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B E471 AAE

MAHATHIR-JOURNAL R R R R R

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FROM AHMAD REJAL ARBEE

(P) Trip overseas

NEW YORK, OCT 2 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS EXPRESSED SUPRISE OVER THE PETITION FILED AT THE HIGH COURT BY A REPORTER OF THE ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL (AWSJ) SEEKING LEAVE TO STOP THE GOVERNMENT FROM EXPELLING HIM FROM MALAYSIA.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FILING OF THE PETITION REFLECTED THE CORRESPONDENT'S VIEW THAT HE HAD SPECIAL RIGHT TO COME TO MALAYSIA AND DO WHAT HE LIKED AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE ANY RIGHT TO EXPEL HIM.

THE HIGH COURT WEDNESDAY DISMISSED THE APPLICATION BY JOHN PETER BERTHELSEN, ONE OF TWO AWSJ JOURNALISTS ORDERED TO LEAVE MALAYSIA. ENCIK BERTHELSEN LEFT THE COUNTRY LATER THAT EVENING BUT THURSDAY, THROUGH HIS COUNSEL, ENCIK MUHAMMAD SHAFEE ABDULLAH, FILED AN APPEAL TO THE SUPREME COURT AGAINST THE HIGH COURT'S REJECTION OF HIS PETITION.

IN AN INTERVIEW WEDNESDAY WITH MALAYSIAN JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING HIM ON HIS NEW YORK VISIT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATS FROM THE UNITED STATES, WOULD BE EXPELLED IF THE GOVERNMENT FELT UNEASY ABOUT THEIR PRESENCE.

HE SAID WARREN PHILLIPS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF WALL STREET JOURNAL (WSJ), A NEW YORK PUBLICATION WHICH CONTROLS AWSJ, CALLED ON HIM YESTERDAY MORNING TO DISCUSS THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION AGAINST THE HONG KONG-BASED PUBLICATION.

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MAHATHIR-JOURNAL 2 NEW YORK R R R

+I AGREED TO MEET HIM THOUGH I BELIEVED THAT NOTHING WILL RESULT FROM THE MEETING.+

+I EXPLAINED ABOUT THE INACCURATE AND UNTRUTHFUL REPORTS AND THOSE WHICH CREATED A BAD IMAGE ABOUT MALAYSIA AND HOW AWSJ AND WSJ ALWAYS CARRIED NEWS ITEMS WHICH PUT MALAYSIA IN A BAD LIGHT.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE WSJ MADE A THREAT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ACTION AGAINST ITS NEWSPAPER WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT MALAYSIA'S EFFORTS TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES.

+I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS MAY OCCUR BUT EVEN IF IT HAPPENS, WE WILL NOT BOW TO THEM BECAUSE WE HAVE OUR DIGNITY.+

+WE DO NOT WANT ANYONE WHO THREATENS US AND FORCES US TO DO THINGS THAT WILL BELITTLE US,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT HIS EXPLANATION ON THIS POINT TO AMERICAN INVESTORS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THEM. -- MORE

1944MST 02 10 86

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MAHATHIR-JOURNAL 3 NEW YORK

HE SAID MANY EXPRESSED THEIR SYMPATHY FOR MALAYSIA AND UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THOUGH THE WSJ HAD INFLUENCE OVER AMERICAN INVESTORS, THOSE WHO REALLY WANTED TO INVEST IN MALAYSIA WOULD OBTAIN CORRECT INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ANYONE WOULD INVEST IF THERE WERE INCENTIVES FOR HIM TO MAKE PROFITS.

+THEY WILL INVEST NOT BECAUSE THEY SYMPATHISE WITH US OR FOR OTHER REASONS BUT ONLY TO MAKE PROFITS AND THIS FACT SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED.+

HE SAID A DELEGATION FROM THE UNITED STATES WOULD VISIT MALAYSIA FROM OCT 6 TO LOOK INTO INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES. -- MORE

1947MST 02 10 86

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCENTRATING ON EFFORTS TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND ENCOURAGING FOREIGN INVESTMENT WITHOUT STRESSING ON MATTERS RELATING TO EQUITY PARTICIPATION.

HE SAID THESE INCLUDED RELAXATION OF REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD NOW ENABLE FOREIGN INVESTORS TO HOLD 100 PERCENT EQUITY, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS ANNOUNCED TWO DAYS AGO.

