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U E062 AAE
MAHATHIR-PEACE
FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN
EMBARGO: FOR USE AFTER 2AM TOMORROW (JULY 31)

142

MOSCOW, JULY 30⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION WILL REMAIN DIVIDED AND POTENTIALLY UNSTABLE IF EFFORTS AT RESOLVING THE AFGHANISTAN AND KAMPUCHEAN CONFLICTS DO NOT ACHIEVE PROGRESS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE CONFLICT SITUATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN AND KAMPUCHEA WERE OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO MALAYSIA AS THEY HAD LED TO THE ESCALATION OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY WHICH POLARISED AND DIVIDED THE REGION.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER HOSTED IN HIS HONOUR BY THE USSR GOVERNMENT AT THE CHAMBER OF FACETS OF THE GRAND KREMLIN PALACE HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, NOW ON A ONE-WEEK OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION, STRESSED THAT MALAYSIA AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF ASEAN WERE VERY CONCERNED WITH THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE, STABILITY AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

HOWEVER, RECOGNISING THE FACT THAT THE COMPLEXITY AND DIVERSITY OF THE COUNTRIES THAT MAKE UP THE PACIFIC BASIN DEFIED AN INSTITUTIONALISED APPROACH, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID EFFORTS SHOULD INITIALLY BE CONCENTRATED ON THE DEFUSION OF TENSIONS IN THE REGION.

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U E064 AAE
MAHATHIR-PEACE 2 MOSCOW (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT MALAYSIA COULD NEVER ACCEPT WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN AFGHANISTAN.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE WELCOMED THE SOVIET UNION'S STATED POLICY OF WITHDRAWAL AND LOOKED FORWARD TO AN EARLY AGREEMENT AT THE GENEVA TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT.

+WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION MUST BE APPLIED IN AFGHANISTAN.

+ALTHOUGH WE ARE A SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRY, WE WILL, NEVERTHELESS, MAKE OUR STAND CLEAR AGAINST ANY INSTANCES WHERE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS ARE IGNORED AND VIOLATED,+ HE SAID.

ON KAMPUCHEA, THE PRIME MINISTER RECALLED THAT MALAYSIA AND OTHER ASEAN NATIONS WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO OFFER FRIENDSHIP AND ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM, LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA AT THE END OF THE SECOND INDO-CHINA WAR IN 1975.

THE MOVE, HE SAID, WAS MOTIVATED BY ASEAN'S DOCTRINE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION AND THE DESIRE TO SUBSTANTIATE THE ASEAN PROPOSAL FOR A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZOPFAN) IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, ACHIEVEABLE ONLY BY EFFECTIVE COOPERATION AND INTERACTION OF ITS COMPONENT NATIONS BASED ON MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CONFIDENCE. --

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1910MST 30 07 87

U ED65 AAE
MAHATHIR-PEACE 3 (EMBARGO)

WITHOUT NAMING THE SOVIET UNION IN PARTICULAR, THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL REALITY IN KAMPUCHEA WAS THE DANGEROUS PRECEDENT CREATED BY THE BREACH OF AN IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THROUGH THE OCCUPATION OF THE COUNTRY (KAMPUCHEA) BY A FOREIGN POWER.

RECALLING THAT ASEAN COUNTRIES HAD MADE REASONABLE PROPOSALS FOR THE RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS MALAYSIA'S BELIEF THAT THE SOVIET UNION'S ROLE IN THE PROCESS OF REALISING THE RESOLUTION WAS CRITICAL.

HE REMINDED HIS HOST THAT TO DATE, ASEAN HAD PROPOSED THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES AND THEIR REPLACEMENT BY AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE-KEEPING FORCE TO ENSURE NO PARTY COULD DOMINATE KAMPUCHEA IN THE INTERIM BEFORE INTERNATIONALLY-SUPERVISED ELECTIONS WERE HELD FOR A GOVERNMENT OF A NEUTRAL NON-ALIGNED KAMPUCHEA.

THIS WOULD ALLOW THE LONG-SUFFERING KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE.

ASSURING THAT THE INTERESTS OF ALL EXTERNAL POWERS WOULD BE SAFEGUARDED BY THIS PROCESS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ASEAN HAD WORKED HARD TO KEEP A DIALOGUE OPEN WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES SO THAT THE DESIRED SOLUTION MIGHT BE NEGOTIATED. -- MORE
1913MST 30 07 87

U ED66 AAE
MAHATHIR-PEACE 4 MOSCOW (EMBARGO)

+WE BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET UNION'S ROLE IN THIS PROCESS IS CRITICAL,+ HE STRESSED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS GLAD SEVERAL SOVIET LEADERS HAD ALREADY MET AND DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH SOME ASEAN LEADERS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE FELT TALKS HE HAD WITH TOP SOVIET LEADERS EARLIER IN THE DAY AND LAST NIGHT HAD FURTHER ENHANCED THIS PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS.

HE SAID HE AND HIS ASEAN COLLEAGUES WOULD CERTAINLY TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE COMING ASEAN SUMMIT IN MANILA AT THE END OF THE YEAR TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THESE CONSULTATIONS. -- BERNAMA
1914MST 30 07 87