

79 (P)
 KUALA TRENGGANU, NOV. 17 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD REITERATED TODAY THAT MALAYSIA'S STAND ON THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE WAS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-AGGRESSION AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A COUNTRY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA HELD STEADFASTLY TO THIS PRINCIPLE AND AS SUCH IT HAD OPPOSED VIETNAM'S ACTION AGAINST KAMPUCHEA.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS HERE, HE SAID MALAYSIA'S OPPOSITION IN THIS MATTER DID NOT MEAN THAT SHE SUPPORTED THE OUSTED POL POT REGIME.

+OUR STAND IS BASED ON A PRINCIPLE WHICH IS ACCEPTED BY THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

+THIS IS EVIDENT FROM THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY MORE THAN 90 MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO THE ASEAN RESOLUTION (ON KAMPUCHEA) RECENTLY.+ — BERNAMA MORE 1712/LK

MAHATHIR-KAMPUCHEA 2 KUALA TRENGGANU

THE RESOLUTION CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO SEEK A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM.

ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS MEETING TO DISCUSS JOINT DEFENCE OF ASEAN COUNTRIES IN VIEW OF THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE DID NOT SEE ANY POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A MEETING TAKING PLACE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ASEAN WAS NOT A MILITARY PACT.

HOWEVER, IF THAILAND WERE TO FACE DIFFICULTIES, IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THAT COUNTRY TO HAVE BILATERAL TALKS WITH MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, THE PHILIPPINES AND SINGAPORE — THE FOUR OTHER ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES. — BERNAMA MORE 1716/LK

NO44: (F)

MAHATHIR-KAMPUCHEA 3 KUALA TRENGGANU

HE REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF THAILAND ALLOWING VIETNAM TO INVADE THE COUNTRY AND CONSEQUENTLY MALAYSIA.

HE SAID THAILAND'S STAND TOWARDS JAPAN DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR WAS DIFFERENT FROM ITS STAND TOWARDS VIETNAM.

ON NATIONAL SERVICE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT FEEL COMPELLED TO INTRODUCE IT AT PRESENT.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING NOW WAS TO EXPAND THE ARMED FORCES.

ON THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT PROBLEM, HE SAID THAT THE COUNTRY HAD PREPARED TO FACE ANY EVENTUALITIES BUT HE DID NOT FORSEE ANY MAJOR INFLUX AS IN THE PAST. — BERNAMA MORE 1719/LK

NO45: (F)

MAHATHIR-KAMPUCHEA 4 KUALA TRENGGANU

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES, THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY HAD BEEN REDUCED FROM 75,000 TO 38,000 AT PRESENT.

ON OIL, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAN — A MAJOR OIL PRODUCER — WOULD NOT AFFECT THE OIL SUPPLY SITUATION IN MALAYSIA AS THIS COUNTRY HAD BEEN OBTAINING MORE SUPPLIES FROM OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. — BERNAMA 1721/LK