

D080

U E015 AAE

MAHATHIR-SECRETS R' R' R'

BH

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 7 (BERNAMA) -- THE LEAKING OF SECRETS TO A NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY BY NINE PEOPLE, INCLUDING FIVE MILITARY OFFICERS, DID NOT JEOPARDISE NATIONAL SECURITY! DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOHAHAO SAID TODAY.

HOWEVER NO ONE WOULD LIKE IT IF THERE WERE PEOPLE SPYING ON THE COUNTRY'S SECRETS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

ASKED BY REPORTERS AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE AS TO WHETHER HE INTENDED TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE COUNTRY CONCERNED, HE SAID : +IT IS SOMETHING THAT I DON'T WANT TO SPEAK ABOUT PUBLICLY.+

HE ALSO DECLINED TO NAME THE COUNTRY INVOLVED IN PURCHASING THE GOVERNMENT'S SECRETS..

DEPUTY HOME MINISTER DATUK HEGAT JUNID MEGAT AYUB DISCLOSED IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT YESTERDAY THAT FIVE MILITARY OFFICERS AND TWO CIVIL SERVANTS AS WELL AS TWO FOREIGNERS WERE DETAINED UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT (ISA) FOR ALLEGEDLY BEING INVOLVED IN THE SALE OF NATIONAL SECRETS TO ONE OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES.

A CIVIL SERVANT WHO WAS INITIALLY DETAINED WAS LATER RELEASED, HE HAD SAID. -- HORE

2005MST 07 12 89

U E017 AAE

MAHATHIR-SECRETS 2 KUALA LUMPUR R' R' R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO HOME MINISTER, SAID AS OF NOW, ONLY THEY WERE FOUND TO BE INVOLVED IN LEAKING THE SECRETS.

ON THE CIVIL SERVANTS CONCERNED, HE SAID THEY WERE CIVILIAN OFFICERS SERVING IN THE DEFENCE MINISTRY.

ASKED WHETHER THE INCIDENT SHOWED THERE WERE WEAKNESSES IN THE DEFENCE MINISTRY, HE SAID: +IF THERE IS A LEAK, NATURALLY WE FEEL THAT SOMETHING DID NOT FUNCTION WELL.+

ASKED FOR HOW LONG THEY WOULD BE DETAINED, HE SAID THERE WAS NO TIME FRAME AS THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL INVESTIGATING THE MATTER. -- HORE

2008MST 07 12 89

U E024 AAE

MAHATHIR-SECRETS 3 KUALA LUMPUR R' R' R'

+ONCE BEFORE, MY POLITICAL SECRETARY ALSO LEAKED SECRETS, WE PUT HIM UNDER DETENTION,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

ON HIS VISIT TO SINGAPORE ON SATURDAY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS GOING THERE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE KING EDWARD VII COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

HE SAID: +I'LL BE SPEAKING AT THE FUNCTION BUT IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS! NOTHING TO DO WITH POLITICS.+

+LAST YEAR I ALSO ATTENDED A SIMILAR FUNCTION AT GENTING HIGHLANDS,+ HE ADDED.

IN MELAKA, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA SAID THE SECRETS LEAKAGE CASE WAS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LOOK INTO EXISTING REGULATIONS AND IF NECESSARY WOULD TIGHTEN THEM, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER ADDRESSING A SPECIAL UHNO BRIEFING ORGANISED BY THE KOTA MELAKA DIVISION.

ACTION OUGHT TO BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE INVOLVED AS MALAYSIA WENT BY THE LAW AND HE HOPED MALAYSIANS WOULD HAVE A LOVE FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

+PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY SHOULD NOT FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF THOSE IN WESTERN COUNTRIES AS THIS WAS NOT SUITABLE,+ HE SAID.

ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE RESIGNATION LETTERS BY THE EIGHT SELANGOR MCA ASSEMBLYMEN, ENCIK GHAFAR SAID IT WAS THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION TO TAKE. -- BERNAMA

2046MST 07 12 89