

U E061 AAE BMX LIB
CHOGM-QUAKE

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 18 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR

MOHAMAD TODAY EXPRESSED CONDOLENCE TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF THE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

SPEAKING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM) HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, SAID HE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE COMMONWEALTH SEND A MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WHEN THEY RESUME THEIR MEETING TOMORROW.

AT LEAST 250 PEOPLE ARE REPORTED KILLED AND MORE THAN 500 INJURED WHEN A POWERFUL EARTHQUAKE STRUCK THE CALIFORNIAN CITY AT THE HEIGHT OF THE EVENING RUSH HOUR YESTERDAY.

ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS DAMAGE HAS BEEN ESTIMATED AT M12.7 BILLION.

AS FOR THE MEETING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID TODAY'S SESSION WENT ON SMOOTHLY.

THREE SPEAKERS -- BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER, SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW AND PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS DR GEORGE VASSILOU

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ADDRESSED THE SESSION. --MORE
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HE SAID THE LEADERS HAD A WIDE-RANGING OVERVIEW OF THE WORLD'S POLITICAL SITUATION.

THEY HAVE HAD LEARNT QUITE A LOT FROM THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE THREE SPEAKERS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE DEBATE ON THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION WOULD RESUME TOMORROW AFTER WHICH THE MEETING WOULD SPECIFICALLY

DISCUSS THE SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUE. --BERNAMA
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