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CHOGM-UNION

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 16 (BERNAMA) -- A CAMPAIGN BY THE COMMONWEALTH TRADE UNION COUNCIL (CTUC) TO STEP UP ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA HAS RECEIVED THE BACKING OF DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, ACCORDING TO THE COUNCIL HERE TODAY.

THE CTUC STEERING COMMITTEE WHICH MET THE PRIME MINISTER, SAID IT WAS GIVEN THE ASSURANCE THAT MALAYSIA WOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS TO PRESSURE THE PRETORIA REGIME TO DO AWAY WITH ITS APARTHEID POLICY.

CTUC DIRECTOR ENCIK PATRICK QUINN TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER THAT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SHARED THE COUNCIL'S SENTIMENTS THAT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD BE INTENSIFIED.

THE CTUC DELEGATION IS IN MALAYSIA TO CONVINCHE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS ATTENDING THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM) BEGINNING HERE WEDNESDAY TO INTENSIFY ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS TO TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT SOUTH AFRICA FROM INTERFERING IN ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA. IT HANDED A MEMORANDUM ON THE MATTER TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR. COPIES OF THE MEMORANDUM WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO ALL HEADS OF DELEGATIONS.

ACCORDING TO ENCIK QUINN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS ALL FOR FAIR ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA AND FOR THE SOUTH AFRICA REGIME TO BE STOPPED FROM UNDERTAKING STEPS WHICH WOULD DESTABILISE THAT REGION. -- MORE
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TWO WORKERS REPRESENTIVES FROM SOUTH AFRICA -- PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA, ENCIK JAMES MNDAWEN I (RPT MNDAWENI), AND ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS ENCIK SYDNEY MUFAMADI -- ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

THESE TWO LEADERS WERE INVITED BY THE CTUC TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF WHAT THEY SAID WAS DISCRIMINATION PRACTISED BY THE PRETORIA GOVERNMENT. THE TWO BODIES ARE NOT AFFILIATED TO CTUC, WHICH IS THE UMBRELLA BODY OF CONFEDERATED TRADE UNIONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

ACCORDING TO ENCIK MUFAMADI, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAS ASSURED CTUC THAT HE WOULD +MARKET+ THE COUNCIL'S CAMPAIGN AT CHOGM.

ACCORDING TO ENCIK QUINN, THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD CTUC THAT MALAYSIA WOULD NOT BE MISLED BY THE RELEASE YESTERDAY OF EIGHT ANTI-APARTHEID LEADERS BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WAS STILL NO CONCRETE COMMITMENT FROM THE PRETORIA GOVERNMENT TO END APARTHEID. -- MORE
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IT IS LEARNT THAT THE CTUC DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDED CTUC STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER AND MALAYSIAN TRADES UNION CONGRESS (MTUC) SECRETARY-GENERAL ENCIK V. DAVID, ALSO RAISED SEVERAL OTHER ISSUES AT THE MEETING BUT ENCIK QUINN DECLINED FURTHER COMMENT.

THESE WERE PROBABLY MATTERS CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENT* HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOUR.

ENCIK QUINN REGARDED THE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AS FRUITFUL AND GOOD. CUEPACS PRESIDENT ENCIK MOHAMAD ABAS ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING.

THE DELEGATION IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER BOB HAWKE TOMORROW. ENCIK HAWKE IS A FORMER COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE CTUC STEERING COMMITTEE.

THE CTUC HAS MAINTAINED ITS POLICY OF SENDING A TEAM TO MEET HEADS OF DELEGATIONS PRIVATELY AT EVERY CHOGM. -- BERNAMA
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