

CHOGRM-MAHATHIR

FROM IDZAN ISMAIL

SUVA (FIJI) OCT. 17 (BERNAMA) -- ²² ¹⁹ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD IS NOT ONLY FAST EMERGING AS A SPOKESMAN OF THE THIRD WORLD BUT IS ALSO VERY POPULAR WITH THE FIJIANS.

HIS TWO VISITS HERE HAD NOT GONE TO WASTE JUDGING BY THE PRAISES THE FIJIANS HAD FOR HIM.

"ALTHOUGH HE IS TOO FRANK IN HIS SPEECHES, HE IS VERY DASHING, APPROACHABLE AND FRIENDLY, ESPECIALLY TO THE REPORTERS", REMARKED A REPORTER FROM A FIJIAN DAILY.

IN FACT ONE LOCAL LEADING DAILY - THE FIJI TIMESEA RAN A QUIZ IN ITS CHILDREN'S CORNER WITH THE QUESTION : WHO IS THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA?

THE TAHA TALIB MURDER TRIAL TOO GENERATED INTEREST HERE AND NOT ONLY WAS THE OPENING DAY OF THE TRIAL CARRIED IN A LOCAL PAPER BUT DATUK TAHA AND ONE OF THE ACCUSED MINISTER OF CULTURE YOUTH AND SPORTS, DATUK MOKHTAR HASHIM, ALSO HAD THEIR NAMES INCLUDED IN THE QUIZ. -- MORE 1320/IB

NQ41: (F)
CHOGRM- MAHATHIR 2 SUVA (FIJI)

THEIR NAMES APPEARED IN THE ANSWER SECTION OF THE QUESTION: WHO IS INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CHOGRM MEETING?

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S REMARKS AT THE CONFERENCE WERE FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN NEWSPAPERS HERE BUT HE WAS UNFORTUNATELY OFTEN MISQUOTED.

THIS MADE HIS PRESS OFFICER JITTERY AND AFTER REPEATED TELEPHONE CALLS TO THE NEWSPAPER CONCERNED, A CORRECTION WAS MADE. SADLY, ANOTHER MISTAKE APPEARED IN THE CORRECTION.

THERE WAS ALSO A MIX-UP IN THE CAPTIONING OF THE PICTURE OF A MAN IN GLASSES IDENTIFIED BY A LOCAL DAILY AS DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR.

AFTER A CALL FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S AIDE, THE NEWSPAPER APOLOGISED SAYING "WE GOOFED. THE MAN IN THE PICTURE WAS ACTUALLY THE PRESIDENT OF THE MALDIVES, ENCIK MAUMOON ABDUL GAYOON. -- BERNAMA 1330/IB