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B E041 AAE
 MAHATHIR-CAMPS R R R R R R
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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 26⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY UMNO DOES NOT HAVE TWO CAMPS AS CLAIMED, WHAT EXISTS IS ONLY ONE CAMP, THE UMNO CAMP.

WHAT HAD EMERGED DURING THE CAMPAIGNING FOR THE RECENTLY-CONCLUDED SUPREME COUNCIL ELECTIONS WERE TWO GROUPS, BUT THERE WERE ALSO MEMBERS WHO WERE NEUTRAL, HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE CLOSING OF THE THREE-DAY 38TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

FLANKING THE UMNO PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE DEPUTY PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABU AND UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI LONID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS NORMAL TO HAVE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN CONTESTANTS FOR POSTS BUT THIS DID NOT JEOPARDISE PARTY UNITY.

ASKED WHETHER UMNO WOULD BECOME STRONGER OR WEAKER AFTER THE CENTRAL LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS, HE REPLIED WHAT WAS CERTAIN WAS THAT UMNO HAD GAINED EXPERIENCE BUT WHAT WAS UNCERTAIN WAS WHETHER IT WOULD BE STRONGER OR WEAKER IN THE FUTURE. -- MORE
 2000MST 26 04 87

MAHATHIR-CAMPS 2 KUALA LUMPUR (CORRECTED REPETITION)

ASKED TO COMMENT ON HIS VICTORY IN THE PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT SHOWED UMNO DELEGATES COULD THINK FOR THEMSELVES AND MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS. DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR RETAINED THE POST WHEN HE DEFEATED TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH BY 43 VOTES, POLLING 761 VOTES TO HIS CHALLENGER'S 718.

ON WHETHER THE NARROW WIN WOULD PROMPT A REVAMP OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES, HE SAID THE SMALL MAJORITY HE OBTAINED WAS A PROCESS OF THE VOTING BY DELEGATES BUT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD STUDY THE VIEWS OF MEMBERS AND ALSO THE PEOPLE BEFORE MAKING ANY CHANGE.

ASKED WHETHER +MONEY POLITICS+ FEATURED IN THE CAMPAIGNING, HE SAID HIS GROUP AND THOSE SUPPORTING HIM DID NOT RESORT TO THIS +BUT I WOULD NOT KNOW ABOUT OTHER GROUPS.+

HE AND HIS FRIENDS HAD NOT SPENT ANYTHING, EXCEPT ONLY BY WAY OF HONOURING THE MALAY CUSTOM OF ENTERTAINING WITH FOOD AND DRINKS GUESTS WHO COME A-CALLING AT THEIR HOMES.

ON THE GOVERNMENT MOVE IN DECLASSIFYING SEVERAL DOCUMENTS HITHERTO OFFICIAL SECRETS RELATING TO THE DAYABUMI, PROTON SAGA AND MELAU PINANG BRIDGE PROJECTS, HE SAID IT WAS AIMED AT PREVENTING CONFUSION AMONG THE ORDINARY PEOPLE. -- MORE (ENDS CORRECTED REPETITION)

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MAHATHIR-CAMP 3 KUALA LUMPUR R R R R R R

HE DID NOT THINK THEIR DISCLOSURE WOULD PROFIT THE OPPOSITION AS THE MOVE WAS MADE FOR THE GOOD OF ALL IN THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO DID NOT BELIEVE THE UMNO CENTRAL LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS HAD AFFECTED MALAYSIA'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AS THE ELECTIONS WERE A DOMESTIC AFFAIR.

ON THE PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADVISORY BODY TO SUPERVISE THE RUNNING OF UMNO, HE SAID THIS SHOULD BE STUDIED THOROUGHLY FIRST CONSIDERING THERE WAS NO SUCH BODY AS YET ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

THE SUGGESTION LOOKED EASY BUT IMPLEMENTING IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT, HE ADDED.

ASKED WHETHER THE SUPREME COUNCIL ELECTORAL VICTORIES OF SEVERAL LEADERS WITH RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND SUCH AS DATUK WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD, DATUK DR YUSUF NOR AND ENCIK ANWAR IBRAHIM HAD STRENGTHENED THE POLICY OF ASSIMILATION OF ISLAMIC VALUES IN THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE ISLAMIC VALUES ESPOUSED BY THE GOVERNMENT WERE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM UNIVERSAL VALUES. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-CAMPS 4 KUALA LUMPUR R R R R R R

HE STRESSED THE POLICY WAS NOT AIMED AT MAKING NON-MUSLIMS PRAY FIVE TIMES A DAY AS WAS THE RELIGIOUS OBLIGATION OF MUSLIMS.

HE SAID LEADERS IN HIS GOVERNMENT WERE NOT ONLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON ISLAM BUT ALSO REQUIRED TO BE COMPETENT IN ADMINISTRATIVE FIELDS.

ON WHETHER THE PROPOSED MUZAKARAH (DISCUSSION) WITH PAS WOULD BE EXPEDITED FOLLOWING THE ELECTION OF THESE PERSONALITIES IN UMNO, HE SAID THE PROPOSAL WOULD GO STILL GO THROUGH, WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE ELECTED.

ON THE UMNO ELECTION ETHICS COMMITTEE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID WHETHER IT HAD LIVED UP TO THE ROLE ENTRUSTED TO IT WOULD BE ASSESSED AND DECIDED BY THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL WHICH SET UP THE COMMITTEE.

ASKED HOW LONG HE INTENDED SERVING THE PARTY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS WILLING TO CONTINUE SERVING FOR AS LONG AS HE WAS WANTED BY MEMBERS AND AS LONG AS HE WAS STILL CAPABLE.

HE WAS HAPPY THE UMNO ELECTIONS HAD ENDED WITHOUT INCIDENT AND HAD NOT JEOPARDISED PARTY UNITY WHICH HE SAID WOULD GROW EVEN STRONGER AFTER THE ASSEMBLY. -- BERNAMA

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