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MAHATHIR-MAS
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85 (P)
SUBANG, OCT 21 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DESCRIBED THE PURCHASE OF PRATT AND WHITNEY ENGINES FOR A BOEING 747 AIRCRAFT BEING ORDERED BY PETRONAS AS A NORMAL BUSINESS TRANSACTION. PETRONAS IS BUYING THE AIRCRAFT FOR LEASING TO THE MALAYSIAN AIRLINE SYSTEM (MAS).

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IT WAS IN MAS' INTEREST TO USE AIRCRAFT AND ENGINES THAT WERE GOOD AND SUITABLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS COMMENTING ON A REPORT FROM HONG KONG THAT THE ROLLS-ROYCE COMPANY HAD THREATEN TO SUE THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT OVER THE LOSS OF ITS CONTRACT TO SUPPLY ROLLS-ROYCE ENGINES FOR THE BOEING 747.

WHEN ASKED WHY PETRONAS BOUGHT THE AIRCRAFT INSTEAD OF MAS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT MAS TO SPEND TOO MUCH MONEY ON ITS CAPITAL INVESTMENT. -- MORE

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ON CUEPACS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE COULD NOT MAKE ANY COMMENT AS HE HAD NOT BEEN BRIEFED YET ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

CUEPACS HAD SAID IT PLANNED TO GO AHEAD WITH ITS NATIONWIDE PICKET ON WEDNESDAY IF IT DID NOT RECEIVE ANY POSITIVE REACTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE SALARY CLAIMS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

ON DATUK MAK HON KAM'S AND DATUK DR TAN TIONG HONG'S QUARREL WITH THE MCA AD HOC COMMITTEE OVER THE RELEASING OF A COMPUTER DISK CONTAINING THE PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP LIST TO THE TAN KOON SWAN FACTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THAT WAS THEIR PROBLEM.

ASKED WHETHER THEIR ACTION WOULD DELAY EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE MCA CRISIS, HE SAID: +PERHAPS, IT COULD. I DO NOT KNOW.+

ON CLAIMS BY MCA SECRETARY-GENERAL ENCIK YEOH POH SAN THAT DATUK MAK HAD SAID THE PRIME MINISTER HAD TOLD HIM (DATUK MAK) ON AUG 10 THAT HE (PM) WANTED DATUK MAK TO BECOME MCA PRESIDENT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +I'M GLAD TO KNOW THAT I COULD APPOINT THE MCA PRESIDENT.+ -- BERNAMA

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