

PM - TURKEY

FROM HASHIM MAKARUDDIN

ANKARA, MAY 13 (BERNAMA)--PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID LAST NIGHT THAT STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND MALAYSIA WILL CONTRIBUTE TO GREATER UNITY AND SOLIDARITY AMONG MUSLIM COUNTRIES AND ITS UMMAH.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR BY TURKISH PRIME MINISTER BULEND ULUSU, DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WOULD ALSO STRENGTHEN THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IS ROLE IN ATTAINING ITS OBJECTIVES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY FOR A FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT FROM BELGRADE AT THE INVITATION OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

HE IS THE SECOND MALAYSIAN PREMIER TO VISIT TURKEY. TUN HUSSEIN ONN WAS HERE IN 1977.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN 1958, CLOSE TIES REFLECTED IN THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE SOCIAL, TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL FIELDS. --MORE 0950/MD  
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ZCZC N003 (F/S)  
PM - TURKEY 2 ANKARA

VISITS BY MALAYSIAN LEADERS TO TURKEY AND LIKEWISE TURKISH LEADERS TO MALAYSIA HAD SERVED TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

NOTING THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SHARED THE COMMON BOND IN ISLAM AND ITS CULTURE, HE WAS HAPPY THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO HAD STRENGTHENED.

+WE ALSO SHARE SIMILAR VIEWS ON MANY REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, PARTICULARLY THOSE FACING ISLAMIC COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE.+

THE TURKISH PREMIER IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH SAID HIS GOVERNMENT ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO DIRECT RELATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

HE WAS HAPPY THAT BOTH HAD SIMILARITY IN BASIC FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLES AS REFLECTED ON VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND HAD BEEN COOPERATING IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER AT ALL INTERNATIONAL FORA, ESPECIALLY WITHIN OIC. --MORE 0954/MD  
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ZCZC N004 (F/S)  
PM - TURKEY 3 ANKARA

TURKEY, HE SAID, SUPPORTED MALAYSIA'S POSITIONS IN THE WORLD'S POLITICAL PLATFORM, ESPECIALLY HER DETERMINATION TO MAKE SOUTHEAST ASIA AN AREA OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY.

HE SAID TURKEY FOLLOWED WITH ADMIRATION THE GREAT SUCCESSSES ACHIEVED BY MALAYSIA BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

EARLIER, ON ARRIVAL HERE HE WAS GREETED BY MR. ULUSU AND MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR DATUK ISMAIL AMBIA.

HE INSPECTED A GUARD OF HONOUR AND AFTER A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO A LINE TURKISH DIGNITARIES AND MALAYSIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS, LEFT FOR GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE WHERE HE AND HIS WIFE ARE STAYING.

HE LATER CALLED ON MR. BULEND ULUSU AT HIS OFFICE. --MORE

PM - TURKEY 4 ANKARA

TOMORROW, HE WILL VISIT AND LAY WREATH AT ATATURK'S MAUSOLEUM A NATIONAL SHRINE HONOURING TURKISH LEADER MUSTAFA KAMAL KNOWN TO TURKISH PEOPLE AS FATHER OF MODERN TURKEY.

HE WILL ALSO HOLD OFFICIAL TALKS WITH MR. ULUSU AND LATER WITNESS SIGNING OF AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT AND EXCHANGE OF LETTERS FOR TURKISH SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN MALAYSIA AND PROTOCOL AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION BETWEEN MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA.

HE WILL PERFORM FRIDAY PRAYER AT HAJI BAYRAM MOSQUE HERE AND LATER VISIT AND ARMS AND AMMUNITION FACTORY IN KRIKKALE, NEAR HERE. --BERNAMA 1000/MD  
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