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MAHATHIR-UNIONS

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ALOR SETAR, OCT 30 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE TODAY THAT CUEPACS AND THE MTUC WILL NOT CREATE INDUSTRIAL UNREST IN RAISING ISSUES ON THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN INTEREST RATES FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSING AND CAR LOANS, THE CUT-OFF POINT FOR EMPLACEMENT ON THE PENSIONABLE SCHEME AND THE MORATORIUM ON WAGE INCREASES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TODAY THAT ANY INDUSTRIAL UNREST WOULD ONLY BURDEN THE PEOPLE AND CAUSE THEM HARDSHIP.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A TWO-DAY VISIT TO PERLIS AND KEDAH, HE SAID: +THE PROBLEM IS NOT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS AFRAID OF INDUSTRIAL UNREST BUT RATHER TO WHAT EXTENT THE PEOPLE CAN FACE THE DISPUTE.+

+IF THERE IS INDUSTRIAL UNREST, THE TIME TAKEN TO RECOVER FROM THE ECONOMIC RECESSION WILL BE LONGER. AS A RESULT, THE PEOPLE AND COUNTRY WILL FACE HARDSHIP.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS WHEN COMMENTING ON STATEMENTS BY CUEPACS AND THE MTUC ON THE THREE PROPOSALS IN THE 1987 BUDGET ANNOUNCED LAST FRIDAY. -- MORE

1833MST 30 10 86

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MAHATHIR-UNIONS 2 ALOR SETAR

HE SAID IT WAS THE RIGHT OF CUEPACS AND THE MTUC TO DISCUSS THE THREE MATTERS AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT OBSTRUCT THEM BECAUSE +WE DO NOT WANT TO BE ACCUSED OF BEING DICTATORIAL+.

ON A LETTER FROM CUEPACS SEEKING A MEETING WITH HIM TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS, HE SAID THAT IF CUEPACS' FORMULA TO RESOLVE THE ISSUES WOULD HELP AND NOT BURDEN THE GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED.

HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE REJECTED IF IT WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS DISTRESSING THAT TO SOME QUARTERS A SOLUTION MEANT GETTING WHAT THEY WANTED.

A SOLUTION SHOULD BE SOMETHING THAT BENEFITTED ALL PARTIES, HE ADDED.

HE REITERATED THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE THREE ISSUES WITH CUEPACS LEADERS IF NECESSARY. -- MORE

1851MST 30 10 86

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B E064 AAE  
MAHATHIR-UNIONS 3 ALOR SETAR

+IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET EVERYONE TO DISCUSS ALL ISSUES. IF AN ISSUE CAN BE RESOLVED THROUGH DISCUSSIONS WITH THE OFFICERS, I THINK THAT WILL BE BETTER,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HE SHOULD BE THE LAST PERSON TO MEET AS CUEPACS HAD STILL NOT MET WITH THE OFFICERS OR OTHER MINISTERS FOR CLARIFICATION.

+I HAVE TO GO ROUND THE COUNTRY TO EXPLAIN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION. IF I HAVE TO DO BY MYSELF (DISCUSSING AND RESOLVING THE ISSUES WITH CUEPACS) IT WILL BE A BIT DIFFICULT,+ HE ADDED.

ON HIS MEETING WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN PERLIS AND KEDAH, HE SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THEY NOW UNDERSTOOD THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WERE NOW MORE CALM IN FACING THE THREE MATTERS.

HE WAS ALSO CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PASS ON THE EXPLANATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS TO THEIR SUBORDINATES AND THE PEOPLE. -- MORE  
1913MST 30 10 86

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MAHATHIR-UNIONS 4 ALOR SETAR

WHILE HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD THREE CLOSE-DOOR MEETINGS WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND BARISAN NASIONAL AND UMNO REPRESENTATIVES.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI LEFT FOR KUALA LUMPUR AT THE SULTAN ABDUL HALIM AIRPORT IN KEPALA BATAS AT 5.30 PM. -- BERNAMA  
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