HE ALSO URGED MALAYSIAN MANUFACTURERS TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT PRICES OF COMMODITIES SUCH AS RUBBER, PALM OIL AND TIN WOULD NOT RISE TO PREVIOUS HIGH LEVELS.

HE SAID THAT MANY PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT THE WORLD ECONOMY WOULD RECOVER AND THAT PRICES OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES WOULD INCREASE ONCE MORE BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN IN VIEW OF THE AVAILABILITY OF SUBSTITUTES.

EVEN IF THERE WERE CHANGES, THE INCREASE IN PRICES WOULD ONLY BE MARGINAL.

HE ADVISED MALAYSIAN MANUFACTURERS AND PRODUCERS TO LOOK FOR OTHER WAYS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR OUTPUT WAS ECONOMICAL, SUCH AS BY REDUCING PRODUCTION COSTS. -- MORE
1952MST 02 10 86

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B E478 AAE
MAHATHIR-JOURNAL 5 NEW YORK

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE SEVERAL RUBBER AND OIL PALM ESTATES WHICH COULD FURTHER LOWER PRODUCTION COSTS COMPARED WITH OTHER PRODUCERS.

HE SAID THAT FELDA, IN PARTICULAR, HAD QUITE HIGH PRODUCTION COSTS.

HE URGED THEM TO EMULATE RUBBER ESTATES WHICH HAD SUCCEEDED IN REDUCING PRODUCTION COSTS.

ON HIS MEETING WITH US SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THEY DISCUSSED VARIOUS MATTERS, INCLUDING THE DADAH PROBLEM.

HE SAID ENCIK SHULTZ EXPRESSED THE UNITED STATES' SUPPORT FOR THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY MALAYSIA TO FIGHT THE DADAH MENACE. -- MORE
2003MST 02 10 86

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B E481 AAE
MAHATHIR-JOURNAL 6 NEW YORK

HE SAID DADAH WAS ALSO A MAJOR PROBLEM IN THE UNITED STATES WHERE EVEN 10-YEAR-OLDS WERE INVOLVED IN A NEW TYPE OF DADAH CALLED +CRACK+.

THIS DADAH WAS VERY DANGEROUS BECAUSE ONE COULD BECOME AN ADDICT JUST AFTER HIS FIRST TRY AT +CRACK+, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO EXPLAINED HIS PROPOSAL ON THE SETTING UP OF A STRONG INTERNATIONAL FORCE WHICH COULD ASSIST GOVERNMENTS TO DESTROY DADAH CROPS SUCH AS THE POPPY AND COCA (WHICH PRODUCES COCAINE) IN THEIR COUNTRIES.

DADAH PLANTATIONS WERE USUALLY GUARDED CLOSELY BY ARMED MEN BELONGING TO SYNDICATES AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE FACED BY EQUALLY STRONG FORCES SO THAT EFFORTS TO REDUCE DADAH PRODUCTION COULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR GAVE AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE UNITED STATES HAD ONCE SENT AN ARMED FORCE TO BOLIVIA WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO DESTROY A COCA PLANTATION. -- MORE
2015MST 02 10 86

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B E482 AAE
MAHATHIR-JOURNAL 7 NEW YORK

ON NEXT WEEK'S SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT REAGAN AND SOVIET LEADER MIKHAIL GORBACHEV IN ICELAND, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT AUGURED WELL FOR WORLD PEACE.

HE HOPED THE MEETING WOULD BRING ABOUT A REDUCTION IN DEFENCE EXPENDITURE.

HE SAID ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE PRESENT WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEM WAS THE HUGE DEFENCE SPENDING BY THE UNITED STATES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO HOPED THAT MALAYSIA COULD HAVE CLOSER TIES WITH ZIMBABWE.

ZIMBABWEAN PRIME MINISTER ROBERT MUGABE WHO HAD A MEETING WITH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HERE HAD SHOWN INTEREST IN MALAYSIA'S LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND WOULD SEND HIS MINISTERS AND OFFICERS TO STUDY THE PROGRAMMES LATER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR INVITED ENCIK MUGABE TO VISIT MALAYSIA WHILE THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE AFRICAN NATION INVITED HIM TO VISIT ZIMBABWE NEXT YEAR. -- BERNAMA

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