

MAHATHIR

FROM S. SIVASELVAM

PYONGYANG, JUNE 7 (BERNAMA) — DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WHICH COULD CHANGE ITS NATURE AND CHARACTER.

+IF THE MOVEMENT IS TO BE CREDIBLE AND PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES OF THE MOVEMENT+, HE SAID AT A DINNER HERE GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR LAST NIGHT.

NORTH KOREAN VICE-PRESIDENT PAK SONG CHOL ATTENDED THE DINNER, WHICH WAS HOSTED BY VICE-PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS KONG JIN TAE TO MARK THE MALAYSIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID NORTH KOREA SHARED MALAYSIA'S CONCERN AND HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THIS QUESTION WAS VERY MUCH IN THE MINDS OF THE COUNTRIES ATTENDING THE CURRENT MEETING IN COLOMBO OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE CO-ORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. —BERNAMA MORE 1332/BY MAHATHIR 2 PYONGYANG

+I HOPE THE MEMBERS WILL ACT IN THE BEST INTERETS OF THE MOVEMENT AS A WHOLE AND TAKE CONCRETE AND TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO STRENGTHEN THE SOLIDARITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MOVEMENT+, HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THOUGH GEOGRAPHICALLY MALAYSIA AND THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA BELONGED TO SEPARATE REGIONS BOTH DESIRED PEACE AND STABILITY IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS.

HE REFERRED TO THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA AND EXPRESSED MALAYSIA'S FEAR THAT IF THE TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS PERSISTED, THERE WOULD BE A REAL DANGER OF BIG POWER INVOLVEMENT WHICH COULD AGAIN EMBROIL SOUTH-EAST ASIA IN BIG POWER RIVALRY.

HE STRESSED THAT ASEAN'S CALL FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES, NON-INTERFERENCE AND RESTRAINT BY OUTSIDE POWERS AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE RIGHT OF THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION WERE CONSISTENT WITH ITS CONCEPT OF A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

IT WAS MALAYSIA'S HOPE THAT THE +THREATENING AND TENSE+ SITUATION IN INDOCHINA WOULD SOON BE ARRESTED AND DIFFUSED AND THAT PEACE AND STABILITY WOULD PREVAIL AGAIN SO THAT RESOURCES AND ENERGIES COULD BE DIVERTED TOWARDS NATIONAL CONSOLIDATION AND DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS TO BUILD FRIENDLY AND CO-OPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER IN THE REGION. —BERNAMA MORE 1336/BY

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NO35 (F)
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ON TIES WITH NORTH KOREA, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HIS VISIT DEMONSTRATED MALAYSIA'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN DEVELOPING FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACTS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

HE SAID BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED IN FULFILLING THE MUTUAL DESIRE TO IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN THE TIES.

TRADE SEEMED TO BE THE MOST PROMISING PROSPECT FOR FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION, AND HE FOUND THAT BOTH COUNTRIES NEEDED RAW MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS WHICH WERE AVAILABLE IN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

IN THIS WAY BOTH MALAYSIA AND NORTH KOREA COULD MUTUALLY BENEFIT FROM DIRECT BILATERAL TRADE.

MALAYSIA FOR EXAMPLE, NEEDED STEEL AND OTHER MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS FOR ITS INDUSTRIES AND ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND IN RETURN MALAYSIA COULD SUPPLY RUBBER, PALM OIL, TIN, TIMBER AND EVEN SOME MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS TO THE REPUBLIC.

VICE PREMIER KONG JIN TAE EXPRESSED NORTH KOREA'S +ACTIVE SUPPORT+ FOR MALAYSIA'S ENDEAVOUR AND +JUST STAND+ IN PURSUING A NON-ALIGNED AND INDEPENDENT STAND AND IN EFFORTS TO NEUTRALISE SOUTH-EAST ASIA. —BERNAMA MORE 1343/BY

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NO36 (F)
MAHATHIR 4 PYONGYANG

HE PRAISED MALAYSIA FOR ITS SUCCESSES IN EFFORTS TOWARDS RESTRUCTURING ITS SOCIETY AND IN IMPLEMENTING THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN, AND HE FELT THAT THE DEPENDENT WOULD LAAD TOWARDS NEW STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT IN FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE MALAYSIAN AND KOREAN PEOPLES.

ENCIK KONG EXPRESSED NORTH KOREA'S +HEARTFELT GRATITUDE+ TO MALAYSIA FOR ITS SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY TO THE CAUSE OF THE REUNIFICATION OF THE TWO KOREAS.

EARLIER, DURING DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S COURTESY CALL ON THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ENCIK PAK SONG CHOL SAID NORTH KOREA SHARED MALAYSIA'S ANXIETY OVER THE INDOCHINE CONFLICT AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE SOLVED IN AN EQUITABLE WAY.

NORTH KOREA SHARED MALAYSIA'S EFFORTS TOWARDS CREATING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND ITS STAND THAT ASIANV PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SOLVED BY ASIANS WITHOUT INTERFERENCE BY OUTSIDE POWERS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WAS FULL OF ADMIRATION FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH NORTH KOREA HAD DEVELOPED. — BERNAMA MORE 1405/1B

MAHATHIR 5 PYONGYANG

MALAYSIA WAS ALSO AWARE OF THE REUNIFICATION PROBLEM AND WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE TO BE REUNITED.

+WE BELIEVE THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE KOREAN PEOPLE TO SETTLE AND WE SUPPORT EFFORTS FOR REUNIFICATION THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE KOREAN PEOPLE+, HE ADDED.

THIS MORNING DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR HAD TALKS WITH ENCIK KONG JIN TAE AND THEY WERE LATER JOINED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION. — BERNAMA 1410/1B