

MAHATHIR-IMMIGRANTS

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 11 (BERNAMA)—MALAYSIA AND THAILAND ARE TAKING A JOINT STAND ON VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AT THE CURRENT GENEVA CONFERENCE AND WILL MAINTAIN THE SAME POSITION AT OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

+WE WANT THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO TALK SO MUCH ABOUT HUMANITARIAN RIGHTS, TO TAKE IN MUCH MORE THAN THEY ARE NOW WILLING TO ACCEPT,+ THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TOLD REPORTERS AFTER RECEIVING TURKISH SENATE MEMBERS AT HIS OFFICE.

HE SAID HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE HAD BEEN IN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT AND BOTH COUNTRIES AGREED THAT THE BURDEN OF THE IMMIGRANTS SHOULD NOT BE BORNE BY THEM.

HE CRITICISED COUNTRIES LIKE THE UNITED STATES +WHICH MAKE SUCH AN ISSUE OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND YET WILL TAKE ONLY A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THESE PEOPLE.+

HE ALSO REGRETTED THE TENDENCY OF THESE COUNTRIES TO IMPOSE +ALL MANNER OF CONDITIONS+ SO AS TO RESTRICT THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE THEY TOOK IN.

—BERNAMA MORE 1520/AH

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HE COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT THESE COUNTRIES WERE INCAPABLE OF TAKING IN A MUCH GREATER NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REITERATED THAT MALAYSIA WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT FOR PERMANENT STAY IN THIS COUNTRY.

HE ALSO URGED THE PEOPLE TO HAVE FAITH IN THE GOVERNMENT ON THE ISSUE, SAYING: +IT IS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM BUT WE WILL SOLVE IT AND WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT FOR PERMANENT STAY IN OUR COUNTRY.+

—BERNAMA 1525/AH