

0522

U E718 AAE

MAHATHIR-COUP R R R

BM

SEREMBAN, JULY 2 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY EXPOSED THE EXISTENCE OF A GROUP WHO SPREAD LIES, SAYING THAT THERE WOULD BE A COUP DE TAT IN THE COUNTRY IF MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR GUA MUSANG TENGKU RAZALEIGH HANZAH WAS ARRESTED BY POLICE.

ACCORDING TO THE LIES, HE SAID, SEVERAL ARMY GENERALS WHO HAILED FROM KELANTAN HAD PURPORTEDLY WARNED THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE (IGP) THAT THEY WOULD TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY IF TENGKU RAZALEIGH WERE ARRESTED.

+THIS IS A MOST MALICIOUS LIE THAT TRIES TO PIT THE POLICE AGAINST THE ARMY. HOWEVER, BOTH ARE PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND NOT OF THE SORT THAT THE GROUP THOUGHT,+ HE SAID AT A DIALOGUE SESSION WITH UMNO LEADERS, DURING A SPECIAL MEETING AT GELANGGANG BUDAYA, PAROI HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THERE WAS ALSO A GROUP WHO SPREAD LIES THAT HE HAD PURPORTEDLY ORDERED THE POLICE TO ARREST TENGKU RAZALEIGH WHICH HAD RESULTED IN TAN SRI HANIF OMAR BEING ASKED TO LEAVE FOR REFUSING TO CARRY OUT THE ORDER.

+ACTUALLY, THERE WAS NO SUCH DIRECTIVE AND THIS WAS AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE IGP,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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0524

U E719 AAE

MAHATHIR-COUP 2 SEREMBAN R R R

HE SAID THE GROUP HAD TWO MAIN OBJECTIVES FOR ACTING SUCH, THAT IS, FIRSTLY, TO OBTAIN THE SYMPATHY OF THEIR SUPPORTERS TO SHOW AS IF HE WAS A TYRANT FOR WANTING TO ARREST TENGKU RAZALEIGH, HE SAID.

SECONDLY, SO THAT TENGKU RAZALEIGH WOULD NOT BE ARRESTED IN HIS (THE PRIME MINISTER'S) EFFORTS TO SHOW THAT THE RUMOURS CIRCULATING WERE NOT TRUE AND ALSO ENSURE TENGKU RAZALEIGH WAS NOT ARRESTED EVEN THOUGH HE HAD COMMITTED AN OFFENCE.

+THIS WAS A FORM OF PREPARATION FOR THE GROUP TO ACT AGAINST THE LAW BUT I WISH TO GIVE AN ASSURANCE THAT ANYONE WHO FLOUTS THE LAWS WILL FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH ACTIONS.+

+I HOPE THAT THAT THEY DO NOT THINK THAT BY SAYING SUCH, THEY WILL ESCAPE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE LAW,+ HE STRESSED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED BY A REPRESENTATIVE FROM UMNO SEREMBAN DIVISION, SHEIKH MOHAMAD SHEIKH HUSSEIN, SAID THE LIES HAD FORCED THE IGP TO ISSUE A STATEMENT THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ASKED TO RESIGN FROM THE POLICE FORCE.

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1929MST 02 07 88

0532

U E724 AAE
MAHATHIR-COUP 3 SEREMBAN R R R

+HE HAS SERVED AS IGP FOR 15 YEARS AND DOES NOT LOSE HIS TEMPER EASILY NOR ACT IRRRATIONALLY,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE ALSO SAID LEGAL ACTION WOULD BE INSTITUTED AGAINST THE GROUP OF 11 IF THEY WERE FOUND TO HAVE ACTED AGAINST THE LAW.

ON FORMER SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK HARUN IDRIS'S CLAIM THAT HE HAD HELPED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TO GET BACK INTO THE UMNO FOLD AND BECOME A CABINET MEMBER, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAD HELPED DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY IN THAT CONNECTION BUT THE FINAL DECISION AT THE TIME RESTED WITH THE THEN UMNO PRESIDENT, THE LATE TUN ABDUL RAZAK.

HE ALSO STATED THAT UMNO WAS EXPECTED TO ACCEPT 700,000 MEMBERS, THAT IS, HALF THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE FORMER UMNO WHICH HAD BEEN DECLARED ILLEGAL, ALTHOUGH THE ACTUAL MEMBERSHIP WAS MUCH LOWER THAN THE 1.4 MILLION REGISTERED DUE TO SEVERAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS MULTIPLE REGISTRATION.

HE SAID UMNO BRANCHES HAD BEEN ASKED TO REGISTER AS MANY MEMBERS AND THE HEADQUARTERS WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL WAS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP OR NOT. -- MORE

1945MST 02 07 88

0533

U E725 AAE
MAHATHIR-COUP 4 SEREMBAN R R R

ON THE EXISTENCE OF CIVIL SERVANTS WHO OPPOSED THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, THIS HAD ARISEN DUE TO LACK OF CLARIFICATION AND THEY HAD BEEN INFLUENCED BY OTHERS.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT MANY OF THEM WOULD SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT IF THERE WAS GREATER CLARIFICATION. -- BERNAMA

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