

N107: (F)
SENATE-MAHATHIR
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 11⁸¹ (BERNAMA) -- SUFFICIENT STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO CORRECT RECENT DISTORTIONS ABOUT PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) BY BRITISH NEWSPAPERS AND THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (ABC), THE DEWAN NEGARA WAS TOLD TODAY.

FEDERAL TERRITORY MINISTER DATUK PENGIRAN OTHMAN RAUF, REPLYING ON BEHALF OF FOREIGN MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE SAID REPORTS IN BRITISH NEWSPAPERS ABOUT MALAYSIA'S MOVE TO TAKE OVER GUTHRIE CORPORATION LTD WERE INCORRECT AND SMEARED THE GOOD NAME OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND MALAYSIA.

HE SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD EXPLAINED HIS STAND ON THE MATTER THROUGH A SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH THE FINANCIAL TIMES, THE LONDON TIMES AND THE GUARDIAN.

HE TOLD SENATOR K. KUMARAN THAT TAN SRI GHAZALI, DURING HIS VISIT TO BRITAIN, HAD EXPLAINED ABOUT THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND BRITAIN ON OCT. 15.

DATUK PENGIRAN OTHMAN SAID THE MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON HAD ALSO TAKEN STEPS TO CLARIFY MALAYSIA'S POSITION. -- BERNAMA MORE 1826/LK

N108: (F)
SENATE-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE MALAYSIAN MISSION THERE FROM TIME TO TIME ISSUED UPDATED INFORMATION ON MALAYSIA THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS, INCLUDING THE MASS MEDIA.

REGARDING DISTORTIONS BY THE ABC REGARDING DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S DECISION NOT TO ATTEND THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN MELBOURNE, HE SAID THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN RESOLVED WHEN THE ABC MADE AN APOLOGY AFTER THE MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN CANBERRA HAD ISSUED A PROTEST.

AUSTRALIA'S PRIME MINISTER AND ITS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE ISSUE.

TAN SRI GHAZALI WHO REPRESENTED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AT THE MEETING HAD EXPLAINED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER COULD NOT ATTEND BECAUSE OF MORE PRESSING MATTERS THAT HAD TO BE RESOLVED IN MALAYSIA. -- BERNAMA 1829/LK