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MAHATHIR

BM

JITRA, MAY 16 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT URGED MUSLIMS IN THE RURAL AREAS TO REMAIN UNITED IN THE INTEREST OF THE UMMAH.

+IN THE SEARCH FOR UNITY AMONG MUSLIMS, I EVEN INVITED A NUMBER OF LEADERS OF AN OPPOSITION PARTY TO MY HOUSE RECENTLY FOR DISCUSSIONS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING AT A QURAN READING COMPETITION AND BREAKING OF FAST AT KAMPUNG MALAU MOSQUE NEAR HERE. -- MORE
2149MST 16 05 86

U E271 DEE

MAHATHIR 2 JITRA

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE APPRECIATED THE READINESS OF THOSE LEADERS TO COME OVER AND ATTEND THE MEETING.

UNFORTUNATELY AFTER THE DISCUSSIONS A NUMBER OF OTHER LEADERS OF THE PARTY WHO WERE NOT INVITED TO THE MEETING DENIED THAT SUCH A MEETING WAS HELD.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT IN THE SEARCH FOR UNITY THERE MUST BE MUTUAL COOPERATION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSTANTLY MAKING EFFORTS TO AVOID ANY FORM OF DISUNITY AMONG THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

+IN THE SPIRIT OF ISLAM WE MUST BE CAREFUL IN ALL OUR ACTIONS AND SAYINGS SO AS NOT TO HURT THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

2230MST 16 05 86

U E272 DEE

MAHATHIR 3 JITRA

THE GOVERNMENT ASPIRED FOR UNITY AND OPPOSED TYRANNY AND PERSECUTION NOT ONLY AT HOME BUT ALSO ELSEWHERE SUCH AS ITS CONDEMNATION OF THE UNITED STATES' BOMBING OF LIBYA, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

MALAYSIA'S CONDEMNATION OF THE BOMBING INCIDENT HAD BEEN APPRECIATED BY LIBYA, HE SAID.

RECENTLY A SPECIAL ENVOY OF LIBYAN LEADER COL MUAMMAR GHADAFY, DR AHMAD SHARIF, CONVEYED A MESSAGE OF THANKS FOR MALAYSIA'S STAND ON THE MATTER, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

MUSLIMS MUST HOLD FIRMLY TO THE PRINCIPLE OF CONDEMNING SUCH ACTS OF TYRANNY NO MATTER WHERE THEY WERE COMMITTED.

+CONDEMNATION OF TYRANNY AND CRUELTY IS IN LINE WITH THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THEY ARE COMMITTED ON MUSLIMS OR NON-MUSLIMS,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- MORE

2245MST 16 05 86

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MAHATHIR 4 JITRA

MALAYSIA WHICH PRACTISED PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY WOULD CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. HE HOPED MUSLIMS WOULD NOT MAKE UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS OR HURL SLANDER AGAINST OTHERS.

TO AVOID TENSION AMONG MUSLIMS, THERE MUST BE DISCUSSIONS, MUZAKARAH AND MEETINGS IN A SPIRIT OF PEACE AND BROTHERHOOD, HE SAID.

+WE MUST LOOK FOR WAYS AND MEANS OF OVERCOMING OUR PROBLEMS THROUGH GUIDANCE FROM THE HOLY QURAN AND THE HADIS.+

+ LEADERS OF MUSLIM POLITICAL PARTIES MUST ALWAYS HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER AS WE ARE BROTHERS AND DO NOT WISH TO VIOLATE THE LAWS OF ALLAH,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
2254MST 16 05 86

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U E274 DEE
MAHATHIR 5 JITRA

+THOUGH WE ARE MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES THIS DOES NOT MEAN WE AS MUSLIMS CANNOT SIT AT ONE TABLE AND HOLD DISCUSSIONS.+

WITHOUT MENTIONING ANY NAMES, THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THE NEED FOR BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES TO FIGHT TYRANNY AND CRUELTY JOINTLY AND REMAIN UNITED IN THE INTEREST OF THE UMMAH. -- BERNAMA
2300MST 16 05 86