

MAHATHIR - PNG

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 10.30 P.M. TODAY, NOV. 19

83
KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 19 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN OVERCOME OBSTACLES IN THEIR WAY AND ACHIEVE HIGHER LEVELS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH THROUGH MEANINGFUL AND EFFECTIVE COOPERATION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT AS SUCH, THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT OF COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER WHICH HE HOSTED FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL SOMARE HERE, HE SAID MALAYSIA HAD EXTENDED +MODEST OFFERS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH FELLOW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INCLUDING PAPUA NEW GUINEA.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR NOTED THAT MALAYSIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA WERE BOTH PRODUCERS OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES AND HAD TO TACKLE SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN ENSURING THEY RECEIVED FAIR AND STABLE PRICES FOR THEIR PRODUCTS AND NOT BE AT THE MERCY OF +UNSCRUPULOUS MANIPULATORS OR SPECULATORS+ AT COMMODITY EXCHANGES. -- MORE MAHATHIR - PNG 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HE SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT PAPUA NEW GUINEA HAD FOUND SOME OF THE MALAYSIAN TRAINING PROGRAMMES USEFUL AND THAT +OUR TRADERS AND BUSINESSMEN HAVE MET AND CONFIRMED THE POTENTIAL FOR DIRECT BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT.+

HE ALSO OFFERED TO SHARE WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA MALAYSIA'S EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE IN ANY OF THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF ITS AGRICULTURAL OR LAND SCHEMES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD HIS VISITOR THAT THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND UNREST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WERE CAUSED BY BIG POWER RIVALRIES AND CONFLICT AND THAT IT WAS TO FREE THE REGION OF THIS MENACE THAT ASEAN ADOPTED THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION ON A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY.

HE ALSO EXPLAINED ASEAN'S EFFORTS TO SECURE A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE KAMPUCHEAN CONFLICT, AND, IN THIS RESPECT, HE THANKED PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOR ITS SUPPORT AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, WAS ALSO CONCERNED WITH PEACE AND STABILITY IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. -- MORE 1855/MB

ZCZC N098 (F/S)

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+INDEED, WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN AND ANXIETY OVER CONTINUED NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND SUPPORT YOUR REGIONAL EFFORTS TO RID THE SOUTH PACIFIC OF SUCH UNDESIRABLE ACTIVITIES,+ HE ADDED.

REFERRING TO ANTARCTICA, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MALAYSIAN INITIATIVE TO INSCRIBE THE ISSUE IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS CONSISTENT WITH ITS CONCERN FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY.

+OUR INITIATIVE STEMS FROM OUR BELIEF THAT BECAUSE OF THE CONTINENT'S POLITICAL, STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO ALL OF US AND THAT FUTURE ACRI-MONY IN, OR OVER, ANTARCTICA, COULD BE PRE-EMPTED BY THE REMOVAL OF ANY INEQUITY THERE, IT MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

-- BERNAMA 1900/MB