

NO77: (F)
MAHATHIR-CLAIM ๙'๙'๙

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 5⁸¹ (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE PHILIPPINES TO DROP ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIM OVER SABAH. +WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ACTION BEING TAKEN, + THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING HERE.

RESPONDING TO A QUESTION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THE QUESTION OF MALAYSIA SEVERING ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BECAUSE OF THE SABAH CLAIM AS ADVOCATED BY THE SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK HARRIS SALLEH DID NOT ARISE.

DATUK HARRIS SAID IN KOTA KINABALU ON THURSDAY THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT WOULD URGE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DO SO AND THAT IT WAS +FED UP+ WITH PHILIPPINE HARRASSMENT OVER THE ISSUE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE CHARGES MADE BY A PHILIPPINE MINISTER ABOUT MALAYSIA DID NOT REFLECT THE OFFICIAL VIEW OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

+IN FACT I HAVE BEEN INFORMED PERSONALLY BY PRESIDENT MARCOS ONLY RECENTLY THAT THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE MINISTER WAS NOT THE OFFICIAL VIEW OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, + HE SAID. --
BERNAMA MORE 1620/1B

NO78: (F)
MAHATHIR -CLAIM 2 KUALA LUMPUR ๙'๙'๙

HE SAID THE REPORTS ABOUT THE CHARGES MIGHT HAD BEEN BASELESS AND +THEREFORE THE QUESTION OF SEVERING RELATIONS DOES NOT ARISE.+

ON THE DEADLOCK IN TALKS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND SOUTH KOREA ON THE AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD YET TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE ACTUAL SITUATION.

HE SAID THE DIFERING INTERPRETATION ON MAS LANDING RIGHTS BETWEEN THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT AND ITS NATIONAL CARRIER, THE KOREAN AIRLINES, +IS SOMETHING NEW WHICH NEEDED TO BE LOOKED INTO CAREFULLY.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE KNOWN THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL VIEW ON IT UNTIL HE HAD RECEIVED A FULL REPORT FROM THE MALAYSIAN DELAGTION TO THE TALKS. --
BERNAMA 1523/1B