

MAHATHIR - PAPUA

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AT 9 P.M. MALAYSIAN TIME.

82 (M)  
PORT MORESBY (PAPUA NEW GUINEA), OCT. 19 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK  
SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT EXPRESSED MALAYSIA'S READINESS  
TO PARTICIPATE IN PRACTICAL ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES WITH  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

HE SAID THERE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY GREAT POTENTIAL FOR THE TWO  
COUNTRIES TO COOPERATE AND EXPLORE FURTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION  
FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

+YOU ARE OUR WANTOKS (PEOPLE WHOM WE LIKE) AND WE LOOK  
FORWARD TO SHARING OUR MODEST SKILLS AND KNOW-HOW WITH YOU,+  
HE ADDED AT A STATE DINNER HOSTED BY HIS PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
COUNTERPART, ENCIK MICHAEL SOMARE, AT THE DEFENCE FORCES  
OFFICERS' MESS AT MURRAY BARRACKS HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID OVER THE YEARS, MALAYSIA HAD  
GRADUALLY ACQUIRED EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN CERTAIN DEVELOP-  
MENTAL FIELDS INCLUDING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH TO INCREASE  
PRODUCTIVITY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT BOTH OF  
SMALL HOLDINGS AS WELL AS LARGE PLANTATIONS.

HE BELIEVED THAT SOME OF THESE EXPERIENCES MIGHT BE RELEANT  
TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S REQUIREMENTS. -- MORE 1905/PA

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THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT FULLY SUBSCRIBED TO THE CONCEPT OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESIDENT MALAYSIAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN THIS CITY EARLIER THIS YEAR BORE TESTIMONY TO THE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHED TO RELATIONS WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE DESIRE TO INTENSIFY BILATERAL COOPERATION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE SPIN-OFFS OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND GOODWILL FROM INCREASED CONTACT AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES WOULD STRENGTHENED THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

+INDEED WE SHARE MANY SIMILAR IDEALS AND ASPIRATIONS IN MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND IN LOOKING AFTER OUR OWN AFFAIRS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT MALAYSIA, LIKE PAPUA NEW GUINEA, BEING A PRODUCER OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES, WAS EXTREMELY UNHAPPY AT THE MANIPULATION OF COMMODITY PRICES BY THE VARIOUS EXCHANGES LOCATED IN THE DEVELOPED CAPITALS.

SCANT REGARD WAS PAID TO THE PRODUCERS AND THE ENSURE REASONABLE PRICES. HE URGED THAT THE UNHEALTHY SYSTEM BE DISMANTLED. -- MORE 1910/PA

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ON THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR APPRECIATED THE SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING RENDERED BY PAPUA NEW GUINEA, ADDING THAT MALAYSIA HOPED THAT PEACE, FREEDOM AND DIGNITY WOULD SOON BE RESTORED TO THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE.

HE NOTED THAT FOR MALAYSIA, THE UNRESOLVED KAMPUCHEAN QUESTION CONTINUED TO BE OF SERIOUS CONCERN AS IT WAS A THREAT TO REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND ONLY ENCOURAGED BIG POWER RIVALRY TO +BREW IN OUR MIDST.+

HE REPEATED THAT THE KAMPUCHEAN QUESTION IMPEDED EFFORTS BY THE ASEAN MEMBERS TO REALISE THEIR GOAL OF A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. -- BERNAMA 1911/PA