

0299

U E652 A A E

MAHATHIR-SABAH

BY ZAKARIA ABDUL WAHAB

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, AUG 3 (BERNAMA) - - MALAYSIA AND THE PHILIPPINES HAVE AGREED TO WORK TOGETHER TO RESOLVE THE LATTER'S CLAIM TO SABAH WHICH IS AFFECTING THEIR OTHERWISE CORDIAL RELATIONS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE MET PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO HERE TODAY AND THEY AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER FURTHER. +WE PROMISED WE'LL BOTH WORK TOGETHER TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER MEETING PRESIDENT AQUINO AT THE GERUDONG GUEST HOUSE HERE,

THEY ARE HERE TO ATTEND THE CEREMONIES TO MARK THE COMING OF AGE OF THE ELDEST PRINCE OF THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI, PENGIRAN MUDA AL-MUTADEE BILLAH, 15, AT NURUL IMAN PALACE LAST NIGHT. PRESIDENT SUHARTO OF INDONESIA, SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW AND THAI PRIME MINISTER GENERAL TUN CHATCHAI CHOONHAVAN ARE ALSO HERE FOR THE CEREMONY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE AND PRESIDENT AQUINO ONLY PROMSIED TO WORK TOGETHER TO RESOLVE THE SABAH ISSUE AND THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF HOW TO GO ABOUT IT.

THE SABAH ISSUE IS A LONG-STANDING AND THORNY ONE BETWEEN THE TWO MEMBERS OF ASEAN, DATING FROM LONG BEFORE PRESIDENT AQUINO CAME TO POWER IN 1986. -- MORE

1624MST 03 08 89

U E653 A A E

MAHATHIR-SABAH 2 BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

ASKED IF THE FILIPINO LEADER LAID DOWN CONDITIONS FOR DROPPING THE CLAIM TO SABAH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +NO, WE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING1 ONLY THAT WE'LL BOTH WORK TOGETHER ON THE MATTER.+

HE ALSO SAID THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE PLAN FOR HIM TO MEET PRESIDENT AQUINO AGAIN TO DISCUSS THE SABAH ISSUE FURTHER.

PRESIDENT AQUINO HAD INITIATED A BILL TO DROP THE CLAIM TO SABAH WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BUT NOT BY THE SENATE.

COMMENTING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INTENATIONAL CONFERENCE ON KAMPUCHEA IN PARIS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +WE (ASEAN) ARE A LITTLE BIT DISSAPOINTEED WITH THE RESULTS BUT WE'RE REALISTIC.+ (SEE ITEMS E634, E635, E637, SLUGGED +MAHATHIR-KAMPUCHEA+).

HOWEVER, HE SAID, ASEAN WOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE LINE THEY HAD BEEN TAKING ALTHOUGH THEY COULD NOT RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OVERNIGHT. ASEAN HAD ALWAYS PRESSED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE 10-YEAR OLD CONFLICT, BASED ON RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS. -- MORE

1626MST 03 08 89

U E654 A A E

MAHATHIR-SABAH 3 BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

+BEFORE THE (FOUR RIVAL) FACTIONS COME TOGETHER (AFTER THE VIETNAMESE TROOPS WITHDRAWAL), THERE SHOULD BE SOME INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN ENSURING THAT THE (KAMPUCHEAN) GOVERNMENT TO BE SET UP WILL BE FAIR TO ALL,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO MET THE OTHER ASEAN LEADERS, APART FROM PRESIDENT AQUINO. -- BERNAMA

1627MST 03 08 89