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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 27 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA CONSIDERS AS +STRANGE+ AND +EXTRAORDINARY+ THE ACTION OF THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES IN HONG KONG USING THE JALIL IBRAHIM MURDER CASE TO INVESTIGATE THE BUMIPUTERA MALAYSIA FINANCE (BMF).

PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID) TODAY MALAYSIA DID NOT AGREE WITH THE ACTION WHICH WAS NOT SO MUCH TO INVESTIGATE THE BMF BECAUSE IT HAD LOST MONEY BUT TO INVESTIGATE THE BANK BUMIPUTERA SUBSIDIARY'S ATTEMPT TO RECOVER THE LOSS.

+THEY WANT TO KNOW HOW BMF PROPOSED TO RECOVER THE MONEY THAT IS WHY THEY MADE USE OF THE JALIL CASE TO OBTAIN ALL THE DOCUMENTS FROM BMF+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE HONG KONG POLICE WERE MORE INTERESTED IN GETTING THE BMF DOCUMENTS THAN ON CONCENTRATING ON THE CASE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED DURING THE DEBATE ON HIS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AT THE THREE-DAY 35TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH ENDED HERE TODAY. -- MORE 2205/PA

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THE DOCUMENTS WERE THEN HANDED OVER TO AN INVESTIGATING COMMISSION ON THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY WHICH WAS NOT A POLICE BODY, HE SAID.

+SUCH AN ACTION GOES AGAINST NORMAL PROCEDURES. WHAT IS ACQUIRED BY THE POLICE SHOULD BE KEPT IN POLICE CUSTODY. BUT THE PAPERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO A BODY CONNECTED TO THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY IN HON KONG+.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA HAD PROTESTED TO THE BRITISH.

+THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES HAD REPLIED THAT THEY COULD DO WHATEVER THEY LIKED AND NO ONE, INCLUDING THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT, CAN STOP THEM+, HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED TO ELABORATE BY REPORTERS LATER, THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, EXPLAINED THAT MALAYSIA PROTESTED BECAUSE IT SAW NO REASON WHY THE BMF SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED.

+BMF DID NOT COMMIT ANY CRIME BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY HAD USED THE SITUATION TO GET HOLD OF THE BMF DOCUMENTS FOR REASONS KNOWN ONLY TO THEMSELVES. -- MORE 2228/PA

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+WHEN THE MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES PROTESTED, THE BRITISH SAID THEIR SECURITIES INVESTIGATING COMMISSION HAD THE RIGHT TO DO WHATEVER IT WANTED. THIS WAS WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION+.

THE PRIME MINISTER, IN HIS SPEECH AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SAID IT WAS ALSO STRANGE WHY ACCUSED MAK FOON THAN'S CAUTIONED STATEMENT WAS PRODUCED IN COURT DURING THE TRIAL.

+THIS IS VERY STRANGE, ESPECIALLY AS THE HONG KONG COURT LATER SAID THE TRUTH OR OTHERWISE OF THE STATEMENT HAD NO RELEVANCE TO THE OUTCOME OF THE HEARING.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WONDERED WHY THE STATEMENT WAS READ OUT IF DID NOT HAVE ANY RELEVANCE TO THE TRIAL.

HE SAID SOME PEOPLE FELT THIS WAS BECAUSE UMNO WOULD BE HOLDING ITS PARTY LEADERSHIP PARTY ELECTIONS BUT HE HIMSELF BELIEVED THERE WERE OTHER REASONS WHY THE BMF DOCUMENTS WERE SEIZED AND HANDED OVER TO THE COMMISSION. --MORE 2230/PA

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WHEN QUESTIONED AGAIN BY REPORTERS, HE SAID IT WAS USELESS TO MAKE A FRESH PROTEST TO THE BRITISH BECAUSE THEY APPEARED TO BE FOND OF +SHOWING OFF+ THEIR POWER.

ASKED WHETHER THE BRITISH ACTION HAD SPECIFIC MOTIVE AGAINST MALAYSIA, HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW.

THE TWO FACTORS-THE BMF LOAN AND THE MURDER OF JALIL IBRAHIM-CAME ONE AFTER THE OTHER.

WHY THEN SHOULD THERE BE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT MALAYSIAN MINISTERS BEING CORRUPT?

+WHY RAISE THIS QUESTION WHEN IT DID NOT HAVE ANY RELEVANCE TO THE COURT CASE?+

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TOLD THE ASSEMBLY THAT MALAYSIA-HONG KONG RELATIONS HAD NOT BEEN GOOD.--MORE 2351/PA

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+THERE WAS A PROBLEM BETWEEN ME AND THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG IN 1975 BUT I BELIEVE IT DOES NOT HAVE ANY RELATION TO THE CASE BECAUSE THE PEOPLE THERE IN (HONG KONG) ARE VERY FAIR AND THEY MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT+.

THE MISUNDERSTANDING OCCURRED WHEN HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA).

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS A MINOR MATTER. MOREOVER IT TOOK PLACE A LONG TIME AGO. +I DON'T KNOW IF HONG KONG STILL BEARS A GRUDGE.+

REFERRING TO THE BRITISH REPLY TO THE MALAYSIAN PROTEST, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THEY CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD NO POWER OVER WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN HONG KONG AND THAT THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION ON THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY HAD THE AUTHORITY TO TAKE THAT LINE OF ACTION.

+SO WHAT IS THE USE OF PROTESTING TO PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE POWER? I WANTED ONLY TO GET CLARIFICATION ON SOMETHING I MYSELF DO NOT UNDERSTAND+, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD NOT SPOKEN ABOUT THIS EARLIER BECAUSE THE JALIL MURDER TRIAL WAS STILL ON AND WHAT HE SAID MIGHT BE SUBJUDICE.--BERNAMA 2300/PA