

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 21 (BERNAMA) — ASEAN SHOULD CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE APPLICATION BY SRI LANKA, IF IT IS MADE OFFICIALLY, TO JOIN THE REGIONAL GROUPING, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE FELT THAT THE FACT WAS THAT ASEAN WAS A REGIONAL GROUPING AND IF BASED ON ITS GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION ALONE, SRI LANKA WAS NOT WITHIN THE REGION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE SEMINAR ON THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN ORGANISED BY THE FEDERATION OF MALAYSIAN MANUFACTURERS HERE.

ON MAY 9, THE SRI LANKA PRIME MINISTER, ENCIK R. PREMADASA, WHO WAS THEN ON A VISIT TO MALAYSIA, HAD INDICATED THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS WILLING TO JOIN ASEAN IF IT WAS INVITED TO DO SO IN VIEW OF THE CLOSE RELATIONS SRI LANKA HAD WITH THE REGIONAL GROUPING.

HOWEVER, SRI LANKA HAD NOT MADE ANY FORMAL PROPOSAL ON ITS WISH TO JOIN ASEAN, ENCIK PREMADASA HAD SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1255/HS

MAHATHIR - SEAN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DURING THE MEETING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS ALSO ASKED TO CLARIFY CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAD BEEN REPORTED IN SEVERAL COMPONENT PARTIES OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL HAD NOT AND DID NOT WISH TO INTERFERE WITH THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ITS COMPONENT PARTIES. — BERNAMA 1257/HS

B519:
MAHATHIR-ASEAN

1981

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 MEI (BERNAMA) — ASEAN PERLU MENELITI SEHALUS-HALUSNYA PERMOHONAN SRI LANKA, SEKIRANYA DIBUAT SECARA RASMI, UNTUK MENYERTAI PERSATUAN NEGARA-NEGARA SERANTAU ITU, TIMBALAN PERDANA MENTERI DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD BERKATA HARI INI.

BELIAU BERPENDAPAT, PADA HAKIKATNYA, ASEAN IALAH PERTUBUHAN SERANTAU BAGI NEGARA-NEGARA TENGGARA ASIA DAN DARI SEGI KEDUDUKAN GEOGRAFINYA SAHAJA, SRI LANKA BUKAN DALAM ASIA TENGGARA.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MENJAWAB SOALAN-SOALAN PARA PEMBERITA SELEPAS MERASMIKAN SEMINAR MENGENAI RANCANGAN MALAYSIA KEEMPAT ANJURAN PERSEKUTUAN PEKILANG-PEKILANG MALAYSIA DI SINI.

PADA 9 MEI LALU, PERDANA MENTERI SRI LANKA YANG KETIKA ITU MELAWAT MALAYSIA, ENCIK R. PREMADASA MENJELASKAN NEGARNYA SANGGUP MENYERTAI ASEAN JIKA DIJEMPUT MEMANDANGKAN HUBUNGAN DUA HALA YANG ERAT ANTARA KEDUA-DUA PIHAK.

BAGAIMANAPUN, SRI LANKA BELUM MENGEMUKAKAN SEBARANG CADANGAN RASMI TENTANG HASRATNYA UNTUK BERGABUNG DALAM ASEAN, KATA PERDANA MENTERI NEGARA TERSEBUT. — BERSAMBUNG 1227/LK

B520:
MAHATHIR-ASEAN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DALAM PERTEMUAN ITU, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR JUGA DIMINTA MENGULAS TENTANG PERGOLAKAN YANG DILAPORKAN BERLAKU DALAM BEBERAPA PARTI KOMPONEN TERTENTU DALAM BARISAN NASIONAL.

TIMBALAN PERDANA MENTERI BERKATA BARISAN NASIONAL TIDAK PERNAH DAN TIDAK MAHU CAMPURTANGAN DALAM HAL-EHWAL PERIBADI PARTI-PARTI KOMPONENNYA. — BERNAMA 1228/LK