

U F240 FEM

INDONESIA-MALAYSIA

JAKARTA, MARCH 19 (BERNAMA-AP) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY MALAYSIA WAS NOT TOO HOPEFUL ABOUT VIETNAM'S NEW PROPOSAL FOR SOLVING THE KAMPUCHEAN CONFLICT BECAUSE PAST PROPOSALS CAME TO NOTHING. £

WHILE SAYING THERE WAS A NEED FOR SOME ACCOMMODATION, THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER ADDED: £MALAYSIA WILL STUDY THE QUESTION. £

THE FIVE-POINT PROPOSAL WAS SUBMITTED TO INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA WHEN HE VISITED HANOI LAST WEEK.

AFTER A SECOND ROUND OF TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE TWO HAD AGREED THAT EVERY COUNTRY SHOULD HAVE A ROLE IN TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE (KAMPUCHEAN) PROBLEM. £

INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND THE OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS HAVE CALLED FOR VIETNAMESE TROOPS TO WITHDRAW FROM KAMPUCHEA TO LET THAT NATION'S PEOPLE DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID, HOWEVER, THERE WAS A NEW ELEMENT IN THE NEW VIETNAMESE PROPOSAL INVOLVING THE QUESTION OF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN MISSING IN ACTION FROM THE VIETNAM WAR.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY, RETURNED TO KUALA LUMPUR TODAY.

MEANWHILE, MOCHTAR SAID THE VIETNAMESE HAVE SHOWN SOME POSITIVE INDICATIONS ABOUT SETTLING THE PROBLEM OF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN MISSING IN ACTION. -- MORE

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INDONESIA-MALAYSIA 2 JAKARTA (LAST)

THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION HAS A LIST OF 2,500 AMERICANS UNACCOUNTED FOR SINCE THE INDOCHINA WAR.

ON HIS VISIT TO JAKARTA ON FEB. 28, U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE PAUL WOLFOWITZ ASKED MOCHTAR TO RAISE THE QUESTION WITH THE VIETNAMESE.

MOCHTAR AGREED TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY, SAYING: "NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM COULD HELP PROMOTE STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA."

THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE IS GOING TO NEW YORK TO MEET WOLFOWITZ LATER THIS MONTH TO BRIEF HIM ON THE RESULTS OF HIS TALKS IN HANOI.

THE UNITED STATES HAS MAINTAINED THAT SETTLEMENT OF THE MIA QUESTION AND THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM COULD LEAD TO NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND HANOI.

MOCHTAR SAID HE NOW IS AWAITING SIGNALS FROM THE VIETNAMESE TO SHOW THEIR SERIOUSNESS IN SETTLING THE MIA QUESTION.

HE SAID THE VIETNAMESE ALSO HELD THAT TO AVOID HAMPERING THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION OF THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM, THE QUESTION OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN VIETNAM AND THE PHILIPPINES SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED FOR THE TIME BEING. -- BERNAMA-AP

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