

MAHATHIR-AID

FROM REJAL ARBEE

23 7 2 (P)
SUVA, FIJI, JUNE 5 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD)
TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT MALAYSIA IS READY TO OFFER ASSISTANCE WITHIN
ITS MEANS TO ITS NEIGHBOURS AND COUNTRIES IN THE THIRD WORLD.

SPEAKING AT A RAKATUNULAO, A TRADITIONAL FIJIAN WELCOME CEREMONY,
AT VIEUTO, THE OVVICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE FIJIAN PRIME MINISTER
HERE, HE SAID MALAYSIA SUBSCRIBED TO THE CONCEPT OF ECONOMIC AND
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

IT WAS READY FOR SUCH COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITHIN ITS MODEST
RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE.

HE SAID MALAYSIA LOOKED FORWARD TO SHARING WITH FIJI THE
EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS ACQUIRED OVER THE YEARS IN ITS DEVELOPMENT,
THAT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE AND OF USE TOWARDS FIJI'S OWN REQUIREMENTS
AND PROGRAMMES.

+IN COOPERATING AND AS ISTING IN WHATEVER WAY, BIG OR SMALL,
I AM CONFIDENT THAT MALAYSIANS WOULD BE ENRICHED BY SUCH AN INTER-
CHANGE WITH FIJIANS+.

--BERNAMA 1338/A

MAHATHIR-AID 2 SUVA

AS SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, FIJI AND MALAYSIA ARE
INTERESTED IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A NEW INTRNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER
WEHERE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS WOULD BE MORE EQUITABLE.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, HAD JUST BEGUN ITS DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE
IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC WITH THE FIRST RESIDENT MISSION BASED HERE.
(MALAYSIA'S FIRST HIGH COMMISSIONER TO FIJI ENCIK ABDUL KARIM
MARZUKI TOOK OFFICE HERE LAST WEEK).

+IT IS MY EARNEST HOPE THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT YOUR ASPIRATIONS, INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS AND ENJOY A MORE
ACTIVE BILATERAL INTERACTION+.

PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WERE DATIN SERI DR SITI HASMAH,
FIJIAN PRIME MINISTER RATU SIR KAMISESE MARA AND ADI LADY LALA
MARA, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, RATU SIR PENAI A GANILAU AND ADI
LADY DAVILA GANILAU, MEMBERS OF THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION AND
FIJIAN VIPS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT FOR LONG MALAYSIA HAD RELIED
ON AND LEANED TOWARDS THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE
WEST, FOR ASSISTANCE, IDEAS AND INNOVATIONS.

IN STRIVING FOR GREATER SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRESS, THE GOVERNMENT
HAD RECENTLY ADOPTED A +LOOK EAST+ POLICY TO BALANCE SUCH INFLU-
ENCES IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

+DEBPITE THIS, IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THERE IS MUCH WHICH WE
CAN TAP FROM OUR OWN TRADITIONAL VALUES AND WAYS AND LEARN FROM
EACH OTHER IN THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGION ITSELF TO ADAP AND APPLY
TO MODERNITY WITH SUCCESS,+ HE SAID. --BERNAMA MORE 1358/MD

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MAHATHIR-AID 3 SUVA

+IN THE SHORT TIME THAT I HAVE BEEN HERE, I CANNOT FAIL BUT OBSERVE THAT STRIKINGLY HARMONIOUS AND PRAGMATIC WAY WITH WHICH THE PEOPLE OF FIJI GO ABOUT DOING THINGS.+

+THIS HEALTHY PACIFIC WAY OF HARMONY AND CONSENSUS IS TRULY ADMIRABLE AND AN ASSET WHICH OTHERS CAN LEARN TO CULTIVATE+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID FIJI AND MALAYSIA ENJOYED A LONG ASSOCIATION FORGED IN THE TROUBLED DAYS OF THE EMERGENCY IN MALAYA THEM.

+THERE IS A CONTINUING ABUNDANT STORE OF AFFECTION AND GOODWILL TOWARDS FIJI AMONG THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA..

RATU SIR MARA SAID WHEN FIJI WAS MOVING TOWARDS SELF GOVERNMENT IN THE MID-1960S, IT WAS TO COUNTRIES SUCH AS MALAYSIA THAT FIJI LOOKED TO FOR EXPERIENCE AND THAT HAD NOT BEEN IN VAIN.

YOUR EXPERIENCE AT A PARTNERSHIP OF THE MAJOR ETHNIC GROUPS GAVE US THE STRENGTH AND THE CONVICTION THAT A MULTIRACIAL POLICY, WITH UNDERSTANDING AND TOLERANCE, HARMONY AND GOODWILL WAS THE ONLY WAY FOR US IN THESE ISLANDS.+

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA'S AND FIJI'S HISTORIES HAD TENDED TO KEEP THE TWO REGIONS APART BUT WITH REGIONAL GROUPINGS BECOMING A MAJOR FACTOR FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FUTURE, HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT MALAYSIA AND FIJI WOULD IN THE EVOLVING REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL PATTERNS FIND SATISFACTORY AND REWARDING LINKS.

IN THIS CONTEXT, MALAYSIA WAS CERTAIN TO BE A DOMINANT VOICE FOR THE GOOD, HE ADDED. --BERNAMA MORE 1410/ND

MAHATHIR - AID 4 SUVA

RATU SIR MARA SAID THAT MALAYSIA IS AN IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER OF FIJI, BEING A SIGNIFICANT MARKET FOR ITS SUGAR.

+WE APPRECIATE THIS SUPPORT FOR AN INDUSTRY WHICH IS AT THE BASE OF OUR ECONOMIC WELFARE.+

HE PARTICULARLY MENTIONED THE FACT THAT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, AS THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY THEN, PLAYED A VITAL PART IN THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE LONG-TERM SUGAR CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SOME FIVE YEARS AGO.

LATER IN A SHORT ADDRESS DURING A MEETING WITH THE FIJIAN CABINET, RATU SIR MARA SAID THOUGH MALAYSIA MAY BE 5,000 MILES (8,000KM) AWAY FROM FIJI, IT SEES THE REGION AS A STRATEGIC BRIDGEHEAD

TO BOTH THE VAST ASIAN CONTINENT AND THE ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC.

--BERNAMA MORE 1415/ND

LAST PARA SHOULD READ: BRIDGEHEAD TO (RPT) BRIDGEHEAD...

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MAHATHIR - AID 5 SUVA

HE SAID THE MALAYSIAN EXPERIENCE OF BEING ABLE TO CONVERT VAST TROPICAL JUNGLE INTO PRODUCTIVE FARM LANDS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

AFTER THE CEREMONIES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATIN SERI DR SITI HASMAH, ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI AND DATIN ENDON, AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HERE ENCIK ABDUL KARIM MARZUKI AND HIS WIFE PUAN GRACE MARZUKI, CALLED ON THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, RATU SIR GEORGE CAKABAU AND HIS WIFE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR THIS MORNING ALSO HAD A HALF AN HOUR EYE-BALL-TO-EYE-BALL MEETING WITH RATU SIR MARA.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY AN HOUR'S MEETING WITH THE CABINET. --BERNAMA 1422/ND