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MAHATHIR-SINGAPORE  
FROM AZMAN UJANG

VANCOUVER, OCT 18 (BERNAMA) -- SINGAPORE HAS TOLD MALAYSIA THAT IT HAD NO INTENTION OF CARRYING OUT ACTS OF PROVOCATION WHEN SEVERAL OF ITS SOLDIERS WERE FOUND ENCRDACHING INTO MALAYSIAN TERRITORY RECENTLY.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD MALAYSIAN JOURNALISTS HERE SATURDAY THAT ACCORDING TO HIS SINGAPORE COUNTERPART, ENCIK LEE KUAN YEW, THE INCIDENT WAS NOT PLANNED.

ENCIK LEE CONVEYED THIS TO HIM WHEN THEY MET FOR TALKS ON BILATERAL MATTERS HERE THURSDAY.

BOTH ARE HERE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT WHICH ENDED SATURDAY.

+HE TOLD ME THAT THE SOLDIERS RESPONSIBLE ARE BEING COURT-MARTIALLED AND HE EVEN OFFERED TO LET ME KNOW OF THE OUTCOME,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- MORE

1719MST 18 10 87

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MAHATHIR-SINGAPORE 2 VANCOUVER

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS +QUITE SATISFIED+ WITH ENCIK LEE'S EXPLANATION.

A MALAYSIAN TOP MILITARY OFFICIAL SAID RECENTLY THAT SEVERAL UNIFORMED SINGAPORE SOLDIERS WERE SIGHTED TRAVELLING IN A BOAT ALONG THE JOHOR COAST.

PRESS REPORTS LATER QUOTED HIGHLY-PLACED MILITARY SOURCES AS SAYING THAT THERE HAD BEEN MANY SUCH ENCRDACHMENTS IN THE PAST.

ASKED WHETHER HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH ENCIK LEE THE NUMBER OF SUCH INCIDENTS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THEY ONLY TALKED ABOUT ONE INCIDENT.

HE ADDED THAT ENCIK LEE ALSO EXPLAINED AGAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO THE VISIT OF ISRAELI PRESIDENT HERZOG TO SINGAPORE IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, WHICH PROMPTED PROTESTS FROM MALAYSIA WHICH IS STRONGLY ANTI-ZIONIST.

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MAHATHIR-SINGAPORE 3 VANCOUVER

+HE EXPLAINED THAT THE VISIT WAS DECIDED A LONG TIME AGO AND THAT HE WAS NOT FULLY AWARE ABOUT IT, BUT BY THE TIME HE KNEW IT WAS TOO LATE. I ACCEPTED HIS EXPLANATION,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED.

+I AM CONVINCED THAT ENCIK LEE IS QUITE SINCERE IN HIS DESIRE TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH MALAYSIA. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT HE UNDERSTANDS OUR POSITION,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT WHILE HERE HE CALLED ON THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM TO DISCUSS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SULTANATE AND MALAYSIA.

+BUT WE DID NOT DISCUSS ANYTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE,+ HE SAID.

WHEN PRESSED FURTHER, THE PRIME MINISTER JOKINGLY SAID: +WE DID NOT DISCUSS ANY SALE OF ANY PART OF MALAYSIA,+ REFERRING TO AN ARTICLE IN A MAGAZINE WHICH REPORTED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH THE SULTAN THE SALE OF LIMBANG IN SARAWAK TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM DURING A VISIT TO THE SULTANATE EARLIER THIS YEAR. -- BERNAMA

1727MST 18 10 87