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KUCHING, AUG 24 (BERNAMA) -- BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SAID THE MCA AD HOC COMMITTEE HEADED BY BN SECRETARY-GENERAL ENCIK GHAFAR BABA SHOULD NOW +RUN+ THE MCA. +I DO NOT HAVE TO RECOGNISE ANYTHING (ABOUT THE VARIOUS FACTIONS IN THE MCA).

+IN FACT IT SHOULD BE THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WHICH SHOULD NOW BE RUNNING THE PARTY,+ HE TOLD NEWSMEN AT THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE BEFORE DEPARTING FOR KUALA LUMPUR AFTER A FIVE-DAY VISIT TO SARAWAK.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS THE PRIME MINISTER, POINTED OUT THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WAS SET UP BY THE COURT TO CLEAR UP THE PROBLEMS IN THE PARTY.

THE MCA APPARENTLY HAS THREE FACTIONS NOW, TWO OF WHICH RECOGNISE DIFFERENT PERSONS AS THE ACTING PRESIDENT -- DATUK DR NEO YEE PAN AND DATUK MAK HON KAM (WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO THE POST TO REPLACE DATUK DR NEO AT A CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECENTLY). BOTH DATUK DR NEO AND DATUK MAK WERE RECOGNISED BY THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL AS MCA REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COUNCIL.

THE THIRD FACTION IN THE PARTY IS HEADED BY FORMER PARTY VICE-PRESIDENT ENCIK TAN KOON SWAN. -- MORE
1344MST 24 08 85

D814

U E253 AAE
MAHATHIR-MCA 2 KUCHING

ON WHAT IS THE BN VIEW WITH REGARD TO THE NOV 24 MCA PARTY ELECTIONS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ONE WEEK PAST THE THREE-MONTH GRACE PERIOD GRANTED THE PARTY TO RESOLVE ITS CRISIS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD LEAVE THIS TO THE DISCRETION OF THE BN PARTNERS TO DECIDE.

HE SAID THE BN WOULD HAVE TO LOOK INTO THE NEEDS OF THE MCA CONSTITUTION.

+IF THE (EXTRA) ONE WEEK NEEDED IS UNAVOIDABLE, I AM QUITE SURE MY BN PARTNERS WILL BE REASONABLE. IT IS UP TO THEM TO DECIDE.+

AT THE AUG 17 BN SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR, DATUK DR NEO AND DATUK MAK SAID THEY NEEDED THREE MONTHS TO SOLVE THE PARTY CRISIS, FAILING WHICH THE MCA WOULD OPT OUT OF THE COALITION VOLUNTARILY TO CONTINUE TO FIND A SETTLEMENT OF THE DIFFERENCES.

AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD CONVENE ANOTHER BN SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE THE NOV 17 DEADLINE TO DISCUSS THE NEW DEVELOPMENT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID WHETHER A MEETING WOULD BE CALLED WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER THERE WAS A NEED FOR ONE. -- MORE
1352MST 24 08 85

D817

U E254 AAE
MAHATHIR-MCA 3 KUCHING

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF UMNO SPREADING ITS WINGS TO SABAH AND SARAWAK, HE SAID: +I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD DISTURB OTHER PEOPLE.+

+UMNO IS QUITE HAPPY TO WORK WITH OTHER PARTIES IN THE TWO STATES AS PARTNERS. WE HAVE NO WISH TO COME HERE TO COMPETE.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID UMNO WOULD EXTEND ITS ACTIVITIES TO LABUAN ISLAND, WHICH IS A FEDERAL TERRITORY, AS THERE WOULD BE NO OTHER COMPETITORS.

HE SAID UMNO WOULD PUT UP A CANDIDATE IN ANY ELECTION THERE. --
BERNAMA
1400MST 24 08 85

0830

U E259 AAE

MAHATHIR-MCA 4 KUCHING (RE-OPENS D817)

THE FORMER YANG DIPERTUA NEGERI AND CHIEF MINISTER OF SARAWAK, TUN DATUK PATINGGI ABDUL RAHMAN YAKUB, HAD RECENTLY CALLED UPON UMNO TO CONSIDER COMING TO BOTH STATES BECAUSE HE SAID HE BELIEVED SUCH A MOVE COULD HELP REDUCE THE NUMBER OF BUMIPUTERA POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH HE CLAIMED WAS A PREREQUISITE FOR UNITY AND SOLIDARITY IN THE TWO STATES.

TUN RAHMAN'S CALL WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE MALAY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SARAWAK (KMS), DATUK WAN YUSOF TUN DATUK PATINGGI TUANKU HAJI BUJANG, WHO SAID THAT UMNO'S PRESENCE IN BOTH STATES COULD HELP ENHANCE NATIONAL INTEGRATION.

DATUK WAN YUSOF, WHO IS STATE ASSEMBLYMAN FOR KALAKA, URGED UMNO TO CONSIDER AMENDING ITS CONSTITUTION TO ACCOMMODATE THE NATIVES IN THE TWO STATES BECAUSE LEAVING THEM OUT WOULD, ACCORDING TO HIM, ONLY MEAN ISOLATING THEM FROM A BIG AND STRONG ORGANISATION.

HE SAID THE MALAYS IN SARAWAK WOULD WELCOME UMNO WITH OPEN ARMS SINCE ONLY THROUGH UMNO COULD THEY FEEL THE PULSE OF NATIONAL POLITICS AND PLAY A DOMINANT ROLE IN IT. -- BERNAMA

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