

MAHATHIR-INSURGENCY
FROM MERVIN NAMBI

BANGKOK, DEC. 9 (BERNAMA)-MALAYSIA WILL NOT ALLOW ANY SUPPORT TO BE CHANNELLED TO POLITICAL AGITATORS IN THAILAND'S SOUTHERN PROVINCES, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID HERE TODAY.

HE SAID THAT HE TOLD THAI PRIME MINISTER JEN. PREM TINSULANONDA DURING AN HOUR-LONG TALK YESTERDAY THAT THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WAS NOT IN THE HABIT OF SUPPORTING INSURGENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE HERE AT THE END OF HIS TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO THAILAND.

HE SAID, ALTHOUGH MALAYSIA'S POLICY ON THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THERE STILL APPEARED TO BE LINGERING SUSPICIONS AMONG A FEW THAIS THAT MALAYSIA WAS ENCOURAGING OR SUPPORTING INSURGENTS ACROSS THE BORDER.

BECAUSE MALAYSIA WAS A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY, THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE SOME PEOPLE WITH VIEWS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

+BUT AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, WE ARE NOT GOING TO TOLERATE ANY ACTIVITY WITHIN OUR COUNTRY WHICH IS OF A NATURE THAT WILL SOUR RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THAILAND,+ HE SAID.--MORE 2130/H
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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE AND JEN. PREM DISCUSSED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE SECURITY PROBLEM ALONG THE MALAYSIAN-THAI BORDER, A SUBJECT OF MUTUAL CONCERN TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

HE SAID, WHILE POLITICAL AGITATIONS IN THE SOUTH WAS THAILAND'S INTERNAL PROBLEM, THERE WAS A RISK OF IT SPILLING ACCROSS THE BORDER INTO MALAYSIAN TERRITORY.

+THERE IS THEREFORE A NEED FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM AS WELL AS ITS POTENTIAL FOR CREATING DIFFICULTIES IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA AND THAILAND APPRECIATED EACH OTHER'S POINT OF VIEW AND KNEW HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO TALKED WITH JEN. PREM ALONE SAID THAT THE TALK DID NOT TAKE LONG +FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT THERE ARE VERY FEW PROBLEMS BETWEEN US.+

+WE FOUND NO DIFFERENCE IN OUR VIEWS AND WE THINK THAT OUR FUTURE COOPERATION WILL BE ENHANCED BY THIS MEETING,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE AND JEN. PREM HAD REAFFIRMED THE TWO GOVERNMENTS' INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH SEVERAL BI-LATERAL PROJECTS.--MORE 2136/HM

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HE SAID THAT A FEW ISSUES REMAINED TO BE SORTED OUT IN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS' PLAN TO JOINTLY EXPLOIT RESOURCES ON THE CONTINENTAL SELF OF THE COAST OF KELANTAN AND SOUTHERN THAILAND.

+WE ARE NOT IMPATIENT AND ONCE THIS IS DONE, WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT THE PROJECT TAKES OFF,+ HE SAID.

THIS MORNING, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR VISITED THE CHAROENCHAI TRACTOR FACTORY, ABOUT 80 KM NORTH OF HERE IN AYUDHAYA PROVINCE.

HE WAS LATER DRIVEN TO NAKHON PATHON PROVINCE, 40 KM EAST OF HERE TO VISIT AN ORCHARD.

IN THE AFTERNOON DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND DATIN SERI SITI HASMAH WERE RECEIVED IN AUDIENCE BY KING BHUMIPOL ADULYADEJ AND QUEEN SIRIKIT AT CHITRALADA PALACE HERE.

THEY WERE ALSO GIVEN A FULL CEREMONIAL FAREWELL AT DON MUANG AIRPORT. JEN PREM AND FOREIGN MINISTER SIDDHI SAVETSILA LED A LARGE GROUP OF DIGNITARIES TO SEE THE MALAYSIAN LEADER OFF.--BERNAMA