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MAHATHIR-COMMUNIST (CORRECTION, CHANGING 2ND PARA)

BM

KODIANG, APRIL 2⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CONGRATULATED HIS THAI COUNTERPART, GEN PREM TINSULANONDA, OVER THE SURRENDER OF 114 COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM) MEMBERS, INCLUDING 84 SAID TO BE OF MALAYSIAN ORIGIN, TO THE THAI AUTHORITIES IN SOUTHERN THAILAND RECENTLY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE NEW BUILDING OF SEKOLAH KEBANGSAAN TENKU BENDAHARA HERE THAT HE HAD SENT A LETTER TODAY TO GEN PREM CONGRATULATING HIM.

HE SAID HE WOULD BE ISSUING AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE MATTER IN KUALA LUMPUR IN ONE OR TWO DAYS IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE HOME MINISTER.

WITH THE SURRENDER, THE COMMUNISTS WERE NOW WEAK AND THEIR ACTIVITIES CRIPPLED, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT COULD NOT GRANT AMNESTY TO THOSE WHO HAD SURRENDERED BUT SAID THEY WOULD BE GIVEN REHABILITATION AFTER THEY WERE HANDED OVER TO MALAYSIA. -- MORE
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HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALSO COULD NOT CONSIDER ALLOWING THE SURRENDERED COMMUNISTS WHO WERE THAI NATIONALS INTO THE COUNTRY.

HE HOPED THE SECURITY FORCES OF MALAYSIA AND THAILAND WOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE TO TRACK DOWN COMMUNIST REMNANTS OPERATING IN THE MALAYSIAN-THAI BORDER AREAS. -- BERNAMA
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