

LEE

SINGAPORE, OCT 24 (BERNAMA) ⁸⁵ (P) -- SINGAPORE'S PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW SAID THAT MANY THIRD WORLD LEADERS SHARED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD'S SENTIMENTS WHEN HE CRITICISED THE COMMONWEALTH FOR VALUING RHETORIC MORE THAN ACTION.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH SINGAPORE REPORTERS IN NASSAU WHERE HE IS ATTENDING THE WEEK-LONG COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT, LEE SAID THE LEADERS ALSO FELT THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SHOULD DO MORE FOR THE DEVELOPING MEMBERS.

HE ADDED THAT FROM THE AUDIENCE'S RESPONSES, THERE WERE MANY THIRD WORLD LEADERS WHO SHARED DR MAHATHIR'S VIEWS, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME SUCH THOUGHTS HAVE CROSSED PEOPLE'S MIND.

LEE SAID THAT HE HAD A DISCUSSION WITH DR MAHATHIR AT LAYFOD CAY FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS ON THE CONFERENCE, ASEAN AND ITS FUTURE AND WORLD PROBLEMS.

HE ALSO HAD SIMILAR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI WHO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE FOR THE FIRST TIME ON BRUNEI'S PLACE IN THE COMMONWEALTH AND ITS SECURITY AND THE FUTURE OF ASEAN.

IN THE INTERVIEW, LEE SPEAKS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS INCLUDING HIS RECENT TRIP TO CHINA WHICH HE SAID +IN CHINA WE HAD SPECIAL AND THERE WILL BE DEFINITE FOLLOW-UP AND IT RELEVANT TO US. AND IT'S GOING TO BE EXTREMELY DIRECT IN THE IMPACT ON OUR FUTURE OF WHAT HAPPENS IN CHINA+.

HE SAID THAT HE CAME BACK TO SINGAPORE FROM CHINA WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSMEN, BOTH SINGAPOREANS IN THE TRADITIONAL TRADE SECTOR AND OTHERS, INCLUDING FOREIGNERS, IN VARIOUS OTHER SECTORS.

ON HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS, HE SAID THAT +IN WASHINGTON THERE WAS A DEFINITE NEXUS, A CONNECTION BETWEEN US POLICY AND THE SINGAPORE ECONOMY.

+IF THEY PICK UP OUR ELECTRONICS, EMPLOYMENT IN ALL THE FACTORIES WILL GO UP AND AT THE SAME TIME EXPORTS WILL GO UP. IT'S AGAIN VERY DIRECT, VERY IMMEDIATE. THE CONNECTION IS PALPABLE, YOU CAN FEEL IT+, HE ADDED.

ON THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN ACCORD, HE SAID THAT IT REPRESENTS WHAT THE BLACK AFRICAN FRONTLINE STATES, AS THEY WERE CALLED, WERE ABLE TO GET BRITISH PRIME MINISTER THATCHER TO AGREE TO, ALTHOUGH SHE WAS CONVINCED THAT SANCTIONS WILL NOT WORK.

ASKED WHETHER THAT WAS A VICTORY FOR THATCHER, LEE SAID HE DID NOT SEE IT IN THAT LIGHT AND NEITHER DID THATCHER. -- BERNAMA