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MALI-COMMUNIQUE

FROM AHMAD REJAL ARBEE

BAMAKO (MALI); DEC 18 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA AND MALI HAVE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE DETERIORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE AGGRAVATION OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION.

IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED BY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AND PRESIDENT GEN. HOUSSA TRAORE AND ISSUED HERE TODAY, THEY EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-AGGRESSION AND NON-USE OF FORCE IN THE CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

THE COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE RISING TENSIONS, CONFLICTS AND INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN STATES.

ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE INCREASING INEQUALITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM, THE COMMUNIQUE SAID THEY WERE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY THE LOW PRICES OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES, EXCESSIVE RISE IN INTEREST RATES AND FLUCTUATIONS IN THE EXCHANGE RATES.

THEY VOICED THEIR CONCERN OVER THE RISE IN EXTERNAL DEBTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE PERSISTENT DROUGHT IN AFRICA.--

WHILE CONTINUING THEIR CALL FOR A MEANINGFUL NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND THE CREATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, THEY UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ACTIVELY PURSUE SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN THE ABSENCE OF POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

THEY STRONGLY EXPRESSED THEIR DETERMINATION TO WORK TO STRENGTHEN SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION AMONG THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AND TO STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM, APARTHEID AND ZIONISM.

THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ALSO TOUCHES ON NAMIBIA, THE MIDDLE-EAST, THE PALESTINE QUESTION AND CONDEMNS ZIONIST AGGRESSION IN LEBANON AND REITERATES SUPPORT FOR THE UNITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY OF LEBANON.

ON AFGHANISTAN MALAYSIA AND MALI EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUING STATE OF TENSION CAUSED BY THE CRISIS.

THEY REITERATED THEIR CALLS TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AND RESPECT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY AND THE STATUS OF NON-ALIGNMENT, FREE FROM FOREIGN INTERFERENCE, DOMINATION AND OCCUPATION.--

THE COMMUNIQUE SAYS MALI SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS OF MALAYSIA AND HER OTHER ASEAN PARTNERS TO ESTABLISH A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

THEY CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES TO END THE WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ IN THE INTEREST OF ISLAM AND THE UMMAH.

THEY AGREED TO FOSTER UNITY AMONG MUSLIM GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ENSURING THE ISLAMIC UMMAH BECOMES A DYNAMIC AND POSITIVE FORCE FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SPIRITUAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.

THE TWO LEADERS UNDERTOOK TO STRENGTHEN THE UNITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE.

THE COMMUNIQUE SAYS PRESIDENT TRAORE AND DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ARE CONVINCED THAT THE CONTINENT OF ANTARCTICA SHOULD BE REGARDED, AS A COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND AND THAT THE EXPLOITATION OF ITS POTENTIAL RESOURCES SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MANKIND.-- MORE

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ANTARTICA SHOULD CONTINUE FOREVER TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND SHOULD NOT BECOME THE SCENE OR OBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL DISCORD AND SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL NATIONS, ON BILATERAL MATTERS. BOTH PARTIES REAFFIRMED THEIR WILL TO REINFORCE AND DIVERSIFY THEIR COOPERATION BASED ON ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY AND TO WORK TOWARDS A MODEL SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.

THEY EMPHASISED THE COMPLEMENTARITY OF THE MALAYSIAN AND MALIAN ECONOMIES AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE NECESSITY FOR LEADERS FOR BOTH COUNTRIES TO JOIN THEIR EFFORTS FOR A HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COUNTRIES.

THEY STRESSED THAT THE MEETINGS HELD DURING THE VISIT CONSTITUTED A DECISIVE STEP IN THE PROCESS OF ENHANCING THE FRIENDLY AND BROTHERLY RELATIONSHIP, TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE CONSOLIDATION AND WIDENING OF A MORE ADVANTAGEOUS BILATERAL COOPERATION.

AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED ON THE SETTING UP OF A JOINT MALAYSIA-MALI TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WHICH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IN HIS SPEECH AT THE BANQUET WOULD ACT AS A CATALYST TO ACHIEVE MORE MEANINGFUL COOPERATION FOR THEIR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

THE COMMUNIQUE SAYS DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD INDICATED THAT A DRILLING EQUIPMENT WILL BE SENT TO MALI IN EARLY 1985.

THE MALIAN SIDE EXPRESSED THEIR DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THIS GIFT INCLUDING THE ELECTRONIC NEWS-GATHERING EQUIPMENT AND PAST CONTRIBUTIONS. OF 20,000 TONNES OF RICE IN 1982 AND 1983 AS WELL AS THE ONGOING TECHNICAL AND AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE GIVING ANOTHER 1,000 TONNES OF RICE TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEMS OF THE DROUGHT VICTIMS.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE LATER, HE MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF MALAYSIA IMPORTING SOME GOODS FROM MALI.

THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE ASKING THE MALAYSIAN OVERSEAS INVESTMENT CORPORATION (MOIC) TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPORTING MALIAN MANGO AND TAMARIND JUICE WHICH MALI IS NOW PRODUCING AS A DRINK. -- BERNAMA

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