

MAHATHIR-FARE

FROM ZAINOOR SULAIMAN:

JAKARTA, MARCH 20 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT HE WAS POSITIVE A COMPROMISE WOULD BE ACHIEVED AT THE CURRENT TALKS HERE ON AVIATION BETWEEN ASEAN AND AUSTRALIA. THE MALAYSIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS HEADING THE ASEAN 9-MEMBER DELEGATION AT THE MEETING, TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS THIS EVENING THAT BOTH SIDES WERE WORKING TOWARDS A COMPROMISE.

HE DISCLOSED THAT CERTAIN PROPOSALS HAD BEEN MADE BY BOTH AUSTRALIAN AND ASEAN DELEGATIONS DURING THE AFTERNOON SESSION. OFFICIALS WERE NOW EVALUATING THE PROPOSALS AND WOULD REPORT TO THE MINISTERS TOMORROW MORNING.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT AS FAR AS ASEAN WAS CONCERNED IT WAS WORTHWHILE FOR OFFICIALS TO LOOK INTO THE PROPOSALS. —
BERNAMA MORE 2248/ZCM

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THE EXPERTS HAVE TO WORK THROUGH THE NIGHT TONIGHT TO CONSIDER THE NEW SET OF PROPOSALS PRESENTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORT MINISTER ENCIK PETER NIXON WHO IS JOINTLY HEADING THE AUSTRALIAN 17-MEMBER TEAM WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ENCIK ANDREW PEACOCK.

ALTHOUGH DETAILS OF THE NEW PROPOSALS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RELEASED, BOTH THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTERS ARE CONFIDENT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN RESOLVING THE DISPUTE WITH ASEAN WHICH HAS STRONGLY OBJECTED TO BEING EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE CHEAP FARE SCHEME BETWEEN SYDNEY AND LONDON.

CONFERENCE SOURCES SAY THE KEY TO AUSTRALIA'S BREAKTHROUGH IS A DEAL ALLOWING ASEAN AIRLINES TO CARRY PASSENGERS ALONG THE ROUTE AND AGREEMENT BY QANTAS NOT TO TAKE ANY STOP-OVER PASSENGERS IN ASEAN PORTS THROUGH LONDON AND OTHER EUROPEAN CITIES.

THE TECHNICAL DETAILS OF THE NEW PROPOSAL WERE BEING STUDIED BY OFFICIALS FROM BOTH SIDES TONIGHT.

ENCIK NIXON SAID HIS DELEGATION WAS PREPARED TO STAY ON UNTIL SOME POSITIVE DECISION WAS ACHIEVED TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE. —
BERNAMA MORE 2300/ZCM

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HE SAID: +WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET IF REQUESTED. IF IT IS NECESSARY TO HOLD SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS, WE WOULD AGREE TO THAT.+ SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER ENCIK S. RAJARATNAM TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THIS EVENING'S SESSION THAT THE JAKARTA TALKS WERE A TEST OF ASEAN SOLIDARITY.

HE WAS RETICENT ABOUT CLAIMING SUCCESS AT THIS STAGE.

THE SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED DURING THE TWO-DAY TALKS INCLUDE THE CHEAP FARE BETWEEN SYDNEY AND LONDON AND BETWEEN ASEAN AND AUSTRALIAN CITIES, STOP-OVER FARES, ADDITIONAL FREQUENCY AND CAPACITY, STOP-OVER FARES IN ASEAN AND OUTSIDE ASEAN AND ACCESS OF ASEAN AIRLINES TO THE END-TO-END FLIGHT BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND EUROPE.

— BERNAMA 2303/ZCM

MAHATHIR-TAMBANG