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U E546 AAE  
MAHATHIR-GANDHI  
BM

FROM ABDUL RACHMAN NORDIN AND LESLIE LIM (P) Overseas trips.  
NEW DELHI, JAN 31<sup>87</sup> (BERNAMA) -- INDIAN PRIME MINISTER RAJIV  
GANDHI IS IMPRESSED WITH MALAYSIA'S EFFORTS TO CREATE A BALANCE IN  
TRADE WITH INDIA, CURRENTLY IN MALAYSIA'S FAVOUR.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID ENCIK  
GANDHI, HOWEVER, DID NOT PLACE MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE MATTER IN VIEW  
OF INDIA'S 750 MILLION POPULATION IN COMPARISON WITH MALAYSIA'S 15  
MILLION.

THEY SHARED A SIMILAR VIEW THAT THE CURRENT VISIBLE TRADE  
IMBALANCE BETWEEN BOTH NATIONS SHOULD BE REDUCED. DATUK SERI DR  
MAHATHIR SAID WHEN SPEAKING TO MALAYSIAN JOURNALISTS ON HIS TWO-HOUR  
MEETING WITH HIS INDIAN COUNTERPART YESTERDAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ON A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO INDIA,  
EARLIER DELIVERED A SPEECH AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM MALAYSIAN  
STUDENTS HERE, MADRAS AND SEVERAL OTHER INDIAN CITIES.

HE ADDED THAT HE ALSO POINTED OUT TO ENCIK GANDHI THAT INDIA HAD  
THE EXPERTISE IN CERTAIN TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS WHICH COULD ASSIST  
MALAYSIAN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. -- MORE  
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HE ALSO SAID HIS TALKS WITH ENCIK GANDHI ALSO COVERED  
INTERNATIONAL TOPICS INCLUDING THE SOUTH-SOUTH COMMISSION, THE  
AFRICAN DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND KAMPUCHEA.

THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER SUPPORTED THE FORMATION OF THE  
COMMISSION AND INDIA HAD CONTRIBUTED US\$400,000 (ABT \$1 MILLION), HE  
ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE EXPRESSED TO ENCIK GANDHI  
MALAYSIA'S SUPPORT OF THE AFRICAN DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND PLEDGED  
ASSISTANCE TO THE FUND PRESENTLY CHAIRED BY ENCIK GANDHI.

HE ADDED THAT THEY GENERALLY SHARED SIMILAR VIEWS ON  
INTERNATIONAL ISSUES EXCEPT FOR DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS BETWEEN THEM  
ON KAMPUCHEA.

HE SAID A CHANGE OF EVENTS COULD BE EXPECTED IN THE FUTURE  
FOLLOWING THE VISIT BY AN INDIAN DELEGATION TO VIETNAM IN THE WAKE  
OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADERSHIP RESHUFFLE RECENTLY.-- MORE  
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ASKED WHETHER THE INDIA-PAKISTAN CONFLICT WAS RAISED DURING THE  
TALKS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE DID RAISE THE TOPIC AND ALSO  
RELAYED A MESSAGE FROM PAKISTANI PRESIDENT ZIA UL-HAQ TO ENCIK  
GANDHI.

HE SAID HE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH PRESIDENT ZIA WHEN HE  
ATTENDED THE RECENT ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC) SUMMIT  
IN KUWAIT. -- BERNAMA  
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