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MAHATHIR-PREM R R R R R R

KUANTAN, SEPT 18 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA AND THAILAND TODAY AGREED ON THE NEED FOR JOINT EFFORTS TO CHECK THAI FISHING BOAT ENCROACHMENT INTO MALAYSIAN WATERS.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL I DATUK RAZALI ISMAIL SAID THE UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AND HIS THAI COUNTERPART GEN TUN PREM TINSULANONDA AT THEIR TALKS HERE.

+BOTH PRIME MINISTERS HAVE MADE A POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO REDUCE THE PROBLEM,+ HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE END OF THE MEETING.

DATUK RAZALI SAID THE TWO AGREED THE MATTER BE JOINTLY RESOLVED TO PREVENT IT FROM +RUFFLING+ RELATIONS BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES.

HE SAID THE DEEPSEA TUNA FISHING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PRIVATE SECTORS OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO BE LAUNCHED HERE TOMORROW WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW THE PROBLEM COULD BE ALLEVIATED. -- MORE
2006MST 18 09 87

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FORTY KUANTAN-BASED DEEPSEA FISHING BOATS INVOLVED IN THE VENTURE WILL BE COMMISSIONED BY DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND GEN TUN PREM AT THE KUANTAN PORT FERRY WHARF NEAR HERE.

DATUK RAZALI SAID BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAD GIVEN AN ASSURANCE TO SEE TO THE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAMME.

HE SAID THAT IN THE MEETING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD ALSO ASSURED THE THAI PREMIER THAT MALAYSIA WOULD RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF THAI FISHING BOATS TO HAVE FREE PASSAGE THROUGH THE MALAYSIAN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ).

GEN TUN PREM HOWEVER APPRECIATED THE NEED FOR THAI BOATS TO RESPECT AND TAKE COGNIZANCE OF MALAYSIAN MARITIME LAWS, DATUK RAZALI ADDED.

ON THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS ALONG THE COMMON BORDER OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, HE SAID GEN TUN PREM UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR THE MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES TO SET UP SECURITY FENCES ALONG THE BORDER. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-PREM 3 KUANTAN R R R R R R

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD ENCOURAGED HIS THAI COUNTERPART TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN SOUTHERN THAI PROVINCES AND THE NORTHERN STATES OF MALAYSIA.

HE HAD POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENCE OF DUTY-FREE SHOPS IN CERTAIN AREAS AT THE BORDER COULD BE SEEN IN THIS CONTEXT, DATUK RAZALI SAID.

ON THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE BANNED COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM) AT THE BORDER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD EXPRESSED MALAYSIA'S GRATITUDE TO THE THAI AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR SUCCESS IN THINNING DOWN THE CPM RANKS THROUGH A SPECIAL AMNESTY PROGRAMME.

THE PROGRAMME HAD GREATLY REDUCED THE COMMUNIST TERRORIST THREAT ALONG THE BORDER.

IN THE MEETING, GEN TUN PREM HAD EXPLAINED TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THE THAI PERSPECTIVE THAT ANY EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM WOULD HAVE TO HAVE VIETNAM'S PARTICIPATION. -- MORE
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HE HAD ALSO SAID THAILAND WOULD PERSUADE EXTERNAL POWERS TO HELP IN THE EFFORTS TO REACH A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE ISSUE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IN RESPONSE HAD ASSURED HIS THAI COUNTERPART MALAYSIA +HAS A CLOSE PROXIMITY IN VIEWS WITH THAILAND+ IN THESE EFFORTS.

HE HAD ALSO CONVEYED MALAYSIA'S GRATITUDE TO THAILAND FOR ITS FINANCIAL SUPPORT ON THE SETTING UP OF THE SOUTH-SOUTH COMMISSION, ACCORDING TO DATUK RAZALI.

BOTH PRIME MINISTERS AGREED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING JOINT VENTURE PRODUCTION OF AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENTS. HOWEVER THEY DID NOT DISCUSS THE SPECIFICS OF SUCH A VENTURE, DATUK RAZALI ADDED.

THE RESULTS OF THEIR MEETING WERE LATER BROUGHT TO A MEETING OF DELEGATIONS FROM THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR DISCUSSION.

MEMBERS OF THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION INCLUDE FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK ABU HASSAN OMAR, AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID AND DEFENCE MINISTER TENGKU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN, WHILE THE THAI DELEGATES INCLUDE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER TAN SRI SIDDHI SAVETSILA, MINISTER OF DEFENCE PANIERG KANTARAT AND MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (TOURISM) DR ARUN PANUPONG. -- BERNAMA
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