

CALL TO STRENGTHEN SINO-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 31 (BERNAMA) -- ⁸⁴DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS CALLED FOR GREATER EFFORTS BY BOTH BEIJING AND KUALA LUMPUR TO STRENGTHEN SINO-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF MAY 31, 1974.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHILE UNDERTAKING EFFORTS AT IMPROVING THE POLITICAL FOUNDATION OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP, BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD ALSO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE AS THERE EXISTED VAST OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCH COOPERATION THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES COULD OFFER.

WHILE STRESSING THAT THE PAST 10 YEARS HAD SEEN PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS, HE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE CLOSE COOPERATION THE TWO NATIONS HAD HAD ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE CHINESE PREMIER ZHAO ZI YANG ON THE OCCASION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND CHINA.

HE HOPED IN THE YEARS TO COME, BOTH THE MALAYSIAN AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS WOULD EXERT GREATER EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR EXISTING TIES BASED ON THE 1974 JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

IN HIS FELICITATIONS TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, ENCIK ZHAO SAID THE NORMALISATION OF SINO-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS HAD OPENED A NEW CHAPTER IN THE ANNALS OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

HE SAID OVER THE PAST DECADE THE EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL AND OTHER FIELDS HAD STEADILY INCREASED.

"THIS NOT ONLY SERVE THE INTERESTS OF OUR TWO PEOPLES, BUT IS ALSO CONDUCIVE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTH EAST ASIA," HE ADDED.

THE CHINESE LEADER WAS CONVINCED THAT WITH THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA AND CHINA, THE EXISTING RELATIONS AND COOPERATION WOULD SURELY GROW STRONGER IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

--BERNAMA--1840/JAS