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B E375 AAE  
LEAD MAHATHIR-POLICE

86 (V)  
KOTA KINABALU, MARCH 24 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR  
MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT A STATE OF EMERGENCY WILL NOT BE DECLARED IN  
SABAH BECAUSE THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL.

HE SAID THE POLICE WERE CONFIDENT OF CONTROLLING THE SITUATION  
WITHOUT THE NEED TO RESORT TO THE APPLICATION OF ANY SPECIAL POWERS.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE, THE  
PRIME MINISTER SAID THE POLICE WERE OF THE OPINION THAT SABAH WOULD  
NOT BE THREATENED BY IRRESPONSIBLE ACTS.

+ALTHOUGH WE HAVE LAW AND ENFORCEMENT IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT  
THERE WILL BE NO CRIME AT ALL. THERE IS BOUND TO BE CRIMINAL  
ACTIVITY,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO WAS HERE ON A ONE-DAY VISIT, WAS  
BRIEFED ON THE STATE SECURITY SITUATION FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATIONS AND  
RIOTS SINCE MARCH 12.

HE ALSO HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH LEADERS OF THE THREE MAIN PARTIES  
IN SABAH. -- MORE  
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LEAD MAHATHIR-POLICE 2 KOTA KINABALU

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE INCIDENTS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID  
THEY WERE VERY REGRETTABLE AND SHOULD NEVER HAVE OCCURRED BECAUSE  
THEY TARNISHED THE GOOD NAME OF THE COUNTRY.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF FOREIGNERS IN THE  
INCIDENTS, HE SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT MANY OF THEM WERE INVOLVED.

+SOME OF THEM ARE HERE WITH WORK PERMITS. THOSE WITHOUT WORK  
PERMITS AND DOCUMENTS WILL BE DEPORTED, + HE SAID. -- BERNAMA  
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