

MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, FEB 17 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT IS MONITORING CLOSELY THE ACTIVITIES OF MALAYSIAN STUDENTS IN BRITAIN, BUT WILL NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST THEM UNLESS THEY BREAK LAWS, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE, ON HIS RETURN AFTER A 11-DAY INVESTMENT PROMOTION MISSION TO SWITZERLAND AND BELGIUM, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE STUDENTS THERE WERE DEMANDING SANCTIONS AGAINST BRITAIN FOR INCREASING FEES OF FOREIGN STUDENTS.

DR MAHATHIR SAID THE STUDENTS WERE FREE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS, SO LONG AS THEY DID NOT BREAK LAWS.

HE ADDED THAT HE HAD A DIALOGUE WITH ABOUT 600 MALAYSIAN STUDENTS DURING A BRIEF STAY IN LONDON BEFORE RETURNING HOME. — BERNAMA MORE 2055/A1

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HE NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF STUDENTS WERE ILL-INFORMED ABOUT A VARIETY OF ISSUES.

+THEY ASKED ME POORLY-FRAMED QUESTIONS AND ALSO MADE BASELESS ALLEGATIONS,+ HE SAID.

+THEY EVEN OBJECTED TO MINISTERS MAKING STATEMENTS ABOUT THEM AND FORBID US FROM TAPING THE DIALOGUE SESSION,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, DR MAHATHIR ADDED HIS OFFICERS WENT AHEAD AND TAPED THE DIALOGUE AS THIS WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MONITORING OF THE STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES.

+SOME OF THEM ARE LEVEL-HEADED AND LAUGHED OFF THE MORE SILLY QUESTIONS AND VIEWS PUT UP BY THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS,+ HE SAID. —

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADDED THAT HE ALSO VISITED A SILVER WARE WORKS IN LONDON TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF INVITING THEM TO INVEST IN MALAYSIA.

HE SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE THERE WAS A NEED TO INCREASE THE PRODUCTION OF BRASS AND SILVER WARE IN THE COUNTRY.

LATEST TECHNIQUES COULD BE ACQUIRED FROM THEM FOR THE LOCAL BRASS AND SILVER WARE INDUSTRY, HE SAID.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE RESPONSE TO HIS ADDRESSES AT THE SYMPOSIUMS IN SWITZERLAND AND BELGIUM. — BERNAMA 2101/A1