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U E831 AAE  
UMNO-MEMBERS R' R' R' R'  
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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 29 (BERNAMA) -- THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL TODAY DECIDED TO ACCEPT ALL MALAYS WHO APPLY TO JOIN THE PARTY DESPITE OBJECTIONS AT BRANCH OR DIVISIONAL LEVELS, PARTY PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID.

WITH THE DECISION, THE APPLICATION OF THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR JOHOR BAHRU, DATUK SHAHRIR ABDUL SAMAD, WHICH WAS EARLIER DEFERRED, HAD BEEN ACCEPTED, HE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DECISION WAS MADE BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENT STANDS TAKEN AT BRANCH AND DIVISIONAL LEVELS TOWARDS PARTICULAR APPLICATIONS AND REQUESTS TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL TO REJECT OR DEFER THE ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH BRANCHES AND DIVISIONS OBJECTED TO PARTICULAR APPLICATIONS, THE SUPREME COUNCIL WOULD STICK BY ITS DECISION TO ACCEPT ALL APPLICATIONS WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

HE ADDED: +ACTUALLY THIS HAS BEEN OUR DECISION BUT THEN THERE WERE DIFFERING STANDS AMONG BRANCHES AND DIVISIONS WHICH REQUESTED THAT THE APPLICATIONS BE DEFERRED OR REJECTED. AS SUCH TO FACILITATE THE PROCESS, THE SUPREME COUNCIL HAS ACCEPTED ALL APPLICATIONS.+ -- MORE

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D508

U E835 AAE  
UMNO-MEMBERS 2 KUALA LUMPUR R' R' R' R'

ASKED ABOUT THE POSITION OF DATUK SHAHRIR, HE SAID: +HE IS AN UMNO MEMBER BECAUSE HE HAS APPLIED (TO BE ONE).+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IF DATUK SHAHRIR HAD SINCE WITHDRAWN THE APPLICATION IT WAS A DIFFERENT MATTER +BUT AS FAR AS I KNOW HE HAS SUBMITTED HIS APPLICATION+.

ON THE STATEMENT BY DATUK SHAHRIR PUBLISHED BY NEWSPAPERS TODAY THAT HE WOULD NOT JOIN UMNO, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SUPREME COUNCIL WOULD NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT STATEMENTS MADE IN THE PRESS BUT WOULD RESPECT WHATEVER DECISION MADE BY DATUK SHAHRIR.

SO FAR THE SUPREME COUNCIL HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY LETTER FROM DATUK SHAHRIR SAYING THAT HE HAD WITHDRAWN HIS APPLICATION TO JOIN UMNO.

DATUK SHAHRIR WAS YESTERDAY REPORTED TO HAVE SAID HE WOULD REMAIN AN INDEPENDENT FOR NOW AND WOULD NOT JOIN UMNO. -- MORE

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UHNO-MEMBERS 3 KUALA LUHPUR R' R' R' R'

ON DATUK SHAHRIR'S POSITION IN THE SUPREHE COUNCIL, DATUK SERI DR HAHHTIR SAID TODAY'S MEETING DID NOT DISCUSS THE MATTER.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID APART FROM THE QUESTION OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP, THE MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED MATTERS PERTAINING TO PARTY ADMINISTRATION. HOWEVER, HE DECLINED TO ELABORATE.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE MORE THAN FIVE-HOUR MEETING! UHNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT SAID WITH THE COUNCIL'S DECISION, DATUK SHAHRIR HAD NOW BEEN ACCEPTED AS AN UHNO MEMBER AND COULD CONTEST PARTY POSTS.

HE SAID THOSE WHO HAD APPLIED TO BECOME MEMBERS BEFORE MARCH 31 WERE ELIGIBLE TO CONTEST PARTY POSTS WHILE THOSE WHO SENT IN THEIR APPLICATIONS AFTER THAT DATE COULD ATTEND MEETINGS BUT COULD NOT VOTE OR SPEAK.

DATUK HOHAHED ALSO SAID UP TO THIS MORNING HE HAD NOT RECEIVED DATUK SHAHRIR'S REPLY TO THE SUPREME-COUNCIL'S REQUEST TO EXPLAIN CERTAIN STATEMENTS MADE BY HIM DURING CAMPAIGNING FOR THE AMPANG JAYA PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION. -- MORE  
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U E 8 4 4 A A E

UHNO-MEMBERS 4 KUALA LUMPUR R' R' R' R'

DATUK HOHAHED, WHO IS INFORMATION MINISTER! SAID THE SUPREME COUNCIL BASED ITS CONSIDERATIONS ONLY ON REPORTS FROM JOHOR UHNO LIAISON COMMITTEE CHIEF TAN SRI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN WHO HAD DISCUSSED THE MEMBERSHIP QUESTION WITH DATUK SHAHRIR.

HE SAID THE JOHOR MENTERI BESAR, IN HIS REPORT, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER THE DISCUSSIONS WITH DATUK SHAHRIR AND BASED ON THAT THE COUNCIL HAD CONSIDERED DATUK SHAHRIR'S APPLICATION.

ON APPLICATIONS WHICH WERE OBJECTED TO AT BRANCH LEVEL, DATUK HOHAHED SAID THOSE WHO HAD PROOF THAT THEY HAD SUBMITTED THEIR APPLICATIONS BUT THESE HAD NOT BEEN FORWARDED TO HEADQUARTERS BY THE BRANCHES COULD BRING UP THE MATTER TO HIM FOR APPROVAL.

HOWEVER! THEY SHOULD HAVE PROOF SUCH AS PHOTOSTAT COPIES OF APPLICATIONS OR RECEIPTS BEFORE THEY COULD FILL UP NEW FORMS AND BE ACCEPTED AS MEMBERS, DATUK HOHAHED SAID. -- BERNAHA  
1705HST 29 07 89