

D204

148

B E202 AAE

MAHATHIR-TALKS R R R R R
FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

(P)

Overseas trips

MOSCOW, JULY 31⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY HAD +FRANK AND OPEN+ DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL MIKHAIL GORBACHEV AT THE KREMLIN HERE.

MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS SAY THEY DISCUSSED BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES.

ENCIK GORBACHEV BRIEFED THE PRIME MINISTER ON HIS +GLOBAL DOUBLE ZERO+ ARMS PLAN FOR PEACE AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON THE INITIATIVES.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, IN RETURN, EMPHASISED TO THE SOVIET LEADER THE NEED FOR THE KREMLIN TO SERIOUSLY PUT PRESSURE ON VIETNAM TO WITHDRAW FROM KAMPUCHEA AS A PREREQUISITE FOR A NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IS ALSO UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE UNDERLINED MALAYSIA'S OBJECTION TO THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN AND THE REASONS BEHIND IT.

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1709MST 31 07 87

D216

B E206 AAE

MAHATHIR-TALKS 2 MOSCOW R R R

ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND SENIOR MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION, WHICH INCLUDED WORKS MINISTER DATUK S.SAMY VELLU, PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER DATUK DR LIM KENG YAIK, TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER DATIN PADUKA RAFIDAH AZIZ AND FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK ABU HASSAN OMAR, HAD TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS OF TALKS WITH ACTING SOVIET PRIME MINISTER V.S.MURAKHOVSKY AND OTHER IMPORTANT SOVIET PERSONALITIES.

A SPOKESMAN SAID MALAYSIA WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH THE SOVIET REPRESENTATION AT THE TALKS AND THE OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSIONS.

THEY REFLECTED THE SOVIET UNION'S SERIOUSNESS IN WANTING TO ENHANCE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND ITS DETERMINATION IN WANTING TO PUT TO PRACTICE WHAT THE SOVIET LEADERS HAD BEEN SAYING LATELY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MALAYSIA HAD ALSO DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE SOVIET UNION'S LONG STANDING OFFER OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO MALAYSIANS IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER SCIENCES. -- MORE

1731MST 31 07 87

D217

B E208 AAE

MAHATHIR-TALKS 3 MOSCOW

ON THE CURRENT BALANCE OF TRADE WHICH WAS HEAVILY IN FAVOUR OF MALAYSIA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD THE SOVIETS THAT MALAYSIA WAS SERIOUS IN WANTING TO NARROW THE GAP.

HE LISTED SEVERAL ITEMS WHICH MALAYSIA WAS PREPARED TO BUY FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

HOWEVER, HE TOLD THEM THAT THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO MAKE THEIR GOODS MORE COMPETITIVE IN MALAYSIA AND IN THIS RESPECT THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THEY MUST KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THEIR TRADE PROMOTION EFFECTIVELY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SOVIET UNION WAS ALSO URGED TO MAKE MORE INVESTMENTS IN MALAYSIA. -- BERNAMA

1732MST 31 07 87