

MAHATHIR-CHOGPM

FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN 84

PORT MORESBY, AUG. 7 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA FEELS THAT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT REGIONAL MEETING (CHOGPM) IS STILL A USEFUL FORUM FOR SMALLER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION. DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID MALAYSIA WAS NOT IN FAVOUR OF DISCONTINUING WITH IT AS HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BY CERTAIN COUNTRIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS COMMENTING ON A WIDESPREAD CONTROVERSY OVER THE FUTURE OF CHOGPM ON THE EVE OF ITS FOURTH SESSION HERE TOMORROW.

HE SAID: +ALTHOUGH SOME MAY HAVE WANING INTEREST IN IT, WE THINK THERE IS MERIT IN CHOGPM. PERHAPS IT SHOULD BE HELD WHEN THE NEED ARISES, NOT ON A REGULAR BASIS AS IT IS NOW.+

HE SAID THE AGENCIES CONCERNED OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT COULD IMPLEMENT ALL THE PROGRAMMES PROPOSED BY THE MEETINGS.--MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER WHO IS EXPECTED TO PRESENT MALAYSIA'S STAND ON THE MATTER DURING THE AFTERNOON SESSION TOMORROW (WHEN THE FUTURE OF THE FORUM IS UP FOR DISCUSSION) SAID IN SO FAR AS HE WAS AWARE, THERE WAS NO DISTINCT DISAGREEMENT ON THE PART OF ANY COUNTRY OVER THE INCREASING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DEVELOPING PACIFIC NATIONS WITH ASEAN, PARTICULARLY MALAYSIA.

SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE EVEN KEEN TO SEE SOME FORM OF COOPERATION THAT COULD LEAD TO AN ASEAN-PACIFIC FORUM, HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MALAYSIA HAD NO OTHER INTERESTS EXCEPT TO ESTABLISH FRIENDSHIP WITH COUNTRIES IT WAS NOW PROVIDING ASSISTANCE UNDER ITS TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME.

+IT IS NOTHING MORE MEANINGFUL THAN HAVING GENUINE FRIENDS WHEN YOU ARE IN TROUBLE.+ HE SAID RECALLING THE DIFFICULTY MALAYSIA WAS FACING DURING THE INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION WHEN SHE WAS FORCED TO RELY ON ONLY HER TRADITIONAL FRIENDS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY, TODAY HAD A LUNCHEON MEETING WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S PRIME MINISTER ENCIK MICHAEL SOMARE AND THE PRIME MINISTERS OF VANUATU, TUVALU AND WESTERN SAMOA.

-- MORE

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HE SAID GENERALLY THE LEADERS WERE KEEN TO HAVE CLOSER COOPERATION WITH MALAYSIA.

WESTERN SAMOA IN PARTICULAR HAD REQUESTED MALAYSIA TO PROVIDE TEACHERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS TO SERVE AS ADVISORS.

ON THE PNG'S REQUEST FOR MORE ASSISTANCE FROM MALAYSIA, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WOULD CONSIDER IT.

+WE WOULD SURELY SEE THE PRACTICAL ASPECT OF IT SUCH AS THEIR REQUEST FOR MORE TRAINING PLACES FOR SECURITY AND POLICE PERSONNEL, AGRICULTURAL EXPERTISE AND THE REST.+ HE SAID.

+BUT AT THE SAME TIME, WE ALSO HAVE TO SEE THE NEEDS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS NOT THE ONLY COUNTRY WE HELPING.+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD ALSO PERSUADE SOME MALAYSIAN INVESTORS TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF SETTING UP HOTELS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

HE SAID PNG WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SEEING SUCH A PROJECT UNDERTAKEN HERE TO BOOST ITS TOURISM INDUSTRY.--BERNAMA

MAHATHIR - CHOGRM

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1984

OLEH ABDUL PAHMAN SULAIMAN

PORT MORESBY, 7 AGOS (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA BERPENDAPAT MESYUARAT SEPANTAU PAPA KETUA KERAJAAN KOMANWEL (CHOGRM) MASIH MENJADI FORUM YANG BERGUNA BAGI NEGARA-NEGARA MEMBANGUN YANG KECIL DI PANTAU ASTA-PASIFIK. KATA DATUK SEPI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAPI INI.

BELIAU BERKATA MALAYSIA TIDAK INGIN MELIHAT MESYUARAT ITU DIMANSUHKAN SEPERTI YANG DISAPANKAN OLEH SETENGAH-SETENGAH NEGARA.

