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B E184 AAE
SOVIET-SUPPORT R R R
FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

MOSCOW, JULY 31 (BERNAMA) -- THE SOVIET UNION CONSIDERS EFFORTS BY MALAYSIA AND THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND TO ESTABLISH A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN THE REGION AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS A NUCLEAR WEAPONS-FREE WORLD.

SOVIET ACTING PRIME MINISTER V.S. MURAKHOVSKY SAID HERE THURSDAY NIGHT THAT SUCH EFFORTS WERE POSITIVELY RECEIVED BY HIS COUNTRY.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER IN HONOUR OF VISITING MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AT THE KREMLIN HERE, ENCIK MURAKHOVSKY REITERATED MOSCOW'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE ITS POLICY OF DEVELOPING MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CONTACTS WITH ASEAN.

+THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD IS SUCH THAT NO SINGLE COUNTRY ON EARTH -- NO MATTER HOW FAR FROM THE LINE OF NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION IT MAY BE -- CAN LIVE A PEACEFUL AND SOUND LIFE WHILE THE DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR IS NOT ELIMINATED AND PEOPLE OF THE GLOBE ARE FACING THE ALTERNATIVE EITHER TO SURVIVE TOGETHER OR DIE TOGETHER,+ HE SAID.

+THIS IS A SITUATION WHERE, ACCORDING TO A METAPHORICAL MALAYSIAN SAYING, HE WHO IS VANQUISHED WILL TURN INTO ASHES WHILE THE VICTOR WILL TURN INTO SMOULDERING COALS+. -- MORE
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ENCIK MURAKHOVSKY ADDED THAT IN VIEW OF THIS, ANY CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVES AND PRACTICAL STEPS AIMED AT RE-ESTABLISHING STABLE AND JUST PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WOULD FIND UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT IN THE SOVIET UNION.

THIS WAS ESPECIALLY SO BECAUSE THE USSR WAS A CONSISTENT AND CONVINCED SUPPORTER OF EFFORTS IN TURNING ASIA AND THE AREAS OF THE PACIFIC AS WELL AS INDIAN OCEANS INTO A REALM OF PEACE, GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS AND COOPERATION, HE SAID.

HE SAID MOSCOW CONSIDERED THE SECURITY OF THE AREA A MAJOR PREREQUISITE AND AN INTEGRAL ELEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

ON THE +GLOBAL DOUBLE ZERO OPTION+ ANNOUNCED BY SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER MIKHAIL S. GORBACHEV, THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT THE MALAYSIAN LEADERSHIP HAD TAKEN A POSITIVE INTEREST IN THESE INITIATIVES.

HE SAID THERE NOW HAD APPEARED AN OPPORTUNITY TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH WASHINGTON ON MEDIUM-RANGE AND OPERATIONAL TACTICAL MISSILES, BOTH IN EUROPE AND ASIA. -- MORE
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HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THIS FIRST STEP COULD OPEN PROSPECTS FOR OTHER MORE IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS MOST CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, INCLUDING IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC.

HE SAID THE REDUCTION OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION, ELIMINATION OF FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE, ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT OF INTRA-REGIONAL AND ALL-ASIAN DIALOGUES AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PROCESS OF BUILDING CONFIDENCE AMONG STATES WOULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR IMPROVING THE SITUATION IN THE REGION. -- BERNAMA
1608MST 31 07 87