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U E342 AAE
MAHATHIR-TUNKU R'R'R'

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 11 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AND TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN MET BEHIND CLOSED DOORS TODAY FOR TALKS ON MALAY UNITY AT THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE AT BUKIT TUNKU HERE.

TUNKU, WHO STEPPED DOWN AS PRIME MINISTER ON SEPT 21, 1970, IS THE ADVISER OF PARTI SEMANGAT 46, THE PARTY FORMED BY SOME FORMER LEADERS OF THE DEREGISTERED UMNO, HEADED BY FORMER TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH.

THE 30-MINUTE DISCUSSION WAS +VERY FRANK, FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL+, THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS SECRETARY, ENCIK JALALUDIN BHAUDIN TOLD WAITING REPORTERS OUTSIDE THE GATE.

+I'M SURE THE PRIME MINISTER WAS HAPPY WITH THE DISCUSSION... THERE WERE SMILES ALL THROUGH,+ HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO ELABORATE ON THE MEETING AS IT WAS A +FOUR-EYED+ TALK BETWEEN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND THE TUNKU.

+I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT THEY HAD A FRIENDLY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT OF MALAY UNITY,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-TUNKU 2 KUALA LUMPUR

YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK, WHO IS UMNO YOUTH LEADER AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER DATUK NAPSIAH OMAR, THE WANITA UMNO DEPUTY LEADER, FOLLOWED THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE TUNKU'S RESIDENCE BUT BOTH STAYED IN ANOTHER ROOM DURING THE MEETING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO ARRIVED AT 11.18 AM, SMILED AND WAVED TO REPORTERS WHO HAD GATHERED OUTSIDE THE GATE HALF AN HOUR EARLIER. ONLY PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE ALLOWED IN.

THE TUNKU, CLUTCHING A WALKING STICK IN HIS LEFT HAND, GREETED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AT THE DOOR AND THE PRIME MINISTER CLASPED AND KISSED THE TUNKU'S RIGHT HAND.

+THEY WERE VERY HAPPY TO MEET EACH OTHER,+ ENCIK JALALUDIN SAID, ADDING THAT THE TUNKU REMARKED THAT IT HAD BEEN QUITE SOME TIME SINCE THEY LAST MET.

ENCIK JALALUDIN BELIEVED THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BRIEF THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL ON THE MEETING BECAUSE +IT IS A NORMAL THING AS HE IS THE PARTY PRESIDENT+. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-TUNKU 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ASKED IF DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CONVEYED AN INVITATION TO THE TUNKU TO ATTEND THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON FRIDAY, ENCIK JALALUDDIN SAID THE INVITATION HAD BEEN HANDED BY UMNO SECRETARY GENERAL DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT LAST NIGHT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER, WHO WAS WITH ENCIK JALALUDDIN, SAID THE TUNKU CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD ATTEND THE WANITA UMNO 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ON WEDNESDAY AS WELL AS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

REPORTERS TRIED TO MEET THE TUNKU BUT WAS TOLD THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SEEING THEM TODAY. HOWEVER, RTM WAS ALLOWED TO INTERVIEW THE TUNKU AFTER THE MEETING.

NEWS ON THE MEETING BETWEEN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND TUNKU WAS WIDELY HAILED AFTER A NEWSPAPER REPORTED ABOUT IT TWO DAYS AGO.

UMNO LEADERS SAID THE MEETING WAS A STEP TOWARDS MALAY UNITY.

THE MEETING CAME ABOUT FOLLOWING AN EARLIER MEETING BY AN UMNO YOUTH DELEGATION LED BY DATUK SERI NAJIB WITH THE TUNKU ON OCT 29. THE WANITA UMNO LED BY DATUK NAPSIAH THEN MET HIM ON TUESDAY.

AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER LEFT, DATUK SERI NAJIB AND DATUK NAPSIAH MET THE TUNKU TO THANK HIM. -- BERNAMA

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