

D851

B E533 AAE  
SECRETS R'R'R'R'  
BM

86

①

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 31 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCE TO REVIEW CLOSELY THE DEFINITION OF +OFFICIAL SECRETS+ TO CLEAR UP ANY CONFUSION IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT 1972.

ACCORDING TO THE ORGANISATION OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS (ONE) AND THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB (NPC) TODAY, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD ALSO PROMISED TO STUDY THE MEMORANDA SUBMITTED BY THE TWO ORGANISATIONS.

ONE, REPRESENTED BY ITS VICE-PRESIDENT V.K.CHIN, AND HONORARY SECRETARY A.KADIR JASIN AND THE NPC, REPRESENTED BY ITS PRESIDENT ZAINUDDIN MAIDIN AND HONORARY SECRETARY HARDEV KAUR, MET DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AT HIS OFFICE HERE TODAY TO SUBMIT THEIR RESPECTIVE MEMORANDA.

IN THEIR RESPECTIVE MEMORANDA, ONE AND THE NPC URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT 1972 AND TO GIVE A MORE PRECISE DEFINITION OF THE MEANING OF +OFFICIAL SECRETS.+ -- MORE

1839MST 31 03 86

D877

B E547 AAE  
SECRETS 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

ACCORDING TO A JOINT STATEMENT BY ONE AND THE NPC, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD GIVEN AN ASSURANCE THAT THE ACT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED CAUTIOUSLY AND FAIRLY SO THAT ONLY THOSE WHO WERE REALLY INVOLVED WERE BROUGHT TO COURT

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE ACT AND THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WERE NOT DIRECTED SOLELY AT THE JOURNALISTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE AMENDMENTS WERE PROPOSED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED WITH THE ACTS OF STAFFERS LEAKING SECRETS, ESPECIALLY THOSE ON THE ECONOMY TO THE BUSINESS CIRCLES.

HE POINTED OUT HOW CONDITIONS AND EXTRACTS OF GOVERNMENT TENDERS COULD BE EASILY OBTAINED BY INTERESTED PARTIES IN BUSINESS CIRCLES.

THE LEAKING OF GOVERNMENT SECRETS WAS RAMPANT BECAUSE THE EXISTING PENALTY WAS NOT A DETERRENT TO THOSE IN THE BUSINESS CIRCLES WHO HAD THE MONEY TO PAY FOR THE SECRETS AS WELL AS THE FINES IF FOUND GUILTY BY THE COURTS, HE SAID. -- MORE

1924MST 31 03 86

D878

B E548 AAE  
SECRETS 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

ACCORDING TO THE JOINT STATEMENT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD SAID THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, THE GOVERNMENT TOOK DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST EMPLOYEES SUSPECTED OF LEAKING SECRETS, ETS ACT WAS IMPORTANT.

HE HAD SAID OFFICIAL SECRETS ON THE PURCHASE OF ARMS WERE SO WIDELY DISSEMINATED AMONG BUSINESS CIRCLES THAT THE INTEGRITY OF THE SENIOR OFFICERS IN THE ARMED FORCES WAS OFTEN QUESTIONED, THE STATEMENT ADDS. -- MORE

1925MST 31 03 86

D885

B E552 AAE  
SECRETS 4 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

THE STATEMENT SAYS THE PRIME MINISTER HAD CONCEDED THAT CURRENTLY THE METHOD OF DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT A DOCUMENT WAS SECRET WAS LAX AND THAT AT TIMES THE SECRETS LABEL HAD BEEN STAMPED ON ORDINARY DOCUMENTS THAT DID NOT CARRY ANY SECRET.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID THAT IN THE REVIEW, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FIX A PRECISE METHOD OF DETERMINING THE DOCUMENTS TO BE LABELLED OFFICIAL SECRET AND THE TYPES OF OFFICIAL SECRET INVOLVED.

-- BERNAMA

1938MST 31 03 86