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LEAD MAHATHIR-IPC

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SUBANG, SEPT. 11 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD LEFT FOR JEDDAH TODAY TO ATTEND THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ISLAMIC PEACE COMMITTEE (IPC) ON THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR.

THE PRIME MINISTER IS ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER TENGGU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN AND FIVE SENIOR WISMA PUTRA OFFICIALS TO THE THREE-DAY MEETING BEGINNING TOMORROW.

MALAYSIA IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH WAS SET UP DURING THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC) SUMMIT IN TAIF IN 1981.

THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE BANGLADESH, GAMBIA, PAKISTAN, SENEGAL, TURKEY, REPUBLIC OF GUINEA, PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION (PLO) AND THE OIC ITSELF. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS SEEN OFF AT THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BY DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER DATUK DR TAN TIONG HONG AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES DEPUTY MINISTER MEGAT JUNID MEGAT AYOB.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER ENCIK MOHAMED REDZUAN KUSHAIRI TOLD REPORTERS THE IPC'S PRIORITY NOW WAS TO ESTABLISH REGULAR DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE AND THE TWO COUNTRIES INVOLVED.

ENCIK REDZUAN SAID THERE WAS NO QUICK SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS +DELICATE.+

AS SUCH, WHATEVER PEACE EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN HAD TO BE ON A +LOW KEY BASIS+ AND WITHOUT MUCH PUBLICITY, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

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