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U E103 AAE
MAHATHIR-NAM
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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 12 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIRMOHAMAD TODAY SAID MALAYSIA CAN AFFORD TO SERVICE ALL ITS EXTERNAL DEBTS AND WOULD CONTINUE DOING SO.

HE SAID MALAYSIA'S CALL TO RICH NATIONS TO WRITE OFF LOANS TO POOR COUNTRIES AT THE NINTH NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN BELGRADE, WAS MADE NOT ON ITS BEHALF.

THERE WERE NATIONS WHICH HAD DEFAULTED IN LOAN REPAYMENT AND IF SADDLED WITH MORE DEBTS, IT WOULD BE BEYOND THEIR ABILITY TO REPAY, HE TOLG A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN SUBANG ON HIS RETURN FROM THE SUMMIT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID UNENDING DEBT BURDEN COULD RENDER THESE COUNTRIES BANKRUPT AND DISQUALIFIED FROM FURTHER LOANS.

THIS SHOULD NOT HAPPEN TO A NATION, ALTHOUGH IT COULD HAPPEN TO AN INDIVIDUAL BORROWER AS BEING DEBT-RIDDEN COULD DENY A COUNTRY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE, HE SAID.

HE SAID MALAYSIA, LIKE OTHER BORROWER-NATIONS WHICH COULD AFFORD TO SERVICE THEIR DEBTS, WOULD REPAY ALL ITS LOANS.-- MORE
1811MST 12 09 89

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U E117 AAE
MAHATHIR-NAM 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA HAD BENEFITTED FROM THE SUMMIT AS IT WAS ABLE TO EXPOUND VIEWS ON VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES MAINLY DEBT SETTLEMENT, THE ENVIRONMENT AND DADAH.

HE SAID IT WAS EXPECTED OF THE MAJOR POWERS AND THE INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES TO IGNORE THE SUMMIT AND IN FACT THEIR JOURNALISTS DID NOT REPORT SUFFICIENTLY ON THE VIEWS OF SEVERAL NAM LEADERS.

THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN DISCREDITING LEADERS LIKE COL MUAMMAR GHADAFI OF LIBYA, HE SAID.

ON HOW NAM COULD BRING THEIR PROBLEMS TO THE ATTENTION OF THESE COUNTRIES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR RECALLED SOUTH-SOUTH COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JULIUS NYERERE'S SPEECH AT THE PLENARY SESSION WHICH CALLED ON SOUTH COUNTRIES TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS THROUGH CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG THEM.

+TO EXPECT ASSISTANCE FROM OTHERS WOULD ONLY BRING FRUSTRATION,+ HE SAID.-- MORE
1833MST 12 09 89

U EI20 AAE
MAHATHIR-NAM' 3 KUALA LUHPUR

ON NAM'S +GROUP OF 16+ INCLUDING MALAYSIA WHICH AIMED AT FOSTERING SOUTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC COOPERATION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID A SMALL GROUP NEED TO BE FORMED TO TACKLE SPECIFIC ISSUES.

THIS DID NOT MEAN COUNTRIES NOT IN THE GROUP WERE DISQUALIFIED AS THEY WOULD STILL BE REPRESENTED IN THE ISSUES RAISED, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GROUP HAD NOT FIXED A DATE FOR ITS FIRST MEETING WHICH WOULD BE AN ANNUAL AFFAIR.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID BESIDES MEETING SEVERAL NAM LEADERS IN BELGRADE, HE ALSO HAD DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL ISSUES WITH THE YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER.

AFTER THE SUMMIT, HE SAID, HE TOURED CRETE ISLANDS, NOW A WELL-DEVELOPED ATTRACTION VISITED BY ABOUT 2.5 MILLION TOURISTS ANNUALLY.

HE SAID HE HAD TAKEN NOTE OF SEVERAL FACILITIES AND ATTRACTIONS THERE WHICH COULD BE USED AS GUIDELINES IN PROMOTING TOURISM ON ISLANDS IN MALAYSIA.-- BERNAMA
1854MST 12 09 89