

MAHATHIR-KAMPUCHEA

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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 28 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA CANNOT ACCEPT AUSTRALIA'S INTENTION TO RESUME ECONOMIC AID TO VIETNAM BECAUSE IT FEELS THIS IS TANTAMOUNT TO AN EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM'S OCCUPATION OF KAMPUCHEA, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

+SUCH AN ACT WILL ALSO UNDERMINE ASEAN'S STAND ON THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE+, THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD NEWSMEN AFTER ATTENDING A THREE-HOUR BRIEFING AT THE BUKIT AMAN POLICE HEADQUARTERS HERE.

HE SAID HE HAD TOLD THIS TO AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BILL HAYDEN WHO CALLED ON HIM TODAY TO SEEK MALAYSIA'S VIEWS ON AUSTRALIA'S PROPOSAL TO RESUME ECONOMIC AID TO VIETNAM.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD ALSO POINTED OUT TO ENCIK HAYDEN THAT AUSTRALIA'S EFFORTS IN HELPING TO SECURE A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM SHOULD NOT BE BASED ON FEELINGS ARISING FROM ITS PAST COMMITMENTS TO VIETNAM.

HE SAID THAT SOLUTIONS TO THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM SHOULD BE BASED ON PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS, ADDING THAT IF ANYBODY FELT +GUILTY+ OVER THE +MASS KILLING OF THE JEWS, THEY SHOULD NOT TRY TO MAKE UP FOR IT BY TAKING AWAY ARAB LANDS AND GIVING THEM TO THE JEWS+. -- MORE 2134/0D

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MAHATHIR-KAMPUCHEA 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO DISMISSED THE ALLEGATION IN THE APRIL 14 ISSUE OF THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW THAT THE CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE GAS GRID IN SABAH HAD BEEN AWARDED TO PROMET BECAUSE OF HIS SUPPOSEDLY CLOSE TIES WITH THE COMPANY.

HE SAID : +I KNOW ALL BUSINESSMEN IN THIS COUNTRY AND THEY ARE ALL MY FRIENDS BUT IF ONE OF THEM WON A CONTRACT YOU CANNOT SAY IT IS BECAUSE HE IS MY FRIEND+.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE INSINUATION THAT THE CONTRACT HAD BEEN AWARDED TO +HIS FRIEND+ COULD BE DUE TO ENJOY THAT MALAYSIA HAD BEEN ABLE TO GO THROUGH THE ECONOMIC RECESSION FAIRLY WELL.

HE DESCRIBED THE ALLEGATION AS +AGAINST MALAYSIA'S INTERESTS+.

ON THE BRIEFING, THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED IT AS +AN ORDINARY ONE+ IN WHICH HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE SECURITY SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THE BRIEFING WAS ALSO TO INFORM HIM ON THE BUDGETARY SITUATION AND THE NEEDS OF THE HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY.

-- BERNAMA 2141/0D

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