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MAHATHIR-KAMPUCHEA
FROM AHMAD REJAL ABEE

② Trip overseas.

NEW YORK, OCT 5 (BERNAMA) -- ASEAN INITIATIVES IN FINDING A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WITH EFFORTS BY THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) COMPLEMENTING THOSE INITIATIVES.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID ASEAN HAD ACHIEVED A SIGNIFICANT MEASURE OF SUCCESS IN ITS EFFORTS WITH THE CONVENING OF THE JAKARTA INFORMAL MEETING (JIM) IN JULY.

THOSE INITIATIVES, HE SAID, SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.

ADDRESSING THE 43RD UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON TUESDAY, HE SAID THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AUGURED WELL FOR PARTIES CONCERNED TO MEET AND TO COME TO AGREEMENT.

THE REMARK WAS MADE IN THE LIGHT OF THE SETTING UP OF A 12-MEMBER COMMITTEE ON KAMPUCHEA BY THE NAM ON MONDAY AT A MEETING OF NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS NOW HERE FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK ABU HASSAN OMAR WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING TOLD MALAYSIAN REPORTERS THAT MALAYSIA HAD BEEN SELECTED TO SIT IN THE COMMITTEE TOGETHER WITH TWO OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS OF NAM -- INDONESIA AND SINGAPORE. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE ZIMBABWE, INDIA, CUBA, VIETNAM, PLO, LAOS, PERU, ALGERIA, YUGOSLAVIA AND ANOTHER COUNTRY TO BE DECIDED LATER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WELCOMED THE EFFORTS OF NAM TO COMPLEMENT REGIONAL EFFORTS IN KAMPUCHEA.--MORE

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DATUK ABU HASSAN SAID NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD FULLY ENDORSED THE ASEAN INITIATIVES RESULTING IN JIM AND WILL SUPPORT A RESOLUTION ON KAMPUCHEA TO BE TABLED BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY LATER.

OFFICIALS OF THE 12-MEMBER NAM COMMITTEE HAD THEIR FIRST MEETING HERE ON TUESDAY IN AN EFFORT TO EMERGE WITH SOME CONCRETE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IN HIS SPEECH THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF VIETNAMESE FORCES FROM KAMPUCHEA SHOULD BE WITHOUT ANY CONDITIONS NOR SHOULD VIETNAM BE ALLOWED TO CLOUD THE ISSUE.

THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE MUST BE ENSURED THAT THEY WOULD BE FREE FROM THE HORRORS OF THE PAST WITH NATIONAL RECONCILIATION TO BE UNDER THE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP OF PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY HEAL DIVISIONS BETWEEN THE VARIOUS KAMPUCHEAN FACTIONS BUT ALSO REGAIN FOR THE COUNTRY ITS RIGHTFUL SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE.

HE SAID THE CONCERN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND ASEAN TO PREVENT THE RETURN OF THE UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNED POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF A RECENT PAST MUST BE ADDRESSED.

THOUGH HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON THIS BUT THE WASHINGTON POST ON TUESDAY QUOTED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AS SUGGESTING THAT A UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE BE SENT TO KAMPUCHEA TO ENSURE THAT THE DREADED KHMER ROUSE NOT BE RETURNED TO POWER TO FILL IN THE VACUUM LEFT BY VIETNAM.--MORE

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THE WASHINGTON POST CARRIED A THREE-COLUMN STORY IN ITS WORLD NEWS SECTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S SUGGESTION MADE DURING HIS MEETING WITH SENIOR JOURNALISTS AND COLUMNISTS OF MAJOR US NEWSPAPERS HERE ON MONDAY.

THE PAPER QUOTED THE PRIME MINISTER AS SAYING THAT THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE SHOULD OVERSEE FREE ELECTIONS, THE TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE POWER TO A COALITION GOVERNMENT AND +GENERALLY GIVE BOTH MORAL AND PHYSICAL SUPPORT+ TO PRINCE SIHANOUK.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT UN MUST ACCEPT A ROLE IN KAMPUCHEA +IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A KAMPUCHEA THAT IS VIABLE. OTHERWISE WE ARE GOING TO THROW THE KAMPUCHEANS AT THE MERCY OF PEOPLE WHO ARE CAPABLE OF ALL KINDS OF ATROCIOUS THINGS.+

THE PRIME MINISTER IN HIS SPEECH AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SAID PEACE IN KAMPUCHEA WOULD CONTRIBUTE TREMENDOUSLY TO REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

+IT WILL FACILITATE THE WAY FOR MORE COOPERATIVE RELATIONS AMONG THE STATES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN ASEAN AND VIETNAM.

+IT IS OUR HOPE THAT PEACE THAT WE LONG FOR WILL BRING ABOUT A CLIMATE OF REGIONAL STABILITY AND COOPERATION WHICH CAN THEN REALISE EARLY THE REGIONAL ASPIRATION FOR A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

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