

0027

RE084 AAE
MAHATHIR-COOPERATION
FROM AHMADREJALARBEE

BAMAKO (MALI), DEC 18 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID LAST NIGHT THAT THERE IS GREAT SCOPE FOR MEANINGFUL SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO TACKLE THEIR PROBLEMS ON THEIR OWN.

HE MADE THIS ASSESSMENT FOLLOWING TALKS WITH LEADERS OF MALI, EGYPT AND LIBYA AS WELL AS TUNISIA DURING THE COURSE OF HIS CURRENT 11-DAY VISIT TO THE THREE COUNTRIES AND A SHORT STOP-OVER IN TUNIS.

TOUCHING ON THE SAME THEME IN A SPEECH AT THE STATE BANQUET GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF MALI, GEN. MOUSSA TRAORE, HERE LAST NIGHT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT COOPERATIVE EFFORTS AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND POOL THEIR RESOURCES OFFER THE BEST HOPE TO FACE THE FAILURE OF BRINGING ABOUT CHANGES TO PREVAILING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

HE SAID IT WAS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT MALAYSIA LAUNCHED ITS MALAYSIA TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (MTCOP) IN 1980 WITH THE SINGLE OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING MEANINGFUL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO LESSEN THEIR DEPENDENCE ON THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

MALAYSIA, THROUGH THE PROGRAMME, ONLY SOUGHT IN A MODEST WAY TO HELP ENCOURAGE NATIONAL RESILIENCE, HE ADDED. -- MORE
1032MST 18 12 84

0030

R E085 A A E
MAHATHIR-COOPERATION 2 BAMAKO (MALI)

MALAYSIA, BEING A SMALL COUNTRY, HAD NEITHER TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS NOR DESIRE TO MANIPULATE OR CONTROL THE DESTINY OF OTHER NATIONS HE SAID.

UNDER THE PROGRAMME MALAYSIA HAS OFFERED ITS HAND IN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION TO SEVERAL COUNTRIES INCLUDING MALI.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL GROW IN THE YEARS TO COME, HE SAID.

PRESIDENT TRAORE, IN HIS SPEECH AT THE BANQUET, DESCRIBED THE RELATIONS BETWEEN MALI AND MALAYSIA AS A GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.

THIS MUTUAL ASSISTANCE WILL ENABLE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ESCAPE FROM THE UNJUST MECHANISM OF AN INSTABLE WORLD SYSTEM, HE SAID. -- MORE

1040MST 18 12 84

0031

R E086 AAE
MAHATHIR-COOPERATION 3 BAMAKO (MALI)

HE THANKED THE MALAYSIAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND SOLICITUDE TO HELP MALI OVERCOME ITS PROBLEM OF DROUGHT AND THE ENCROACHMENT OF THE SAHARA DESERT INTO ONCE-ARABLE LAND.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IN HIS SPEECH SAID THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WAS DEEPLY AWARE OF THE IMMENSE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIFFICULTIES THAT YEARS OF DROUGHT HAVE INFLICTED UPON MALI.

WE SHARE YOUR SENSE OF DESPAIR AND THE SETBACK TO YOUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS THAT THE NATURAL CALAMITIES HAVE CAUSED.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA WOULD DO WHATEVER THEY COULD TO HELP MALI.

ALTHOUGH WE OURSELVES ARE A SMALL DEVELOPING NATION, WE POSSESS SOME EXPERTISE IN SPECIFIC AREAS AND SOME ABILITY TO ASSIST, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- MORE

1052MST 18 12 84

0034

R E087 AAE
MAHATHIR-COOPERATION 4 BAMAKO (MALI)

+WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT CONSIDER OUR HELP AS ASSISTANCE IN THE USUAL SENSE BUT RATHER YOU CONSIDER IT AS A SMALL TOKEN OF OUR DESIRE TO SHARE WITH YOU THE FRUITS OF EXPERIENCE AND LABOUR IN THE SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES +, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID .

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL COOPERATION WITH THE AFRICAN NATIONS.

+WE BELIEVE SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND AFRICA CAN AND SHOULD BE PARTNERS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR BETTER INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ORDER .+

THE PRIME MINISTER HAD A BUSY DAY YESTERDAY VISITING THE SELENGUE BARRAGE DAM ON THE SANKARAN RIVER, A TRIBUTARY OF THE NIGER 150 KM SOUTH OF HERE NEAR THE GUINEA BORDER.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE MALIAN VICE PRESIDENT, GEN. AMADO TARRA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS DRIVEN IN A MOTORCADE ON THE ONE-AND-A-HALF HOUR DRIVE TO THE DAM WHICH IS USED FOR IRRIGATION, HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER AND FISHERIES. -- MORE

1104MST 18 12 84

R E090 AAE
MAHATHIR-COOPERATION 5 BAMAKO (MALI)

HE WAS ENTERTAINED TO A MALAYSIAN-STYLE LUNCH WITH BARBEQUED LAMB AT THE MALYSIAN EMBASSY BY THE AMBASSADOR ENCIK ZAKNAL LEMBANG AND HIS STAFF.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A FOUR-EYED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT TRAORE WHILE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION MET ON BI-LATERAL MATTERS WITH THEIR MALIAN COUNTERPARTS HEADED BY THE RESPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS, TENGKU AHMAD RUSHDIN AND ENCIK ALI ONEBLONDIN BEYE AT THE CABINET OFFICE .

DATUK DR MAHATHIR AND PRESIDENT TRAORE LATER SIGNED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR MEDINAH, SAUDI ARABIA, LATER TODAY AFTER A FOUR-DAY VISIT.

THEY ALSO WITNESSED THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO SET UP A JOINT MALI-MALAYSIA TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE BY THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR PRESENTED A SET OF ELECTRONIC NEWS GATHERING EQUIPMENT TO RADIO AND TV MALI LATER IN THE NIGHT. -- MORE

1137MST 18 12 84

0043

R E091 AAE
MAHATHIR-COOPERATION 6 BAMAKO (MALI)

HE WAS PRESENTED WITH INFORMATION MINISTER PUAN GAKOU FATOU NIANG AT A CEREMONY AT RADIO AND TV MALI.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS DELEGATION LEAVES AT 9.30 A.M TODAY MALI TIME (1.30 P.M MALAYSIAN TIME) FOR MEDINAH WITH A TWO-HOUR REFUELLING STOPOVER IN TUNIS.

HE IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN MEDINAH AT 12.30 A.M DEC 19 (6.30 A.M. MALAYSIAN TIME.) -- BERNAMA

1142MST 18 12 84