

0260

B E249 AAE

MAHATHIR-SINGAPORE R'R'R'

BM

JOHOR BAHRU, JAN 22⁸⁸ (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE HAVE
AGREED TO ADOPT A NEW APPROACH FAIRER TO BOTH SIDES IN THE SUPPLY OF
WATER TO THE ISLAND REPUBLIC, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
DISCLOSED TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN HIS
DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS SINGAPORE COUNTERPART, ENCIK LEE KUAN YEW,
DURING A VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC YESTERDAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE WATER SUPPLY
WAS ONE OF TWO MAIN SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN THEIR MEETING. THE OTHER
WAS PIPING OF NATURAL GAS TO SINGAPORE.

HE SAID HIS VISIT TO SINGAPORE WAS AT THE INVITATION OF ENCIK
LEE TO DISCUSS BILATERAL MATTERS. -- MORE
1621MST 22 01 88

0290

B E264 AAE

MAHATHIR-SINGAPORE 2 JOHOR BAHRU R'R'R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE WATER SUPPLY MATTER WAS RAISED
AS IT HAD CREATED A LOT OF DISSATISFACTION IN MALAYSIA, ESPECIALLY
IN JOHOR.

FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSIONS, HE AND ENCIK LEE WERE ABLE TO COME UP
WITH AN APPROACH FAIRER TO BOTH SIDES.

+I BELIEVE THAT IN THIS WAY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP WATER
TREATMENT PLANTS AS WELL AS DAMS SO SINGAPORE WILL GET THE WATER IT
NEEDS WHILE JOHOR WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY ITS APPROPRIATE ROLE,+ HE
SAID.

ELABORATING ON THE NEW APPROACH, HE SAID SOME OF THE TREATMENT
PLANTS WOULD BE BUILT IN JOHOR AND SOME IN SINGAPORE.

GOING BY PROJECTIONS BASED ON THE SINGAPORE PROPOSAL FOR BOTH
SIDES TO SHARE THE IMPLEMENTATION, JOHOR WOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT
(TREATED) WATER SUPPLY UP TO THE YEAR 2000, 2050 OR EVEN 2100, HE
SAID. -- MORE
1716MST 22 01 88

D318

B E277 AAE

MAHATHIR-SINGAPORE 3 JOHOR BAHARU R'R'R'

HE SAID: +SINGAPORE HAS THE RIGHT TO BUILD PLANTS UP TO A CERTAIN NUMBER. WE CANNOT REJECT THIS.....BUT IF THEY WANT AND ASK FOR MORE, WE CAN BUILD THE ADDITIONAL PLANTS OURSELVES OR ENTER INTO JOINT VENTURES OR RESORT TO OTHER WAYS THAT WILL BENEFIT MALAYSIA, IN PARTICULAR JOHOR.+

HE SAID SINGAPORE WANTED UNTREATED WATER OF 500 MILLION GALLONS A DAY FROM MALAYSIA AND IN RETURN WOULD PROVIDE TREATED WATER TO JOHOR AT A LOW PRICE AS WAS BEING DONE NOW.

TO A QUESTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID EVEN IF THE WATER DEMAND FROM SINGAPORE INCREASED, THERE WOULD BE A PARALLEL RISE IN SUPPLY FOR JOHOR, ESPECIALLY JOHOR BAHARU AND OTHER NEARBY AREAS.

TO ANOTHER QUESTION, HE SAID A COMMITTEE HAD BEEN FORMED TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION OF WATER SUPPLY.

ASKED WHETHER THIS NEW AGREEMENT GOES AGAINST THE WATER TREATY BETWEEN MALAYSIA (JOHOR) AND SINGAPORE, HE SAID:

+WE CANNOT SET ASIDE THE TREATY AS IT IS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES REGISTERED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS. AS SUCH, WE CANNOT EASILY BREAK OUR WORD. BUT THERE ARE WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN BENEFIT IF THE SUPPLY EXCEEDS WHAT HAS BEEN STIPULATED IN THE AGREEMENT.+ --

MORE

1807MST 22 01 88

D319

B E280 AAE

MAHATHIR-SINGAPORE 4 JOHOR BAHARU R'R'R'

ON PIPING NATURAL GAS TO THE REPUBLIC, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE AND ENCIK LEE HAD DECIDED ON A +GOOD+ FORMULA AND DETAILS WOULD BE THRASHED OUT UNDER THE APPROACH AGREED ON.

HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE FORMULA.

HE ALSO SAID DURING HIS VISIT, HE TOURED THE MASS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT AND INSPECTED THE KALLANG RIVER WHICH HAS BEEN CLEANED UP.

ON THE MRT, HE SAID MALAYSIA MIGHT INTRODUCE SUCH A SYSTEM IF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION ALLOWED, ADDING THAT IF IT DID, THE TRACKS WOULD RUN ABOVE GROUND AS THE COST FOR THIS WAS ONE-THIRD THAT OF AN UNDERGROUND SYSTEM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA MIGHT ALSO ADOPT SINGAPORE'S TECHNIQUES IN CLEANING UP POLLUTED RIVERS IN VIEW OF THE SUCCESS THE REPUBLIC HAD WITH THE KALLANG RIVER. -- BERNAMA

1809MST 22 01 88