

ZCZC N049 (F)  
MAHATHIR - SOVIET

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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 9 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA WILL CERTAINLY FEEL THREATENED IF THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE REGION IS AMPLIFIED "IN THE WAY THAT IT IS HAPPENING NOW," DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

"AT ONE STAGE WE WERE TOLD THAT THE VIETNAMESE WOULD NOT MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE SOVIETS THE BASES AT DANANG DAN CAM RANH BAY BUT THE FACT IS THAT THEY HAVE NOW," HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE VISITING PRESIDENT ZIA-UL-HAQ OF PAKISTAN.

"SO IF THEY CAN DO THAT, WE DON'T KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE VIETNAMESE AND THE SOVIETS WILL GO."  
"OF COURSE, IF THE COLLABORATION IS EXTENSIVE, MALAYSIA WILL CERTAINLY FEEL THREATENED."

THE PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT WHILE MALAYSIA WAS ACTIVELY PURSUING THE CONCEPT OF A ZONE OF PEACE FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, IT FELT THE PRESENCE THE U.S. SEVENTH FLEET IN THE AREA WAS NECESSARY TO COUNTER THE SOVIET AND CHINESE ACTIVITIES. -- MORE 1503/MB

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IN VIEW OF THE PRESENCE OF THE SOVIETS, THE PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES IN THE AREA WAS "SOMETHING WE HAVE TO PUT UP WITH".

"UNLESS ALL OF THEM GET OUT, IT IS NOT VERY WELCOME FOR US IF ONLY ONE OF THEM GETS OUT," HE SAID.

ON TALKS WITH PRESIDENT ZIA, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THEY SHARED COMMON VIEWS ON MOST ISSUES.

THE DIFFERENCE IN PERCEPTION WERE POSSIBLY OVER RELATIONS WITH CHINA -- MALAYSIA HAVING EXPERIENCED COMMUNIST SUBVERSION SINCE 1948 VIEWED COMMUNISM AND COMMUNIST COUNTRIES DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHER COUNTRIES LIKE PAKISTAN WHICH HAD NO SUCH PROBLEM.

HE SAID THAT CHINA WOULD CONTINUE TO BE REGARDED AS A THREAT AS LONG AS IT DID NOT RENOUNCE ITS SUPPORT FOR COMMUNIST SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY. -- MORE 1505/MB

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ON WHETHER THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC) HAD PLAYED ITS APPROPRIATE ROLE IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO THE PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE PROBLEMS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID: +THE OIC SHOULD DO MORE IN THIS AREA.+

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON WAS SO FLUID AND IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR THE OIC MEMBERS TO UNDERTAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO BRING THE CONFLICTS TO AN END.

+MEMBERS OF THE OIC HOLD DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT VIEWS FOR THE OIC AS AN ORGANISATION TO COME TO A DEFINITE CONCLUSION ON WHAT LINE TO TAKE, SO THIS IS THE PROBLEM WE FACE INTERNALLY IN THE OIC,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE IRAQ-IRAN WAR, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID AS MEMBERS OF THE OIC PEACE COMMITTEE, MALAYSIA AND PAKISTAN FELT THAT BOTH THE WARRING COUNTRIES NEEDED TO TALK IN ORDER TO SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES.

+WE CANNOT SAY WHO IS RIGHT AND WHO IS WRONG BECAUSE WE ARE NOT SET UP TO JUDGE ON THESE MATTERS BUT WE ABHOR WAR AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES THROUGH MILITARY MEANS,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA 1535/11