

R E234 DES COR
MAHATHIR-NUCLEAR
FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

(2)

WELLINGTON, AUG. 15 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA WILL CONTINUE TO OBJECT TO THE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN PEACEFUL ONES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD DECLARED, TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT MALAYSIA WAS AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTING, NUCLEAR DUMPING AND THE PERMANENT STATIONING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD.

HE SAID THIS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY NEW ZEALAND JOURNALISTS AT A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH HIS NEW ZEALAND COUNTERPART, ENCIK DAVID LANGE, AFTER THEIR TALKS HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS ALSO ASKED FOR HIS COMMENTS ON THE DECISION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND IN DISALLOWING A UNITED STATES NUCLEAR VESSEL TO ANCHOR AT ITS PORT.

HE SAID WHAT NEW ZEALAND WAS DOING WAS ENTIRELY ITS OWN BUSINESS.

IT IS NONE OF OUR BUSINESS. IN SO FAR AS OUR POSITION IS CONCERNED, WE ALLOW THE FREE PASSAGE OF NUCLEAR VESSELS ALONG THE STRAITS OF MELAKA, HE SAID. -- MORE

MAHATHIR-NUCLEAR 2 WELLINGTON

+EVEN IF WE DECIDE OTHERWISE, THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO TO PREVENT IT. HOW CAN WE STOP A NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINE, FOR EXAMPLE, FROM PASSING THROUGH THE STRAITS WHEN WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE IT IS?+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA SO FAR HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY APPLICATION FOR NUCLEAR SHIPS TO ANCHOR AT ITS PORTS.

+IF WE DO RECEIVE SUCH AN APPLICATION, WE WILL STUDY IT AND DECIDE WHAT TO DO NEXT,+ ADDED.

ON THE OUTCOME OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ENCIK LANGE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED UPON HIS NEW ZEALAND COUNTERPART THE MERIT OF MALAYSIA'S POSITION ON ANTARCTICA AND ASEAN'S PERCEPTION OF KAMPUCHEA.

HE SAID HE FOUND THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ASEAN'S AND NEW ZEALAND'S POSITION ON KAMPUCHEA, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT.--
MORE

1541MST 15 08 84

0674

R E237 AAE
MAHATHIR-NUCLEAR 3 WELLINGTON

HOWEVER, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT NEW ZEALAND'S POSITION WAS MOTIVATED BY THE FEAR OF WHAT IT PERCEIVED AS THE EMERGENCE OF THE DOMINANT ROLE OF THE POL POT FACTION IN THE THREE-PARTY COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA BACKED BY ASEAN.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ASEAN, ON THE OTHER HAND, SAW THE ROLE OF POL POT AS DIMINISHING.

ENCIK LANGE SAID IT WAS HIS HOPE THAT ASEAN'S STRATEGY FOR THE RETURN OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN KAMPUCHEA WOULD SUCCEED.

ON ANTARCTICA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE EXPLAINED TO ENCIK LANGE THE NEED FOR ACCESS TO THE CONTINENT BY COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE SIGNATORIES OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY, REGARDLESS WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE THE MEANS OF ESTABLISHING ANY RESEARCH STATION THERE.

ENCIK LANGE ASSURED THAT IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE SIGNATORIES OF THE TREATY TO REGARD ANTARCTICA AS EXCLUSIVELY THEIRS OR TURN IT INTO AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

+INFORMATION ON THE CONTINENT WILL BE SHARED WITH OTHER INTERESTED NATIONS EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE TREATY,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO PROMISED TO CONTINUE HAVING DIALOGUE WITH MALAYSIA ON THE TWO ISSUES. --BERNAMA.