PERDANA MENTERI MENGULAS KONTROVERSI YANG MELUAS MENGENAI MASA DEPAN CHOGRM YANG MEMULAKAN SIDANG KEEMPATNYA DI INI ESOK.

KATANYA: + SUNGGUHPUN ADA SETENGAH-SETENGAH PIHAK YANG MULA KURANG MENYUKAI MINAT DENGANNYA. KAMI FIKIR MASIH ADA UNSUR-UNSUR KEBAIKAN PADA CHOGRM. MUNGKIN IA HAPUS DIADAKAN CUMA APABILA KEADAAN MEMERLUKAN DAN BUKAN TETAP SEPERTI SEKARANG. +

BELIAU BERKATA DALAM TEMPOR ANTARA MESYUARAT, AGENSI-AGENSI BERKENAAN ATAU SEKRETARIAT KOMANWEL BOLEHLAH MELAKSANAKAN RANCANGAN YANG DICADANGKAN OLEH MESYUARAT. -- LAGI

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BELIAU YANG DI JANGKA MEMBENTANGKAN PENDIRIAN MALAYSIA' DISIDANG-PETANG ESOK YANG MASA DEPAN FORUM ITI DIBINCANGKAN BERKATA SETAKAT INI BELUM ADA NEGARA-NEGARA YANG MENYATAKAN DENGAN JELAS TIDAK SETUJUM PEKAMENGENAI KERJASAMA YANG KIAN RERTAMRAH ANTARA NEGARA-NEGARA MEMBANGUN PASIFIK DENGAN ASEAN, KHUSUSNYA MALAYSIA.

SETENGAH-SETENGAH NEGARA MAJU LEBIH INGIN MELIHAT BENTUK KERJASAMA YANG BOLEH MENGHASILKAN KEWUJUDAN FORUM ASEAN-PASIFIK. KATANYA.

BELIAU MENERANGKAN MALAYSIA TIDAK MEMPUNYAI KEPENTINGAN LAIN SELAIN MENJALIN PERSAHABATAN DENGAN NEGARA-NEGARA YANG IA KINI MENYEDIAKAN BANTUAN DI BAWAH RANCANGAN KERJASAMA TEKNIK.

LEBIH BERMAKNA MEMPUNYAI KAWAN-KAWAN SEJATI APABILA SESEBUAH NEGARA MENGHADAPI KESUSAHAN, + TAMBAHNYA Sambil Mengimbangi KEMBALI KERUNITAN YANG DIHADAPI MALAYSIA SEMASA KONFRONTASI DENGAN INDONESIA APABILA IA TERPAKSA BERGANTUNG KEPADA PAKAN-PAKAN TRADISIONALNYA.

DATUK SEPI DR. MAHATHIR YANG TIBA SEMALAM MENGADAKAN PERTEMUAN MIKHAEL SOMARE PERDANA MENTERI PAPUA NEW GUINEA ENCIK DAN SAMOA BARAT. -- LAGI

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BELIAU BERKATA UMUMNYA, PEMIMPIN-PEMIMPIN ITU INGIN MENGADAKAN KERJASAMA LEBIH RAPAT DENGAN MALAYSIA.

SAMOA BARAT, KHUSUSNYA, MEMINTA MALAYSIA MENYEDIAKAN GURU RAM LAIN-LAIN PEGANAI UNTUK BERKHIDMAT SEBAGAI PENASIHAT.

MENGENAI PERMINTAAN PNG BAGI LEBIH BANTUAN DARI MALAYSIA, DATUK SEPI DR. MAHATHIR BERKATA MALAYSIA AKAN MENIMBANGKANNYA.

+ KAMI TENTU AKAN MENELITI ASPEK PRAKTISNYA SEPERTI PERMINTAAN MEPEKA UNTUK LEBIH TEMPAT LATIHAN BAGI KAKITANGAN KESELAMATAN DAN POLIS, KEPAKARAN PEFTANIAN. +

TETAPI, DALAMPADA ITU + KAMI HENDAKLAH JUGA MENIMRANG KEPERLUAN LAIN-LAIN NEGARA PNG BUKAN NEGARA TUNGGAL YANG KAMI BANTU. + KATANYA.

KATANYA BELIAU AKAN JUGA MEYAKINKAN PELABUR MALAYSIA SUPAYA MENGAJIKEMUNGKINAN MENDIRIKAN HOTEL DI PNG.

BELIAU BERKATA PNG INGIN MELIHAT PROJEK SEUMPAMA ITU DIJALANKAN DISINI BAGI MENGEMBANGKAN INDUSTRI PELANCONGANNYA. -- RERNAMA