

NO69 (F)  
MAHATHIR-CHINA 金'金'金'

FROM K.C. LEONG

BANGKOK, AUG. 24 (BERNAMA) — MALAYSIA IS NOT FULLY HAPPY WITH THE NATURE OF ITS PRESENT RELATIONS WITH CHINA BUT IS GLAD TO CONTINUE THE KIND OF +VERY PROPER RELATIONSHIP+ WHICH EXISTS WITH THAT COUNTRY AT THE MOMENT.

THIS WAS STATED HERE TODAY BY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI) DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, DURING A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION AT A LUNCH ORGANISED BY THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB OF THAILAND.

HE SAID THE IDEA THAT THERE COULD BE GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PARTY TO PARTY RELATIONS AS PRACTISED BY CHINA WAS NOT REALLY ACCEPTABLE TO MALAYSIA AND CHINA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNIST INSURGENCY IN MALAYSIA WAS +NOT VERY REASSURING.+

HIS COMMENT THAT THERE WAS NO COUNTERPART TO UMNO IN CHINA (WITH WHICH UMNO COULD HAVE PARTY TO PARTY RELATIONS) DREW LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE

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MALAYSIA IN ANY CASE DID NOT WISH TO HAVE AN UMNO IN CHINA  
+BECAUSE WE FEEL THAT IT IS AN INTERNAL PROBLEM OF CHINA WHAT  
PARTIES THEY HAVE THERE+.

SIMILARLY WHAT PARTIES THERE WERE IN MALAYSIA WAS MALAYSIA'S  
PROBLEM AND MALAYSIA WOULD LIKE FOREIGNERS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH  
ITS INTERNAL PROBLEMS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1659/YF

#### MAHATHIR-CHINA 2 BANGKOK

NEVERTHELESS, MALAYSIA NOTED WITH SOME DEGREE OF SATISFAC-  
TION THAT CHINA HAD CEASED TO PERMIT THE COMMUNIST PARTY-OF  
MALAYA (CPM) TO MAKE BROADCASTS \*FROM YUNAN IN CHINA.

+BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT LONG BEFORE THE BROADCASTS FROM  
CHINA CEASED, THE SAME RADIO STATION INFORMED EVERYONE THAT  
THERE WILL BE BROADCASTS BY ANOTHER STATION UNDER ANOTHER  
NAME ON ANOTHER WAVELENGTH, + HE ADDED,

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS REALLY THE SAME THING  
AND THAT NOT MUCH PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE.

OVERALL, RELATIONS WITH CHINA HAD NOT REALLY IMPROVED  
BEYOND THE BIG STEP MADE WHEN FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUN ABDUL  
RAZAK VISITED CHINA IN 1974. HE ADDED,

ON THE RECENT VISIT TO MALAYSIA BY CHINESE PREMIER ZHAO  
ZIYANG, HE SAID IT WAS IN ITSELF A GOOD GESTURE AS IT INDICATED  
CHINA'S INTEREST IN KNOWING OR CULTIVATING MALAYSIA MORE CLOSELY  
AND IN BEING THOUGHT WELL OF BY MALAYSIA NS. -- BERNAMA MORE  
1700/YF

NO71 (F)

#### MAHATHIR-CHINA 3 BANGKOK

ASKED WHETHER MALAYSIA HAD ANY FEARS ABOUT THAILAND BEING  
TOO CLOSE TO CHINA, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA DID NOT  
WANT TO IMPOSE ITS FEELINGS AND VIEWS ON THAILAND.

WITHIN ASEAN, THE FIVE COUNTRIES ALL HAD DIFFERENT DEGREES  
OF RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA, HE ADDED,

THAILAND, PERHAPS IN THE VIEW OF SOME PEOPLE, WAS BEING  
SEEN AS CLOSE TO CHINA AND ON THE OTHER HAND INDONESIA HAD NO  
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA WHILE MALAYSIA WAS PROBABLY  
HALFWAY IN BETWEEN, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

+THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ARE SUSPICIOUS OF ONE ANOTHER,+  
HE ADDED,

+IT IS PROBABLY A GOOD THING BECAUSE TO SETTLE PROBLEMS  
IN THE REGION WE NEED TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH THE PARTIES OF  
INFLUENCE AND WE FEEL THAT THAILAND'S ABILITY TO CONTACT CHINA  
MORE FREELY WOULD BE AS USEFUL AS MALAYSIA'S ABILITY TO  
CONTACT HANOI, IN THE CONTEXT OF SOLVING THE KAMPUCHEAN  
PROBLEM FOR EXAMPLE.

+SO MALAYSIA HAS NO STRONG VIEW ABOUT HOW CLOSE OR HOW  
DISTANT THAILAND'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA IS.+ -- 1704/YF