

D605

U E456 AAE BMX
MAHATHIR - ROLE
A BERNAMA NEWS ANALYSIS BY ZAINOOR SULAIMAN

LONDON, MAY 28, (BERNAMA) -- THE SUCCESS OF THE JUST-COMPLETED TRIP BY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TO THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN HAS BROUGHT A NEW DIMENSION IN MALAYSIA'S FOREIGN DIPLOMACY.

THE FRUITFUL TALKS HE HAD HAD WITH AMERICAN PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH AND BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER CLEARLY INDICATE THE RECOGNITION BY THE TWO WORLD LEADERS OF MALAYSIA'S ACTIVE ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ARENA, ANALYSTS SAY.

PLAYING THE ROLE AS MALAYSIA'S CHIEF DIPLOMAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS RE-EMPHASISED THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS.

THE LATEST DIPLOMACY LAUNCHED BY DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR FITS WELL WITH THE COUNTRY'S POSITION IN THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL, LEADER OF GROUP 77 AND THE CHAMPION OF SOUTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, ANALYSTS SAY.

BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN ARE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR - ROLE 2 LONDON (NEWS ANALYSIS)

IN HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH OF THE UNITED STATES IN BOSTON, THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE DOMINATED.

THE AMERICAN LEADER HAS SOUGHT DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S VIEWS ON THE UNFOLDING DEVELOPMENT IN KAMPUCHEA AND THE ROLE OF PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK IN THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SAID THAT SIHANOUK IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE FIGURE AMONG THE WARRING KAMPUCHEAN FACTIONS.

PRESIDENT BUSH WHO REITERATED THE AMERICAN SUPPORT TO ASEAN POSITION IN THE RESOLUTION OF THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE REACTED POSITIVELY TO A CALL FOR MORE ASSISTANCE TO THE NON-COMMUNIST RESISTANCE FORCES IN KAMPUCHEA TO PREVENT THE POSSIBLE RETURN TO POWER OF THE KHMER ROUGE

THE KHMER PEOPLE'S NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (KPNLF) AND THE SIHANOUK FORCES HAVE TO BE STRENGTHENED TO PREVENT THEM FROM BEING +SWALLOWED+ BY KHMER ROUGE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

HE WAS CONCERNED OVER REPORTS THAT SOME GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES HAD CALLED ON THE ADMINISTRATION NOT TO SUPPORT ANY PARTIES WHICH COLLABORATED WITH THE KHMER ROUGE.

HE RE-EMPHASISED THAT THE RESOLUTION OF THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE COULD ONLY BE REALISED THROUGH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED INCLUDING THE KHMER ROUGE AND THE VIETNAMESE INSTALLED HENG SAMRIN REGIME. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR - ROLE 3 LONDON (NEWS ANALYSIS)

IN LONDON, TALKS WITH PUAN THATCHER CENTRED ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, SITUATION IN NAMIBIA AND MATTERS RELATED TO THE UPCOMING COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT WHICH MALAYSIA IS HOSTING IN KUALA LUMPUR IN OCTOBER.

PUAN THATCHER MADE THE WISE DECISION WHEN SHE REJECTED ISRAELI PREMIER YITZHAK SHAMIR'S ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE THE PALESTINIANS FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD BY ONLY WILLING TO GRANT THEM SELF GOVERNMENT ON THE WEST BANK BUT REFUSED TO RETURN THEIR LAND.

THE BRITISH LEADER AGREED WITH DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR THAT INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT LAND WAS MEANINGLESS. HE WAS HAPPY WITH BRITAIN'S LATEST POSITION IN SUPPORTING THE POSTURE ADOPTED BY THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION (PLO).

WHILE THE PLO, THE SOLE AND LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAS ADOPTED AND ABIDED BY THE CONDITIONS FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM AS OUTLINED BY THE U.N. RESOLUTIONS, TEL AVIV WAS DOING OTHERWISE.

ON THE NAMIBIAN ISSUE, PUAN THATCHER AGREED WITH DR. MAHATHIR ON THE NEED TO REINFORCED THE ROLE OF THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

IF NECESSARY, MALAYSIA WAS ALSO WILLING TO SEND MORE TROOPS TO NAMIBIA TO HELP THE U.N. FORCE ENFORCE LAW AND ORDER. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR - ROLE 4 LONDON (NEWS ANALYSIS)

THE SENDING OF MORE TROOPS MIGHT INCUR MORE EXPENSES BUT IT WAS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE U.N. MISSION.

HE SAID THE PRESENCE OF SOME 60,000 SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS AGAINST 4,500 U.N. FORCES IN SOUTH AFRICA HINDERED THE INDEPENDENT PROCESS OF NAMIBIA.

BOTH LEADERS AGREED THAT THEY WOULD DIRECT THE ISSUE TO THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL FOR FURTHER DELIBERATIONS AND ACTION.

ON BILATERAL ISSUE, MALAYSIA AND BRITIAN AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO ENABLE BOTH COUNTRIES TO SEIZE ASSETS AND PROPERTIES OF DADAH OFFENDERS.

BRITAIN RECENTLY PASSED A LAW WHICH EMPOWERS THE GOVERNMENT TO SEIZE ASSETS OF THOSE FOUND GUILTY OF DRUG PUSHING.

PUAN THATCHER ALSO PLEDGED THAT BRITAIN WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MALAYSIA TECHNICAL AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

THIS WOULD COVER EXPENSES FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND RELATED PROJECTS. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR - ROLE 5 LONDON (NEWS ANALYSIS)

MALAYSIA COULD NOW LOOK FOWARD TO A MUCH CLOSER ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES FOLLOWING A RECENT AGREEMENT TO SET UP A JOINT BODY AMONG TOP BUSINESSMEN IN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE DECISION WAS REACHED DURING A MEETING BETWEEN LEADING AMERICAN ENTEPRENEURS AND DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR IN NEW YORK -- REFLECTING THE GROWING CONFIDENCE IN MALAYSIA'S STABILITY.

THE U.S. WHICH RANKS THIRD BIGGEST INVESTOR IN MALAYSIA HAS SUBSTANTIAL STAKE IN THE MALAYSIAN INDUSTRIES BUT CONFINED MAINLY TO THE PETROLEUM AND ELECTRONICS SECTORS.

MALAYSIA WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE US INVESTMENT IN OTHER SECTORS PARTICULARLY MANUFACTURING.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DURING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE AMERICAN LEADER TO THE UNFAIR TREATMENT TO MALAYSIA BY A FEDERAL AGENCY. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR - ROLE 6 LONDON (NEWS ANALYSIS)

HE REFERRED TO THE MOVE BY US FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC) QUESTIONING THE CONTENTS OF MALAYSIAN POSTERS COUNTERING A SMEAR CAMPAIGN AGAINST PALM OIL SAYING THAT THE FINDINGS WERE NOT BASED ON KNOWN RESEARCH.

FTC HOWEVER DID NOT QUESTION THE PAMPHLETS AND POSTERS PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION CLAIMING THAT PALM OIL IS +A POISON AND HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH+.

UPON DIRECTIVE BY PRESIDENT BUSH, THE ISSUE WAS NOW BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL FOR FURTHER ACTION. --
BERNAMA

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