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U .E337 AAE OAN DHC

LEE RRRRR

BY A. KARIM SHUKOR

SINGAPORE, OCT 20 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW BELIEVE

S
HIS MALAYSIAN COUNTERPART DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WOULD REMAIN
IN
POWER FOR +A VERY LONG TIME.+

+I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT DR MAHATHIR'S UMNO LEADERSHIP
IS
GOING TO CONTINUE INTO AND AFTER THE NEXT ELECTION. THAT'S FIVE YEARS
PLUS

X NUMBER OF YEARS STILL TO RUN,+ LOCAL PRESS REPORTS QUOTED ENCIK LEE
AS
HAVING TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR SINGAPORE JOURNALISTS AFTER MEETIN
G

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IN KUALA LUMPUR YESTERDAY.

ASKED HOW THE REPUBLIC'S YOUNGER LEADERSHIP TEAM, LED BY FIRST DEP
UTY
PRIME MINISTER GOH CHOK TONG, COULD FORGE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH T
HE

POST-MAHATHIR MALAYSIAN LEADERSHIP, ENCIK LEE SAID SUCH A RELATIONSHI
P
WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO ESTABLISH BECAUSE THEY WOULD THEN BE DEALING
WITH

+A COMPLETELY BRAND NEW PERSON.+

BUT TO WORK CLOSELY WITH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, ENCIK GOH MUST
ESTABLISH HIS OWN KIND OF STYLE.

ASKED HOW HE COULD HELP ENCIK GOH FORGE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH
DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, ENCIK LEE, IN KUALA LUMPUR FOR THE COMMONWEAL
TH
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM), SAID THERE WAS NOTHING SPECIFIC
HE
COULD DO.

+IT'S REALLY A MATTER OF TWO PERSONS EITHER LIKING EACH OTHER AND
FEELING THAT HE CAN TRUST THE OTHER PERSON'S WORDS, OR THINKING THAT
THE

OTHER PERSON IS NOT COMPLETELY FRANK AND OPEN AND THEREFORE HAVING
RESERVATIONS ABOUT WHAT IS BEING SAID.+ -- MORE

1222MST 20 10 89

0968

U E338 AAE OAN DHC

LEE 2 SINGAPORE

ON HIS MEETING WITH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, HE SAID MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE AGREED TO ENSURE THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS DID NOT BECOME +S
TIFF

AND FORMAL+ LEADING TO UNNECESSARY +STAND OFFS.+

HE SAID BOTH OF THEM WOULD ENSURE THAT THE RAPPORT AND UNDERSTAND1
NC

ACHIEVED AT SENIOR LEVELS OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD
ALSO

BE ESTABLISHED AT THE LOUER LEVELS.

ENCIK LEE SAID EVEN AFTER ENCIK GOH TOOK OVER AS PRIME MINISTER AT
THE END OF NEXT YEAR, HE WOULD CONTINUE TO MEET DATUK SERI DR MAHATHI
R

FROM TIME TO TIME AS NEED AROSE, ADDING THAT IT WOULD TAKE TIME FOR E
NCIK

GOH TO ESTABLISH THE SAME RAPPORT WITH THE MALAYSIAN LEADER,

ON BILATERAL ISSUES, +UE HAVE NO DIFFERENCES,+ HE SAID, BUT THE GO
OD

RELATIONSHIP AT THE TOP MUST BE MIRRORED AT THE LEVELS OF JUNIOR MINI
STERS

AND CIVIL SERVANTS, AND THIS REQUIRED EFFORT FROM BOTH COUNTRIES, FOR
INSTANCE9 OFFICIAL REACTIONS TO MEASURES ADOPTED BY EITHER COUNTRY.

