

MAHATHIR

FROM OSMAN TAIB

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NEW DELHI, MARCH 9, (BERNAMA) -- /DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE IS HAPPY WITH THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTH NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT AND HOPED THAT MEMBER NATIONS COULD ACHIEVE CERTAIN MINIMAL AREAS OF AGREEMENT DESPITE DIVERGENT VIEWS ON MANY ISSUES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SUMMIT, ATTENDED BY 100 MEMBER COUNTRIES, WAS A +GOOD FORUM TO GAUGE THE VIEWS AND THOUGHTS OF COUNTRIES FROM VARIOUS IDEOLOGICAL BACKGROUNDS ON CURRENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES.+

ALTHOUGH THE SPEAKERS GENERALLY TOUCHED ON SAME ISSUES, THEIR APPROACH TO CERTAIN PROBLEMS DIFFERED GREATLY AND THIS WAS WHAT MADE THE DEBATE INTERESTING, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO ATTENDED THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE PROCEEDINGS, LEFT FOR LONDON TODAY FOR A PRIVATE VISIT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR NOTED THAT IN CERTAIN KEY ISSUES, LIKE THE WEST ASIA PROBLEM AND THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION, THE VIEWS EXPRESSED WERE UNANIMOUS. -- MORE 1719/MK

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THIS, HE SAID, WAS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT COULD ACHIEVE CERTAIN MINIMAL AREAS OF AGREEMENT TO JUSTIFY ITS EXISTENCE.

+WE CANNOT EXPECT TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE ON ALL MATTERS, BUT THE FACT THAT WE CAN AGREE ON CERTAIN KEY ISSUES PUT US IN A FAVOURABLE POSITION IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS,+ HE SAID.

+AFTER ALL, THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS FORMED TWO THIRDS OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT DURING HIS STAY HERE HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING SEVERAL THIRD WORLD LEADERS

+ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT HAVE MUCH TIME FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS.+

+IT WAS JUST A GETTING-TO-KNOW-YOU AFFAIR,+ HE SAID. -- MORE 1726/MK

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AMONG THOSE HE MET WERE THE LEADERS OF EGYPT AND LIBYA, THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF MALI AND HIS INDIAN COUNTERPART PUN INDIRA GANDHI, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE SUMMIT.

MEANWHILE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S SPEECH AT THE SUMMIT YESTERDAY WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATES ALTHOUGH IT TOUCHED THE NERVES OF MANY PEOPLE.

IT CERTAINLY TOOK VIETNAM AND ITS FRIENDS BY SURPRISE FOR AS LATE AS MONDAY ITS FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH WAS STILL TRYING TO GET ASEAN TO TONE DOWN THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE.

HIS BRIEF MEETING WITH MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE LATE MONDAY WAS DESCRIBED BY OBSERVERS AS A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER TO REFRAIN FROM TOUCHING ON THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE SUMMIT.

EARLIER ENCIK CO THACH MET HIS SINGAPORE COUNTERPART S. DHANABALAN TO PERSUADE ASEAN NOT TO BRING UP THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS BUT THIS WAS REJECTED OUTRIGHT BY THE SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER. -- MORE 1732/MK

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A SENIOR VIETNAMESE JOURNALIST COVERING THE SUMMIT WAS SHOCKED WHEN HE READ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S TEXT CIRCULATED BY MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS AS SOON AS THE PRIME MINISTER TOOK THE FLOOR.

+I THOUGHT YOU HAVE AGREED NOT TO MAKE REFERENCE TO THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE IN THE SUMMIT,+ HE REMARKED TO A MALAYSIAN REPORTER SITTING BESIDE HIM.

WHILE THE VIETNAMESE AND THEIR SUPPORTERS WERE UNHAPPY WITH THE TEXT, OTHERS FELT THAT IT WAS ONE OF THE BEST SPEECHES MADE SO FAR IN THE SUMMIT.

THEY SAID THAT DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS PRECISE AND BLUNT IN HIS REMARKS AND THAT HIS SUGGESTIONS WERE +VERY CONSTRUCTIVE.+

THE KING OF NEPAL WAS SO COMPLETELY TAKEN UP BY THE SPEECH THAT HE IMMEDIATELY SENT A NOTE THROUGH HIS SECRETARY TO CONGRATULATE THE PRIME MINISTER. -- MORE 1736/MK

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THE NOTE SAYS THAT THE KING WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE SPEECH WHICH HE SAID WAS THE BEST HE HAD HEARD SO FAR IN THE SUMMIT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, APPARENTLY TOUCHED BY THE GESTURE, APPROACHED THE KING TO SHAKE HANDS AND THANK HIM FOR HIS SUPPORT.

SEVERAL OTHER LEADERS HAD ALSO CONGRATULATED THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER HIS BRAVE STANCE ON THE AFGHAN AND WEST ASIAN ISSUES.

A DELEGATE FROM PAKISTAN SAID MALAYSIA'S VIEWS ON THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION WERE VERY RELEVANT AND ITS SUGGESTIONS ON SOUTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION WAS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE.

DELEGATES FROM SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES EXPRESSED SIMILAR SUPPORT. THEY PARTICULARLY WELCOMED MALAYSIA'S MOVE TO EXTEND ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-COPERATION BEYOND REGIONAL BOUNDRIES. -- MORE 1810/MK

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ZCZC N106 (F)

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S SUGGESTION FOR THE ANTARCTICA REGIME HAD ALSO RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FROM DELEGATES WHO FELT THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE RAISED AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER WAS THE RATHER COOL RESPONSE RECEIVED BY VIETNAMESE PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG.

AS ONE DIPLOMAT PUT IT: +MR. DONG RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE HAVANA SUMMIT -- SUCH A MOOD, UNFORTUNATELY OR FORTUNATELY, DID NOT PREVAIL THIS TIME.+ -- BERNAMA 1814/MK

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ZCZC N107 (F/S)

EXTRADITION 7 KUALA LUMPUR

SHE ADDED THAT THE DEPOSITIONS OF THE WITNESSES WERE DULY AUTHENTICATED BY THE MAGISTRATE.

PUAN PANITE SAID THE PROSECUTION HAD SHOWN THERE WAS A PRIMA FACIE CASE AGAINST CHONG IN RESPECT OF THE CRIMES WHICH ARE EXTRADITION CRIMES WITHIN THE PROVISIONS OF THE EXTRADITION ORDINANCE AND THE EVIDENCE JUSTIFIED HIS COMMITMENT TO PRISON FOR EXTRADITION. -- BERNAMA 1759/MK

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