

MAHATHIR-SOEHARTO

FROM ZAINOOR SULAIMAN

JAKARTA, JUNE 6 (BERNAMA) — PRESIDENT SOEHARHO TODAY PLEDGED INDONESIAN SUPPORT FOR MALAYSIA IN NEGOTIATING FOR MORE SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT WITH BRITAIN OVER CONCORDE ISSUES. HE MADE THE PLEDGE TO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED WHO CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT AT BINA GRAHA, THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE, HERE THIS MORNING. — BERNAMA MORE 1517/SZ

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DR. MAHATHIR TOLD REPORTERS LATER THAT MALAYSIA WAS STILL NOT SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRITAIN OVER THE CONCORDE PROBLEMS.

DURING THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, HE BRIEFED THE INDONESIAN LEADER ON THE LATEST POSITION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES IN SECURING A MORE MEANINGFUL SETTLEMENT.

HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE INDONESIAN LEADER FOR UNDERSTANDING AND CONTINUED SUPPORT TO MALAYSIA IN FACING THE PROBLEM.

INDONESIAN OFFICIALS ON MANY OCCASIONS HAD SAID THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT GRANT OVERFLYING RIGHT TO THE BRITISH AIRWAYS — SINGAPORE AIRLINES SPONSORED CONCORDE FLIGHT UNTIL A SETTLEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN BRITAIN AND MALAYSIA. — BERNAMA MORE 1520/SZ

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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT DURING THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT HE ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF GIVING THE ASEAN AIRLINES A GREATER ROLE IN THE REGION.

AT PRESENT THE IN-FLOW AND OUT-FLOW OF TRAVELLERS MOSTLY WERE BEING CARRIED BY AIRLINES OUTSIDE ASEAN. +WE SHOULD BE CARRIERS,+ HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED THE FORMULATION OF JOINT APPROACH IN GETTING A MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE FOR ASEAN AIRLINES.

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO BRIEFED THE PRESIDENT ON THE MALAYSIAN AMMONIA-UREA PROJECT IN BINTULU SARAWAK, WHICH HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS YESTERDAY AS AN ASEAN PROJECT.

THE PROJECT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED ON SIMILAR BASIS AS THE INDONESIAN UREA PROJECT IN ACHEH, SUMATRA.

THE BINTULU PROJECT WOULD HAVE THE SAME CAPACITY AS THE ACHEH PLANT. THE PLANT WOULD PRODUCE 1,500 TONS OF UREA PER DAY WITH AN INPUT OF 1,000 TONS OF AMMONIA DAILY PRODUCED BY THE LOCAL PLANT. — BERNAMA MORE 1525/SZ

DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT WOULD BE HELD SOON WITH ALL THE FIVE ASEAN PARTNERS.

THE APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT WAS IN TIME FOR JAPANESE FINANCING, HE SAID.

DURING THE DISCUSSIONS BOTH DR. MAHATHIR AND PRESIDENT SOEHARTO TOUCHED ON SEVERAL BILATERAL MATTERS COVERING TRADE AND TOURISM.

DURING THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, DR. MAHATHIR WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR HERE DATUK HASHIM SULTAN.

MEANWHILE DATIN SRI DR. SITI HASMAH WHO IS ACCOMPANYING DR. MAHATHIR TODAY PAID COURTESY CALL ON THE INDONESIAN FIRST LADY, IBU TIEN SOEHARTO.

SHE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY IBU WIDJOJO NITISASTRO, THE WIFE OF THE INDONESIAN COORDINATING MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC, FINANCE AND INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS. — BERNAMA 1527/SZ