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ALOR SETAR, JULY 25 (BERNAMA) -- THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID THE COMMUNIST TERRORISTS WERE PLANNING TO ASSASSINATE NATIONAL LEADERS TO CREATE CHAOS IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID A DOCUMENT CONTAINING THE NAMES OF LEADERS TO BE ASSASSINATED WAS SEIZED BY THE SECURITY FORCES IN AN ANTI-COMMUNIST RAID SEVEN MONTHS AGO.

THE NAMES INCLUDED THOSE OF CABINET MINISTERS, HE TOLD A DIALOGUE SESSION WITH THE PEOPLE OF TUNJANG, 17 MILES FROM HERE. HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS SHOWED THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE DETERMINED TO TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY BY FORCE.

IF THEIR ASSASSINATION PLAN SUCCEEDED, THE PEOPLE WOULD BE LEFT WITHOUT LEADERSHIP AND THIS WOULD RESULT IN CHAOS.--  
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DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD NOT ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVE. THIS WAS ALSO THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PEOPLE.

HE REGRETTED THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO STILL REFUSED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE TERRORISTS AND SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE WAR AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS WAS NOT ONLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO INVOLVED THE ENTIRE POPULATION, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC STATUS.

ON SMUGGLING, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE REGULATIONS REQUIRING ALL FISH IMPORTED INTO THE COUNTRY FROM THAILAND TO BE PACKED IN PLASTIC BOXES.

IN THIS WAY, THE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE ABLE TO DETECT POSSIBLE SMUGGLING OF FIREARMS INTO THE COUNTRY.--BERNAMA 1723/BY