

PARLIAMENT - COMMONWEALTH

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 5 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT WAS INDIRECTLY FORCED TO ADMIT AT THE RECENT CHOGRM IN FIJI THE EXISTANCE OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA ALTHOUGH IT RECOGNISED THE HENG SAMRIM REGIME.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID 17 COUNTRIES WHICH HAD ATTENDED THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT REGIONAL MEETING (CHOGRM) INCLUDING INDIA, HAD TAKEN NOTE OF THE FORMATION OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT.

THIS SHOWED THAT THESE COUNTRIES HAD ADMITTED THE EXISTANCE OF THE DE FACTO COALITION GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED IN REPLY TO ENCIK NG CHENG KUAI (BN-LUMUT) DURING QUESTION TIME AT THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

HE DESCRIBED THE EVENT AS ONE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MEETING.

THE MEETING HAD ALSO TAKEN A SERIOUS VIEW ON THE CONFLICT IN WEST ASIA AND CONDEMNED THE ISRAELIS AGRESSION IN LABENON AND THE MASSACRE OF THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN BEIRUT. -- MORE 1705/MB NNNN

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ON AFGHANISTAN, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MEETING WAS OF THE OPINION THAT A POLITICAL SOLUTION SHOULD BE FOUND BASED ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS AND THE RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THAT COUNTRY AS A NON-ALIGNED NATION.

IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, THE MEETING HAD AGREED THAT POLICIES SHOULD BE FORMULATED TO SPEED UP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT RAISING THE INFLATION RATE.

THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO ACCEPTED PROGRAMMES FOR PRACTICAL COOPERATION AMONG COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WHICH COULD HELP SPEED UP DEVELOPMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD TOLD THE MEETING THAT REGIONAL COOPERATION WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR THAT COULD GIVE NEW LIFE TO THE COMMONWEALTH.

TO A QUESTION FROM ENCIK ISMAIL SAID (BN-KEMAMAN), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA FELT THAT THE MEETING HAD BENEFITED PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. -- MORE 1710/MB

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TO ANOTHER QUESTION, HE SAID MALAYSIA WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER HOSTING SUCH A REGIONAL MEETING IF OFFERED TO DO SO.

THE 1984 CHOGRM WILL BE HELD AT PAPUA NEW GUINEA, HE SAID.
-- BERNAMA 1714/MB