPLAINED TO THEM THE CONCEPT UNDER WHICH THE BARISAN WAS FORMED.

ON THE +FRICTION+ THAT HAD BEEN DEVELOPING AMONG SOME OF THE BARISAN COMPONENT PARTIES IN PERAK, HE SAID HE TOLD THEM THAT EACH LEADER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING HIS PARTY MEMBERS IN LINE.

+THE BARISAN NASIONAL CONCEPT IS THAT THE PARTY LEADERS MUST WORK TOGETHER, ALTHOUGH THE PARTY MEMBERS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET

ALONG WITH EACH OTHER VERY WELL,+ HE ADDED.

+IT IS UP TO THE INDIVIDUAL PARTY LEADERS TO KEEP THEIR FOLLOWERS IN CHECK. IF THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO DO THIS, THEN THEY ARE NOT LEADERS BUT IT IS THEIR FOLLOWERS WHO ARE LEADING THEM+ HE ADDED.--BERNAMA 1920/BY

297