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R E196 AAE

UMNO-TUNKU

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 17 (BERNAMA) -- FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PUTRA AL-HAJ SAID TODAY HIS EFFORTS TO HELP RESTORE MALAY SOLIDARITY WERE AIMED AT BRINGING ABOUT UNITY IN THE COUNTRY AND AMONG THE PEOPLE.

+WE PLACE THE UNITY OF THE MALAYS ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE AND (THIS IS) NOT FOR PERSONAL INTEREST,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD'S POLICY SPEECH AT THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE (PWTC) HERE.

HE SAID RIVALRY AMONG UMNO FACTIONS COULD BE OVERCOME IF ALL PARTIES WERE SINCERE IN WORKING TOWARDS UNITY. THE TUNKU SAID THE LEADERS IN UMNO AND SEMANGAT 46 SHOULD HAVE DISCUSSIONS TO FINDS WAYS TO SEEK A SETTLEMENT.

THEY COULD HOLD TALKS TO FIND A SOLUTION AND RESTORE MALAY UNITY IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID.

+WE (UMNO) HAVE ONLY ONE WALL AND WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT IT SO THAT IT IS NOT DAMAGED,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
1623MST 17 11 89

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R E197 AAE

UMNO-TUNKU 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID: +IF WE GIVE PREFERENCE TO SELF INTEREST, THIS WILL NOT BRING BENEFIT BECAUSE WE CANNOT LIVE FOREVER. IN FACT, WE MAY DIE TOMORROW OR THE DAY AFTER.

+WE CAN EFFECTIVELY UNDERTAKE THESE EFFORTS (TO RESTORE UNITY) AND I AM CONFIDENT ALL MISUNDERSTANDINGS CAN BE IRONED OUT.+

ASKED WHEN SEMANGAT 46 PRESIDENT TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH WOULD MEET DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, HE SAID THIS DEPENDED ON THE UMNO PRESIDENT BECAUSE +IF INVITED, THE SEMANGAT 46 LEADER WILL COME.+

ON WHAT ROLE HE WOULD PLAY IN THE EFFORTS TO RESTORE UNITY, THE TUNKU SAID IT WAS UP TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND TENGKU RAZALEIGH.

HE SAID HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE TALKS AS HE WOULD BE LEAVING FOR MECCA. -- MORE
1626MST 17 11 89

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R E198 AAE

UMNO-TUNKU 3 KUALA LUMPUR

EXPRESSING HOP THAT THE EFFORTS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL, HE SAID: +(WE) SHOULD FIND WAYS TO WHAT EXTENT THESE EFFORTS COULD BE ACHIEVED AND TRY OUR BEST TO ENSURE THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL.+

ASKED ABOUT NEWSPAPER REPORTS TODAY QUOTING HIM AS SAYING THAT HIS MEETING WITH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS TO GET PUBLICITY FOR THE SEMANGAT 46 WHICH SELDOM RECEIVED MEDIA ATTENTION, THE TUNKU SAID: +NOW THERE ARE MOVES TO TORPEDO THESE EFFORTS (THE TALKS).

+I HAVE NOT READ TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS YET BUT THERE ARE NEWSPAPERS WHICH WRITE ALL KINDS OF THINGS AND DO NOT WANT US TO BE UNITED.+

THE TUNKU ALSO SAID HE WAS TOUCHED BY DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S POLICY SPEECH IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER PRAISED HIM AS +BAPA KEMERDEKAAN+ AND +BAPA MALAYSIA.+

HE SAID HE WAS ALSO GLAD THAT MALAYSIA WAS NOW ON PAR WITH THE OTHER COUNTRIES.

+IF BEFORE WE WERE SERFS, NOW WE ARE MASTERS IN SEVERAL FIELDS,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA
1637MST 17 11 89