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MALAYSIA - DRUG

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 7 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA TODAY CONTRIBUTED \$50,000 TO THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S WAR ON DRUG TRAFFICKING WHICH PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID WAS A MAJOR AND TANGIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ERADICATE THE DRUG MENACE.

IN HIS LETTER TO COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT VIRGILIO VARGAS, PRESENTED ALONG WITH THE CONTRIBUTION MADE AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SALUTED THE COLOMBIAN LEADER AND THE PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS ENDEAVOURS TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKERS WITHIN THEIR COUNTRY.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE US\$20,000 (ABOUT \$50,000) CONTRIBUTION WAS MADE BY THE MALAYSIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN, DATUK RAZALI ISMAIL, TO HIS COLOMBIAN COUNTERPART. A COPY OF THE LETTER WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO BERNAMA BY WISMA PUTRA HERE TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: AS CHAIRMAN OF THE 1987 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING AND AS PRIME MINISTER OF A COUNTRY WHERE DRUGS ARE ALSO A DANGEROUS THREAT, I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT COLOMBIA DOES NOT STAND ALONE. -- HORE

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MALAYSIA - DRUG 2 KUALA LUMPUR

IN VIEW OF THIS, MALAYSIA DECIDED TO DONATE US\$20,000 TO THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA IN SUPPORT OF ITS EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE DRUG PROBLEM, HE ADDED.

THIS SHALL CONTRIBUTION IS A TOKEN OF OUR SUPPORT FOR YOUR EFFORTS AND WHICH I HOPE COULD BE USED IN SOME WAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO SO GALLANTLY GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE SCOURGE OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND THOSE WHO PROFIT BY IT, HE SAID,

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD ALSO INSTRUCTED DATUK RAZALI TO WORK WITH LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP TANGIBLE WAYS TO SUPPORT THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS.

MEANWHILE, A WISMA PUTRA SPOKESMAN SAID MALAYSIA FELT THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT STRUGGLE AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING WAS AN INTERNATIONAL BATTLE WHICH MUST INVOLVE PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

DRUG TRAFFICKERS WERE NOW OPERATING WITHOUT RESPECT FOR BOUNDARIES AND MALAYSIA WOULD CONSIDER IT AS PART OF THEIR BATTLE IF ANYBODY WERE TO FIGHT AGAINST THE DRUG PROBLEMS.

THE DRUG PROBLEM IS NOT ONLY AN INTERNAL MATTER BUT ALSO AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM AND WE WILL FIGHT IT AT EVERY LEVEL, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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