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MAHATHIR-MUSA

IP⁸OH, MARCH 14 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT HE HAS TO WAIT FOR THE DELEGATION OF MENTERIS BESAR TO COME BACK AND BRIEF HIM BEFORE HE CAN SAY ANYTHING ABOUT DATUK MUSA HITAM'S POSITION.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD HAD TELEPHONED HIM TO CONVEY DATUK MUSA'S DECISION AFTER THE FOUR-MAN DELEGATION HAD MET DATUK MUSA IN LONDON, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE WERE +MERELY NEWSPAPER REPORTS.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING CLOSED-DOOR MEETINGS WITH PERAK UMNO AND STATE BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS AT THE MENTERI BESAR'S RESIDENCE HERE.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT IT WAS NOT RIGHT FOR HIM TO MAKE ANY COMMENT AT THE MOMENT BECAUSE THE DELEGATION WAS SENT BY THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL.

ASKED WHEN HE EXPECTED THE DELEGATION TO BRIEF HIM, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT ALL DEPENDED ON WHEN THEY RETURNED.

+THEY WILL MEET ME HERE IF THEY ARRIVE TODAY OR TOMORROW. IT DEPENDS ON WHEN THEY ARRIVE,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
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WHEN TOLD THAT THE DELEGATION WAS REPORTED TO HAVE LEFT LONDON LAST NIGHT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +I DON'T KNOW.+

REGARDING HIS MEETINGS WITH THE UMNO AND BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS, HE SAID THEY WERE ROUTINE MEETINGS TO GET TO KNOW THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, ADDING THAT NO DATE HAD BEEN FIXED FOR THE ELECTION.

ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING TO CALL THE ELECTION IN MAY, HE SAID: +I DON'T KNOW. IT IS JUST A SPECULATION+. -- BERNAMA
1518MST 14 03 86