

MAHATHIR-KAMPUCHEA

93 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 19 (BERNAMA)-- MALAYSIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO HENG SAMRIN TAKING PART IN ANY REFERENDUM TO BE HELD IN KAMPUCHEA TO DETERMINE THE RIGHTFUL RULER OF THAT STATE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD REPORTERS ON HIS RETURN AFTER A NINE-DAY VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA, TURKEY AND ROMANIA THAT EVERY KAMPUCHEAN HAD THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A REFERENDUM AND THIS INCLUDES HENG SAMRIN,+ HIMSELF.

+WE ARE PREPARED TO HAVE A REFERENDUM IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHO SHOULD RULE KAMPUCHEA AND IN SUCH REFERENDUM WE CAN'T EXCLUDE HENG SAMRIN,+ HE SAID.

+IF IT IS THE WISH OF THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE, WITHOUT ANY PRESSURE OR COERCION FROM OUTSIDE, THEY PREFER HENG SAMRIN, WHO ARE WE TO STAND IN THEIR WAY,+ HE ASKED.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ELABORATING ON A STATEMENT HE MADE AT THE END OF HIS VISIT TO ROMANIA THAT MALAYSIA HAD NEVER SAID THAT HENG SAMRIN-NOW THE LEADER OF THE VIETNAMESE-BACKED REGIME IN KAMPUCHEA WHICH MALAYSIA DOES NOT RECOGNISE-COULD NOT TAKE PART IN TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF KAMPUCHEA. -- MORE 1537/OM
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THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED MALAYSIA'S CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN KAMPUCHEA.

HE SAID THAT BEFORE ANY REFERENDUM IS HELD, VIETNAMESE TROOPS MUST FIRST WITHDRAW FROM KAMPUCHEA.

'THERE MUST BE A PULL-OUT...NOT A WITHDRAWAL TO BE REPLACED BY OTHER TROOPS,'

'THIS TALK OF WITHDRAWAL HAPPENS LAST YEAR AND AGAIN TODAY SO MUCH SO IT HAS BECOME TEDIOUS AND BORING.'

ON AUSTRALIA'S OFFER TO HAVE A PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN KAMPUCHEA FOREIGN MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE, WHO WAS PRESENT, SAID THAT IT COULD BE DONE ONLY AFTER THE VIETNAMESE WITHDRAWAL FROM KAMPUCHEA. -- RFRNAMA 1543/11