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B E362 AAE  
MAHATHIR-DINNER  
FROM ABDUL RACHMAN NORDIN  
NEW DELHI, JAN 29 (BERNAMA)

② - courtesy visit

MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT ASSURED HIS INDIAN COUNTERPART RAJIV GANDHI OF MALAYSIA'S FULL AND SINCERE SUPPORT FOR INDIA'S INITIATIVE TO EASE GLOBAL TENSION AND BUILD NEW LINKAGES AMONG AND BETWEEN NATIONS.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER IN HIS HONOUR HOSTED BY ENCIK GANDHI AT HYDERABAD HOUSE HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID ASEAN WHICH CELEBRATED ITS SECOND DECADE THIS YEAR LOOKED FORWARD TO CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC) IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SAARC COMPRISES INDIA, PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA, BANGLADESH, NEPAL, MALDIVES AND BHUTAN.

HE COMMENDED ENCIK GANDHI'S ABILITY IN MAKING SAARC A REALITY IN REGIONAL COOPERATION IN TWO SHORT YEARS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ARRIVED HERE THIS EVENING FOR A FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK RAIS YATIM AFTER LEADING THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION TO THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC) SUMMIT IN KUWAIT. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-DINNER 2 NEW DELHI

ON INDO-MALAYSIA RELATIONS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS PERHAPS NATURAL THAT SUCH A FREELY DEVELOPED BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP SHOULD ALLOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP MARKED BY A COMMON UNDERSTANDING.

BOTH COUNTRIES SHARED MEMBERSHIP OF MANY OVERLAPPING INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS IN WHICH BOTH SHARED COMMON PERSPECTIVES AND APPROACHES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID REPRESSION UNDER APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA, ISREAL'S ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS, CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE, OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN AND KAMPUCHAE BY FOREIGN FORCES, NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC INEQUITIES AND THE ARMS RACE REQUIRED THAT INDIA AND MALAYSIA WORKED TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY TO RESOLVE THEM.

THE SOLIDARITY FUND FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH ENCIK GANDHI CHAIRED, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SOUTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND THE FIVE-NATION DISARMAMENT INITIATIVE ARE THE KINDS OF ENDEARMENTS REFLECTIVE OF THE DETERMINATION OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO INITIATE FRESH APPROACHES FOR SEEMINGLY INTRACTABLE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. -- MORE.  
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MAHATHIR-DINNER 3 NEW DELHI

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID AS INDIA AND MALAYSIA MARCHED FORWARD IN CONSONANT WITH THE DYNAMICS OF CHANGE, HE WAS OF FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE TIES BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD BECOME EVEN STRONGER.

+OUR MUTUAL PROGRESS OFFERS, I BELIEVE, EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE NEW COMPLEMENTARITIES EVEN AS WE SEEK TO ENTRENCH PREVIOUS AND PRESENT ONES,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO EXPANDING, IN SCOPE AND DEPTH, THE SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS THAT HE AND ENCIK GANDHI MANAGED TO EXCHANGE DURING PAST ENCOUNTERS OVER SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HIS VISITS TO INDIA (THIS IS HIS SECOND) MADE HIM ACUTELY AWARE OF THE QUANTATIVE AND QUALITATIVE PROGRESS THAT INDIA HAD ACHIEVED THROUGH SUCCESSIVE LEADERSHIPS.

HE SAID MALAYSIA TOO HAD PROGRESSED THROUGH THE YEARS AND IN EXTENDING ENCIK GANDHI AN INVITATION TO VISIT MALAYSIA, THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE TOO LONG BEFORE THE INDIAN LEADER COULD VENTURE +TO DISCOVER MALAYSIA+. -- MORE.  
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B E365 AAE  
MAHATHIR-DINNER 4 NEW DELHI

EARLIER IN HIS WELCOMING REMARKS, ENCIK GANDHI SAID ECONOMIC COLLABORATION BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND INDIA SHOULD BE DEVELOPED TO ITS FULL POTENTIALS IN THE SPIRIT OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.

HE SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT INDIAN ENTERPRISE AND TECHNOLOGY WERE PLAYING SOME PART IN MALAYSIA'S EFFORTS FOR EXCELLENCE IN SEVERAL FIELDS.

ENCIK GANDHI DISCRIBED AS COMMENDABLE INITIATIVE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S EFFORTS AT SETTING UP THE SOUTH-SOUTH COMMISSION AT THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN HARARE, ZIMBABWE.

HE SAID THE SOUTH MUST DEVELOP GREATER STRENGTH AND COHESION IN ORDER TO HAVE A BENEFITIAL DIALOGUE WITH THE NORTH.

ENCIK GANDHI SAID MALAYSIA AND INDIA WHICH ARE LITTORAL STATES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN HAD A JOINT RESPONSIBILITY TO RESIST AND REVERSE THE TREND OF INCREASING MILITARY RIVALRY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. -- MORE.

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MAHATHIR-DINNER 5 NEW DELHI

HE SAID 15 YEARS AGO THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARED THE INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD BE A ZONE OF PEACE.

ON KAMPUCHAE, HE SAID THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH DIALOGUES AND KAMPUCHAENS HAD A RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR DESTINY FREE FROM COERCION AND INTERFERENCE.

ON THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, ENCIK GANDHI SAID NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT OCCUPIED A HIGH PLACE IN THE MOVEMENT'S AGENDA OF ACTIONS.

THE MOVEMENT WAS BEING SUPPORTED BY A GROWING SENTIMENT FOR PEACE AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT EVEN WITHIN COUNTRIES BELONGING TO MILITARY ALLIANCES AND THIS WAS PROVEN BY THE RESPONSE TO THE SIX-NATION INITIATIVE FOR PEACE, HE SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS ALWAYS A PRIVILEGE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AS THE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THEM AND BOTH COUNTRIES STEMMED FROM SHARED PERCEPTIONS AND FORTIFIED BY ANCIENT CULTURAL TIES.

BOTH HE AND DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ARE SEEKING TO CARRY FORWARD THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF AN INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS, ENCIK GANDHI SAID. -- BERNAMA.  
0129MST 30 01 87