

U E918 AAE  
MAHATHIR-COMMONWEALTH  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 14, <sup>86</sup> (BERNAMA) -- THE CABINET WILL DECIDE AT ITS WEEKLY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY WHETHER MALAYSIA SHOULD JOIN SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN BOYCOTTING THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN SCOTLAND NEXT WEEK.

PRIME MINISTER ~~DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD~~ TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE BAHASA MALAYSIA CONVENTION AT UNIVERSITI MALAYA HERE THAT THE CABINET DECIDED LAST WEEK THAT THE QUESTION OF MALAYSIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE GAMES WOULD DEPEND ON THE DECISION TAKEN BY AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

WHILE WAITING FOR THIS DECISION, THE MALAYSIAN STAND WAS THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD TAKE PART IN THE GAMES TO BE HELD FROM JULY 24 TO AUG 4.

SO FAR, FIVE AFRICAN COUNTRIES -- TANZANIA, KENYA, GHANA, NIGERIA AND UGANDA -- HAVE DECLARED THEIR BOYCOTT OF THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN PROTEST AGAINST BRITISH POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA.

ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SEVERAL OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS LIKE ZIMBABWE, ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA AND SIERRA LEONE WOULD ALSO JOIN THE BOYCOTT. -- MORE  
1258MST 14 07 86

U E919 AAE  
MAHATHIR-COMMONWEALTH 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT AS A NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES WERE BOYCOTTING THE GAMES, MALAYSIA WOULD MAKE A DECISION AT THE CABINET MEETING THIS WEEK.

IF MALAYSIA BOYCOTTED THE GAMES, IT WOULD BE THE FIRST COMMONWEALTH MEMBER OUTSIDE THE AFRICAN CONTINENT TO DO SO.

MALAYSIA HAS LISTED 11 PARTICIPANTS FOR THE GAMES -- FOR BADMINTON (FOUR), SWIMMING (ONE), ATHLETICS (TWO), SHOOTING (THREE), AND CYCLING (ONE). -- BERNAMA  
1302MST 14 07 86