

D162

U E375 AAE
MAHATHIR-SABAH R'R'R'

86 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 13 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ASSURED THE PEOPLE OF SABAH OF THEIR SAFETY FOLLOWING A SPATE OF BOMB BLASTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN KOTA KINABALU AND SANDAKAN YESTERDAY.

THE POLICE WERE THERE TO LOOK AFTER THEIR SAFETY, HE SAID TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING A PAINTING EXHIBITION BY A WELL-KNOWN MALAYSIAN ARTIST, IBRAHIM HUSSEIN, AT THE NATIONAL ART GALLERY HERE.

TO A QUESTION IF POLICE REINFORCEMENTS WOULD BE SENT TO SABAH, HE SAID IF THE SITUATION WARRANTED IT, REINFORCEMENTS WOULD BE RUSHED TO THE STATE.

YESTERDAY AT LEAST SIX EXPLOSIONS WERE REPORTED IN KOTA KINABALU RESULTING IN FOUR PEOPLE INJURED WHILE USNO SUPPORTERS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE DEMONSTRATED AGAINST THE PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) STATE GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE CAPITAL AND SANDAKAN. -- MORE
1229MST 13 03 86

MAHATHIR-SABAH 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ASKED TO COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS OF A POSSIBILITY THAT THE BOMBINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS WERE A CONSPIRACY BY KUALA LUMPUR TO TOPPLE THE PBS STATE GOVERNMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER EXCLAIMED: +OH MY GOD.+

OPPOSITION LEADER LIM KIT SIANG MADE ALLEGATIONS OF SUCH A POSSIBILITY IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT YESTERDAY.

+ASKED THEM TO PROVE THAT IT WAS A CONSPIRACY. WHAT DO I KNOW OF THIS THING?+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE CALL BY USNO AND BERJAYA FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE IN THE STATE, HE STRESSED: +I AM NOT INTERVENING. THEY CAN ASK. YOU SHOULD ASK LIM KIT SIANG. HE KNOWS BETTER.+

HE SAID THE POLICE IN SABAH WERE SUFFICIENT TO LOOK AFTER THE PEOPLE AND THERE WAS NO NEED TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS NOW.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, POLICE REINFORCEMENTS WOULD BE SENT TO SABAH IF THE POLICE THERE MADE SUCH A REQUEST.

TO ANOTHER QUESTION OF RUMOURS CIRCULATING THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MIGHT DECLARE AN EMERGENCY IN SABAH, HE WAS HEARD SAYING SOME WORDS BUT DID NOT FINISH THE SENTENCE AND INSTEAD REPLIED: +TAK PAYAHLAH...+ (NO NEED...)

-- MORE

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D172

U E381 AAE
MAHATHIR-SABAH 3 KUALA LUMPUR

+YOU TALK TO THE DAP. DO NOT TALK TO ME. WHATEVER WE DO IS ALWAYS NOT RIGHT ACCORDING TO THE DAP.+

EARLIER, OPENING THE EXHIBITION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CONGRATULATED IBRAHIM HUSSEIN FOR PUTTING MALAYSIA IN THE MAP OF THE ART WORLD.

HE BELIEVED THAT THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF IBRAHIM, THE QUALITY OF THE MALAYSIAN ART WOULD BE IMPROVED.

IN HIS SPEECH, THE GALLERY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS CHAIRMAN DATUK AZMAN HASHIM HOPED THE 33-YEAR LEASE WITH A NOMINAL \$10 RENT FOR THE NATIONAL ART GALLERY TO USE THE BUILDING, ONCE THE MAJESTIC HOTEL, WOULD BE EXTENDED TO 99 YEARS.

THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION WAS COINCIDENTALLY HELD ON IBRAHIM'S 50TH BIRTHDAY TODAY. THE GALLERY PRESENTED A CAKE WHICH IBRAHIM CUT BEFORE THE CAPACITY CROWD WHICH WITNESSED THE OPENING CEREMONY. -- MORE

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D173

U E382 AAE
MAHATHIR-SABAH 4 KUALA LUMPUR

ALSO IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OPENING, MALAYSIAN TOBACCO COMPANY THROUGH ITS CHAIRMAN, ENCIK A.R.J. CHRISTODOLO, PRESENTED A CHEQUE FOR \$74,000 TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR FOR USE BY THE GALLERY.

THE EXHIBITION WILL END ON APRIL 10. -- BERNAMA
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