

N115 (F)
PROTEST
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 15^{S)} (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT HAS
LODGED A STRONG PROTEST WITH THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
(ABC) AND THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OVER REPORTS BY THE MASS
MEDIA OF THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY THE ABC, WHICH HAD TARNISHED
THE GOOD NAME OF THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR
MOHAMAD.

THE PROTEST WAS MADE BY THE MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN
CANBERRA, A STATEMENT FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TODAY SAID.

THE STATEMENT FOLLOWED A REPORT IN A LOCAL NEWSPAPER ABOUT
THE CRITICISMS MADE OF DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, FOR NOT ATTENDING
THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN AUSTRALIA LATER
THIS MONTH.

THE STATEMENT SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER COULD NOT ATTEND
THE MEETING BECAUSE OF PRESSING DUTIES IN THE COUNTRY.

+THE REPLY HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.

+WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY CRITICISING THE ABC. THE
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE INCIDENT,+
THE STATEMENT ADDED. --- BERNAMA 9046/1K