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B E286 AAE
 MAHATHIR-GORBACHEV

FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN R R R R R
 MOSCOW, JULY 31st (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE HAS +SOMETHING OF BENEFIT+ TO CONVEY TO HIS FELLOW LEADERS IN ASEAN FOLLOWING HIS TALKS WITH SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL MIKHAIL GORBACHEV.

HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS THE FIRST THIRD WORLD LEADER TO MEET ENCIK GORBACHEV SINCE THE SOVIET LEADER TOOK OVER THE KREMLIN LEADERSHIP ABOUT A YEAR AGO, DID NOT ELABORATE.

HE CONSIDERED HIS +FOUR-EYES+ MEETING WITH THE SOVIET LEADER, HELD IN A CORDIAL AND OPEN ATMOSPHERE, +VERY SATISFACTORY+.

+I FIND ENCIK GORBACHEV AN EASY MAN TO TALK TO. HE WAS WILLING TO LISTEN TO OUR VIEWS CALMLY,+ HE TOLD MALAYSIAN NEWSMEN AFTER THE TWO-HOUR MEETING.

ASKED HOW SINCERE ENCIK GORBACHEV WAS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE FELT THAT THE SOVIET LEADER WAS DETERMINED TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES THAT HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED BY HIM. -- MORE
 2213MST 31 07 87

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 MAHATHIR-GORBACHEV 2 MOSCOW R R R

ENCIK GORBACHEV SURPRISED THE WESTERN WORLD AS WELL AS THE EASTERN BLOC RECENTLY WHEN HE ANNOUNCED THE +DOUBLE ZERO OPTION+ WHICH INCLUDES AN OFFER OF WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET SHORT- AND MEDIUM-RANGE GUIDED MISSILES FROM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IF THE UNITED STATES DID THE SAME.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA SUPPORTED THE MOVE, DESCRIBING IT AS CONTRIBUTING TO WORLD PEACE AND REDUCING THE ARMS RACE AMONG THE SUPERPOWERS.

ON THE SOVIET UNION'S VIEWS ABOUT MALAYSIA, HE SAID THE SOVIET LEADERS SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND MALAYSIA'S STAND IN VARIOUS MATTERS AND RESPECTED AS WELL AS RECOGNISED MALAYSIA'S POSITION AS A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY WHICH WAS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE WORLD PEACE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE FIGHT AGAINST DADAH AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

HE ADDED THAT OTHER MATTERS TOUCHED ON AT THE MEETING INCLUDED INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND ECONOMICS, BILATERAL RELATIONS AND TRADE MATTERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ENCIK GORBACHEV AGREED WITH HIM THAT INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF ASIA-PACIFIC NATIONS SHOULD BE OVERCOME BY THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED AND THAT ANY CONFLICT BETWEEN NATIONS SHOULD BE RESOLVED POLITICALLY AND NOT THROUGH WAR. -- MORE
 2221MST 31 07 87

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MAHATHIR-GORBACHEV 3 MOSCOW R R R

HOWEVER, HE SAID ENCIK GORBACHEV FELT THAT COUNTRIES, IN SOLVING PROBLEMS, SHOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE CHANGES INSTEAD OF ADOPTING A CONSERVATIVE STAND.

HE SAID MALAYSIA AGREED WITH THIS VIEW AS, IN PRINCIPLE, +WE ARE PRAGMATISTS+ WHEN IT CAME TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

HE SAID THE TWO COUNTRIES AGREED THAT CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED THROUGH MULTI-LATERAL TALKS THROUGH UNITED NATIONS FORUMS.

ASKED WHETHER HE RECEIVED ANY COMMITMENT FROM ENCIK GORBACHEV ON STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE THE KAMPUCHEAN AND AFGHANISTAN PROBLEM, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MATTER WAS NOT DISCUSSED SPECIFICALLY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID HE EXPRESSED MALAYSIA'S STAND OVER THE ANTARCTICA ISSUE, ADDING THAT ENCIK GORBACHEV AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER TO DETERMINE WHY MALAYSIA AND OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE PRESENT TREATY.

THE SOVIET UNION IS ONE OF THE SIGNATORIES OF THE TREATY. -- MORE
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ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID BOTH AGREED ON THE NEED TO STEP UP THE PRESENT RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THE SOVIET UNION.

THEY ALSO AGREED TO WORK TOWARDS STEPPING UP TRADE, WHICH CURRENTLY AMOUNTED TO \$600 MILLION AND WAS IN MALAYSIA'S FAVOUR.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE AND THE SOVIET LEADER SHARED THE VIEW THAT EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO REDUCE THE TRADE IMBALANCE BY INCREASING TRADE AND NOT REDUCING THE IMPORT OF MALAYSIAN GOODS. --
BERNAMA

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