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MAHATHIR-SABAH R'R'R'

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KUALA LUMPUR DEC 16 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID TODAY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT GIVEN ANY GUARANTEES FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE SABAH CLAIM EXCEPT TO SAY IT WILL WORK HARD FOR A SOLUTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA WAS PREPARED TO WAIT FOR THE PROCESS TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT AS HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO HIM BY PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO

PUAN AQUINO HAD EXPLAINED THE LEGAL PROCESSES INVOLVED, THAT IS, THE PRESIDENT MUST HAVE THE SENATE'S AGREEMENT FIRST TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF THAT COUNTRY'S CLAIM ON SABAH, HE SAID.

+WE ARE PREPARED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AT THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN FROM ATTENDING THE THIRD ASEAN SUMMIT IN MANILA.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PUAN AQUINO HAD MET HIM THERE TO EXPLAIN THE MATTER. -- MORE
1604MST 16 12 a7

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MAHATHIR-SABAH 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

MALAYSIA HAD EARLIER HOPED THE PROCESSES COULD BE COMPLETED AND THE CLAIM RENOUNCED BEFORE THE ASEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT BEGAN THEIR MEETING BUT FOUND THIS COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED, HE SAID.

AS SUCH, THE QUESTION OF URGENCY FOR A SETTLEMENT NO LONGER AROSE, HE ADDED.

THE CLAIM ISSUE HAD DRAGGED ON FOR 25 YEARS AND STARTED GETTING ATTENTION AGAIN RECENTLY.

THE PHILIPPINE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROVED A BILL DELETING MENTION OF SABAH IN THE DELINEATION OF THE PHILIPPINE BOUNDARY RECENTLY BUT THE SENATE IN A PARALLEL BILL CURRENTLY BEFORE IT HAD INTRODUCED THREE NEW CONDITIONS FOR THE ABANDONMENT OF THE CLAIM.

THE SENATE BILL AMONG OTHER THINGS WANTS MALAYSIA TO CONCLUDE TREATIES OF COOPERATION AND AMITY AND A BORDER AGREEMENT WITH THE PHILIPPINES.

IT ALSO WANTS MALAYSIA TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF THE PROPRIETARY RIGHTS OF THE HEIRS OF THE SULTAN OF SULU. -- MORE
1615MST 16 12 87

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MAHATHIR-SABAH 3 KUALA LUMPUR (RPTN, INCLD NEW 3RD PARA) R'R'R'

ASKED ABOUT THE STATE OF MALAYSIAN-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS AFTER HIS TRIP TO MANILA, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE DID NOT MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT BUT ONLY ATTENDED AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

THIS WAS THE FIRST VISIT THERE BY A MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER AFTER 25 YEARS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO MAKE A COMPARISON AS TO WHETHER MALAYSIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES SINCE THEN HAD BECOME CLOSER OR THE OPPOSITE, BUT STRESSED THAT TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES NOW ARE GROWING CLOSER.

ON THE SECURITY ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE; HE SAID THE CONFERENCE WENT WELL AND THERE WERE NO SECURITY PROBLEMS. THIS MEANT THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THE PREPARATIONS;

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN BY MANILA SHOULD BE APPRECIATED BECAUSE THEY ENABLED THE MEETING TO BE HELD SMOOTHLY, PEACEFULLY AND WITHOUT ANY DISRUPTION.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS THANKS TO THE PHILIPPINE AND MALAYSIAN SECURITY PERSONNEL FOR THEIR ROLE IN MAINTAINING SECURITY DURING THE SUMMIT. -- BERNAMA
1722MST 16 12 a7