

MAHATHIR-NAMIBIA

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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 4 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA'S DECISION TO SEND A 700-MEMBER TROOP TO NAMIBIA, SOUTH WEST AFRICA WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE SOME MINOR TECHNICAL DETAILS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS WERE IRONED OUT, (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT ALTHOUGH MALAYSIA HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SEND THE TROOPS SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE, INCLUDING THE TRANSPORTATION OF EQUIPMENT AND OTHER LOGISTICS.

"BEFORE SENDING OUR MEN, WE WILL HAVE TO KNOW WHETHER THE UN WILL PROVIDE THE LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND OF COURSE, PREFERABLY, WE WOULD PREFER THEY SUPPLY IT," HE TOLD REPORTERS ON HIS RETURN FROM LONDON AFTER ATTENDING THE UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK.

HE MET THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL, ENCIK JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR, ON THE MATTER AND, AS FAR AS THE UN WAS CONCERNED, AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE SENDING OF THE TROOPS.

HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED THERE WERE SOME AGREEMENTS MADE BY COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE UN WITH REGARD TO THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY SOUTH AFRICA ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA.

"HOWEVER THERE ARE SOME COUNTRIES WHICH FEEL THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD BE PLACATED AND IF PEOPLE KEEP ON BACKING SOUTH AFRICA AND ALLOWING THEM TO BE RECALCITRANT AND UNCOOPERATIVE, THEN I EXPECT THERE WILL BE SOME DELAY," HE ADDED. -- MORE 2345/SZ

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ON THE SOLUTION TO THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE POINTED OUT TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE COORDINATED EFFORTS BETWEEN THE UN, THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AND THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (OIC).

HE SAID THE UN RECOGNISED THE OIC'S ROLE IN MEDIATING TO END THE WAR AS THE BODY WAS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN.

ON WHETHER HE WILL TAKE PART IN THE OIC'S MISSION IN FUTURE, HE SAID: + IF I AM REQUIRED TO GO I WILL GO."

HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT THE UN WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN PROBLEMS ECLIPING THE WEST ASIA PROBLEMS.

"WE DON'T MIND TAKING A BACK SEAT IF THEY CAN SOLVE THE ISRAELI PROBLEM, BUT WE HAVE DOUBT THAT THEY CAN SOLVE IT,"

-- BERNAMA 2355/SZ