

D603

B E222 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO R R R R R R R

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 24⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE IS CONFIDENT THE PARTY LEADERSHIP WILL NOT VICTIMISE ANY PARTY MEMBER ALIGNED TO ANYONE IN THE CAMPAIGNS FOR THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH.

THIS MATTER DID NOT ARISE WHOEVER WOULD BE AT THE PARTY'S HELM, THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AFTER 1990 SEMINAR HERE.

+I BELIEVE IF TENGKU RAZALEIGH WINS, HE WILL ALSO NOT VICTIMISE THE OTHERS,+ HE SAID.

(IT IS SPECULATED TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH WILL CHALLENGE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR FOR THE UMNO PRESIDENT POST IN THE ELECTIONS AT THE PARTY GENERAL ASSEMBLY BEGINNING APRIL 24.)

ASKED TO COMMENT ON CLAIMS THAT SEVERAL MINISTERS WOULD RESIGN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD THIS FROM THE MINISTERS CONCERNED. -- MORE

1652MST 24 03 87

D624

B E228 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO 2 KUALA LUMPUR R R R R R R R

HE SAID THAT SO FAR, THE CLAIMS WERE MADE BY OTHERS AND NOT THE MINISTERS CONCERNED.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK RAIS YATIM'S STATEMENT RECENTLY THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO FACE WHATEVER CONSEQUENCES FOR SUPPORTING TENGKU RAZALEIGH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE RESPECTED THE STATEMENT.

+DATUK RAIS IS A BRAVE MAN AND I RESPECT HIS STAND,+ HE SAID.

ON A CONTEST FOR THE UMNO PRESIDENCY, HE SAID IT WAS MORE OF A CASE OF CLIMBING UP THE LADDER TO THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO BE PARTY PRESIDENT COULD DO SO BY FORMING A NEW PARTY AND BECOMING ITS PRESIDENT BUT THE UMNO PRESIDENCY WAS SPECIAL IN THAT IT ENABLED THE HOLDER TO BECOME THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE COUNTRY. -- MORE

1731MST 24 03 87

D637

B E239 AAE
MAHATHIR-UMNO 3 KUALA LUMPUR R R R R R R R

ON DEPUTY UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK MUSA HITAM'S STATEMENT THAT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HIMSELF HAD BROKEN PARTY TRADITIONS IN 1969 BY CRITICISING TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN, THE THEN PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SITUATION WAS DIFFERENT THEN.

+AT THAT TIME, I HAD NOT WANTED TO TOPPLE THE TUNKU AS UMNO PRESIDENT,+ HE SAID.

ON CLAIMS BY CERTAIN QUARTERS THAT HE RULED THE COUNTRY LIKE A DICTATOR, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SUCH ALLEGATIONS AROSE SOLELY BECAUSE OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH. -- BERNAMA

1756MST 24 03 87