

U E913 AAE
CHOGM-MAHATHIR

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 8.30PM TODAY)

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 23 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR

MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THAT COMMONWEALTH LEADERS HAVE LARGELY AGREED OVER MANY THINGS WHICH ARE OF THE GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE AND CONCERN TO THE WORLD.

+THOUGH WE DIFFERED ON SOME POINTS, LARGELY. WE AGREED WITH EACH OTHER,+

HE SAID AT A DINNER IN HONOUR OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ATTENDING THEIR BIENNIAL SUMMIT HERE.

+AND WE HAVE REALLY NO DIFFERENCES AS TO WHAT WE SHOULD DO WITH A NUMBER OF MUTUALLY HELPFUL ACTIVITIES WHICH MEANS SO MUCH TO THE LESS FORTUNATE

OF US HERE.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE CONFERENCE WAS HELD AT A MOST INTERESTING PERIOD IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD WITH MANY CHANGES TAKING

PLACE AFFECTING EVERYONE.

+HOPEFULLY WE WILL SEE A BETTER TOMORROW,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE MEETING HAD BEEN MOST ENLIGHTENING TO HIM, FOR IT WOULD BE

ANOTHER 98 YEARS BEFORE MALAYSIA COULD HOST CHOGM AGAIN. -- MORE
1900MST 23 10 89

UE913 AAE
CHOGH-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR PAID TRIBUTE TO THE OUTGOING COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL SIR SHRIDATH +SONNY+RAMPHAL WHO HAS BEEN WITH THE SECRETARIAT FOR 15 YEARS.

+SOME OF US HAD HOPED THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE AS SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR

ANOTHER TERM, BUT HE HIMSELF FELT THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO HAVE THIS SINGULAR HONOUR.+

HE SAID THAT SIR SHRIDATH WAS REGARDED BY SOME AS ALMOST AN INSTITUTION AND HE WOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THANKED SIR SHRIDATH FOR +THE WAY HE PERSUADED ME

TO RECOGNISE THE ROLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND TO GET MALAYSIA TO BE ACTIVE

AGAIN IN IT.+

+SONNY CAN BE VERY PERSISTENT WHEN HE WANTS TO AND PERSISTENCE IS A

VIRTUE FOR THE KIND OF POST LIKE THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH,+

HE SAID. -- MORE

1907MST 23 10 89

U E917 AAE
CHOGM-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO CONGRATULATED CHIEF EMEKAANYAOKU OF NIGER
IA
ON HIS ELECTION AS THE NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL EFFECTIVE FROM JULY NEXT
YEAR.

HE SAID THAT THE ELECTION OF CHIEF ANYAOKU, WHO HAS BEEN THE DEPUT
Y
SECRETARY-GENERAL SINCE 1977, WOULD ENSURE THAT CONTINUITY OF THE
SECRETARIAT WOULD BE MAINTAINED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PRESS HAD ALSO PLAYED THEIR ROLE D
URING
CHOGM.

+THEY REPORTED THE GOINGS ON AND, IN BETWEEN, SOME OF THEM TOOK SW
IPES
AT SOME OF US. IT IS A TEMPTATION THAT THEY, LIKE ALL THOSE WHO WIELD
ABSOLUTE POWER, CANNOT RESIST.+

+I SAY THIS WITH TREPIDATION FOR IN THE NEO-FEUDALIST WORLD THAT W
E LIVE IN, WE SHOULD NOT BE DISRESPECTFUL OF THOSE WHO WIELD THE REAL
POWER.+ --

BERNAMA
1909MST 23 10 89