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MAHATHIR-DADAH
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SUBANG, AUG 10 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HIS ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION AS PRESIDENT OF THE RECENT UN DRUGS CONFERENCE IN VIENNA ALSO HAD FIRM SUPPORT FROM BRITAIN, HUNGARY AND THE SOVIET UNION.

HE SAID THAT IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE THREE COUNTRIES, IT WAS CLEAR THEY BACKED MALAYSIA'S APPOINTMENT AND MALAYSIA'S MANDATORY DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO RETURNED FROM A THREE-WEEK OFFICIAL VISIT OF THOSE THREE COUNTRIES, SAID THAT WHILE HE WAS IN BRITAIN THE LEADERS HE MET EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR MALAYSIA'S TOUGH STAND AGAINST DRUG MERCHANTS.

HE SAID THEY CONSIDERED THE DRUG SCOURGE TO BE A DANGEROUS ONE AND THAT SHORTCOMINGS IN THEIR OWN LAWS HAD LED TO A WIDESPREAD DRUG PROBLEM.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THEIR OFFICIAL STANCE WAS THEY DID NOT BACK CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS BUT PRIVATELY THEY WERE ALL FOR MALAYSIA'S SEVERE ANTI-DRUG LAWS. -- BERNAMA

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