

LEE-MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 20 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD I

S NOW SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION GIVEN BY SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE **KUAN** YEW FOR THE ISLAND REPUBLIC'S OFFER TO ALLOW GREATER USE OF ITS FACILITIES BY UNITED STATES MILITARY FORCES, A MALAYSIAN OFFICIAL SAID TODAY.

DATUK **AHMAD** KAHIL **JAAFAR**, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN **MINISTR** **Y**, SAID THE SINGAPORE LEADER EXPLAINED TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PERMANENT BASING.

HE INDICATED THAT MALAYSIA'S **VOCIFEROUS PROTESTS** WHEN SINGAPORE FIRST ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION 'IN JUNE TO HOST US MILITARY FACILITIES AROSE BECAUSE OF LACK OF INFORMATION FROM SINGAPORE.2

+THE FIRST EXPLANATION GIVEN TO US **WAS NOT VERY CLEAR,+** HE SAID AT **A** BRIEFING FOR LOCAL NEWS MEDIA AFTER A MEETING **BETWEEN THE TWO** LEADERS YESTERDAY.

ENCIK LEE, IN HIS PRESS BRIEFING FOR THE SINGAPORE PRESS YESTERDAY **SAID +THE** CONSIDERABLE EXCITEMENT+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SHOWED **INITIALLY** OVER THE OFFER COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED HAD HE INFORMED THE MALAYSIAN LEADER OF HIS PLANS DURING THEIR MEETING LAST MARCH.

ENCIK LEE SAID HE DID NOT BRING UP THE SUBJECT DURING HIS VISIT THEN BECAUSE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD JUST RECOVERED FROM A CORONARY BY-PASS OPERATION AND HE DID NOT WANT TO TROUBLE **HIM.** -- MORE
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LEE-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR (LAST)

A SINGAPORE STATEMENT ON WEDNESDAY SAID THAT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE OFFER, THERE WOULD BE EXPANDED USE OF SINGAPORE'S MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FACILITIES BY US NAVAL VESSELS, AS WELL AS SHORT-TERM VISITS BY US AIRCRAFT TO THE **PAYA** LEBAR AIR BASE ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS BEGINNING IN 1990.

DATUK **AHMAD** KAMIL SAID THE SINGAPORE **OFFER**, IN A **SENSE**, WAS A **+BUSINESS** ARRANGEMENT.+

HE SAID ENCIK LEE ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR OTHER OFFICIALS FROM TWO COUNTRIES TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. ENCIK LEE, HE **SAID**, FELT THAT THROUGH SUCH CONTACTS, A GOOD MANY PROBLEMS COULD BE EASILY RESOLVED.

THE MALAYSIAN OFFICIAL SAID **THE** QUESTION OF MAINTAINING CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE YOUNGER OFFICIALS WAS DEEMED PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO THE SINGAPORE LEADER BECAUSE ENCIK LEE PLANNED TO STEP DOWN NEXT YEAR. -- BERNAMA
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