HE GAVE AS AN EXAMPLE SINGAPORE'S OFFER TO THE US OF INCREASED USE
OF

MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE ISLAND REPUBLIC. -- MORE

1232MST 20 10 89

D971

U E340 AAE OAN DHC

LEE 3 SINGAPORE

ASKED IF THE RECENT FORMATION OF THE PEOPLE'S ACTION PARTY (PAP) ACTIVISTS -- A GROUP FORMED RECENTLY BY YOUNGER PARTY MEMBERS TO +DEFEND THE HONOUR AND SOVEREIGNTY+ OF THE COUNTRY AND WHICH HAD ATTACKED SEVERAL MALAYSIAN ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR CRITICISMS OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY SINGAPORE

-- WAS RAISED AT THE MEETING, HE SAID HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE GROUP WITH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

IN ANY EVENT, HE ADDED, HE WAS +NO LONGER IN CHARGE OF THE PAP AND ITS ACTIVITIES.+ ENCIK LEE IS PAP SECRETARY-GENERAL.

BUT HE SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DID MENTION THE PROBLEM CAUSED BY THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN BOTH COUNTRIES WHO, WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST, WERE MAKING COMMENTS ON EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

+I THINK THAT IS NOT VERY WISE. BOTH SHOULD REFRAIN FROM (COMMENTING ON) THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE OTHER COUNTRY,+ HE SAID.

LOOKING AHEAD, ENCIK LEE SAID THAT IF EASIER BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD

NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED AT +MIDDLE LEVELS+ BY THE TIME ENCIK GOH TOOK OVER, THE POSITION COULD BE A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE IT WOULD TAKE TIME

FOR ENCIK GOH TO FORGE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP AT THE TOP WITH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

HE SAID HE MIGHT THEREFORE HAVE TO CONTINUE MEETING DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AFTER ENCIK GOH BECAME PRIME MINISTER. STILL, HE BELIEVED, THE

YOUNGER LEADERS HAD GREATLY IMPROVED THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR MALAYSIAN AND INDONESIAN COUNTERPARTS. -- MORE

1246MST 20 10 89

D973

U E342 AAE OAN DHC

LEE 4 SINGAPORE (LAST)

+ALMOST EVERY MINISTER KNOWS HIS COUNTERPART . . . THEY MEET REGULARLY.

THEY HAVE BEEN TO-ING AND FRO-ING WITH THE INDONESIANS AND . . . WITH MALAYSIANS. THE PROBLEM NOW IS HOW TO MAKE SURE THAT THE RELATIONSHIP

HAVE WITH DRMAHATHIR AND PRESIDENT SUHARTO WILL NOT BE LOST JUST BECAUSE

I AM STEPPING DOWN FROM THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SINGAPORE OFFER TO THE US OF INCREASED USE OF MILITARY FACILITIES HERE, HE SAID THE +CONSIDERABLE EXCITEMENT+ DATUK SERI DR HAHATHIR SHOWED INITIALLY OVER THE OFFER COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED HAD HE

TOLD HIM ABOUT IT WHEN HE CALLED ON HIM LAST MARCH.

ENCIK LEE SAID HE DID NOT TALK ABOUT THE SINGAPORE OFFER DURING HIS

VISIT THEN BECAUSE DATUK SERI DR HAHATHIR HAD JUST RECOVERED FROM A CORONARY BY-PASS OPERATION AND HE DID NOT WANT TO TROUBLE HIM.

WHEN DATUK SERI DRMAHATHIR FIRST HEARD ABOUT IT IN JUNE, THERE WAS

CONSIDERABLE EXCITEMENT +BECAUSE THE STORY THAT CAHE OUT WAS THAT SOM

21000 AMERICAN TROOPS OR SOMETHING WERE GOING TO SETTLE IN SINGAPORE AND

SO ON.+

+ALL THAT LED TO A VERY EXAGGERATED (PICTURE) AND YET IT COULD HAV

E BEEN SO EASILY AVOIDED BY TWO, THREE SENTENCES IN MARCH, WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY IN THIS CASE, DID NOT TAKE PLACE,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

1254MST 20 10 89

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