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MAHATHIR-RELATIONS

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Ⓟ Trip overseas

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 28, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD RETURNED HOME FROM CHINA TONIGHT SAYING THAT HIS VISIT HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL AND THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD IMPROVE OVER A BROAD SPECTRUM.

SPEAKING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE CALLED ON HIS RETURN FROM THE NINE-DAY VISIT, HE EXPECTED BILATERAL RELATIONS TO STRENGTHEN, AND REACH A HIGHER LEVEL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE SHIFT IN RELATIONS WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, CHANGE MALAYSIA'S STAND ON THE PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONS CHINA HAD WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM).

+IT WAS THE CPM THAT CREATED THE PROBLEM FOR US,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THIS QUESTION WAS NOT PRESSED DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINESE LEADERS AS EACH OTHER'S POSITION ON THIS WAS CLEAR.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE CHINESE LEADERS HAD ALSO UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED WITH MALAYSIA'S EFFORTS FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND TO REGARD MALAYSIAN CHINESE AS MALAYSIAN CITIZENS AND NOT PART OF WHAT THE CHINESE LEADERS HAD DESCRIBED AS THE OVERSEAS CHINESE POPULATION. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-RELATIONS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DESPITE THE DIFFERENCES IN IDEOLOGY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD RESPECT EACH OTHER AS LONG AS +THEY DO NOT INTERFERE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND WE IN THEIRS.+

IN BEIJING, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS COUNTERPART ZHAO ZIYANG, PARTY CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPENG, GENERAL SECRETARY HU YAOBANG AND PRESIDENT LI XIANNIAN.

ON THE PRESENT CHINESE LEADERSHIP, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THEY WERE +QUITE SINCERE+ AND THAT THEY WERE CONCENTRATING ON DEVELOPING THEIR COUNTRY AND +NOT HAVE ANY ADVENTURES ABROAD.+ -- BERNAMA

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