

D478

R E827 ENG MES AAE
MAHATHIR - SINGAPORE

IPOH, MARCH 11 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE ENJOY GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS DESPITE PROBLEMS WHICH OCCUR FROM TIME TO TIME.

HE SAID THIS TO REPORTERS WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FOLLOWING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS OF SINGAPORE SPYING ON MALAYSIA.

CULTURE AND TOURISM MINISTER DATUK SABBARUDDIN CHIK HAD RECENTLY QUESTIONED THE HALF-TANK RULING ON SINGAPORE VEHICLES ENTERING JOHOR BAHARU VIA THE CAUSEWAY.

THE MINISTER HAD ALSO SAID THAT A NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY WAS SABOTAGING MALAYSIA'S VISIT MALAYSIA YEAR CAMPAIGN.

+OUR RELATIONSHIP IS OKAY. OF COURSE WE DO FACE SOME PROBLEMS FROM TIME TO TIME,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

ASKED TO COMMENT WHETHER SINGAPORE'S FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GOH CHOK TONG'S ONE-DAY VISIT TO MALAYSIA LAST WEEK HAD ENHANCED BILATERAL RELATIONS, HE SAID: +IT HAS HELPED TO IMPROVE.+ HE DID NOT ELABORATE.-- MORE

1538MST 11 03 90

D481

R E829 ENG MES AAE
MAHATHIR - SINGAPORE 2 IPOH

ON THE CALL BY THE JOHOR GOVERNMENT THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPEED UP THE SIGNING OF A NEW WATER AGREEMENT WITH SINGAPORE, HE SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY AGREED TO SUPPLY WATER TO SINGAPORE.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, IT WAS A QUESTION OF +HOW MUCH YOU HAVE TO PAY BY WAY OF COMPENSATION+, ADDING THAT JOHOR WAS CLAIMING MORE THAN WHAT SINGAPORE WAS PREPARED TO PAY.

SINCE THIS WAS A COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION, BOTH PARTIES COULD NEGOTIATE FURTHER TO RESOLVE THE MATTER.

+OF COURSE WE WANT TO CHARGE THE MAXIMUM COST. IF WE CAN GET MORE WHY SHOULD WE WANT TO ACCEPT LESS,+ THE PRIME MINISTER REMARKED.

JOHOR STATE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AHMAD ABDULLAH HAD SAID ON THURSDAY THAT JOHOR DID NOT INTEND TO PRESSURE SINGAPORE INTO SIGNING A NEW AGREEMENT, WHICH INCLUDES A NEW RATE OF PAYMENTS FROM THE REPUBLIC BECAUSE IT WAS A GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT MATTER.--MORE

1544MST 11 03 90

D484

R E831 ENG MES AAE
MAHATHIR - SINGAPORE 3 IPOH

HE ALSO SAID THAT JOHOR'S APPROVAL OF THE \$200 MILLION SUNGAI LINGGAI DAM PROJECT, BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT WAS SUBJECT TO SINGAPORE'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE STATE'S NEW TERMS.

SINGAPORE NOW PAYS THREE SEN PER 4,500 LITRES OF UNTREATED WATER BOUGHT FROM JOHOR BUT UNDER THE NEW PRICING FORMULA FOR ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLIED BY JOHOR SUBMITTED IN 1988, SINGAPORE WILL HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE OF TREATED WATER FOR ALL ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLIED TO THE REPUBLIC.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SINGAPORE GETTING ITS WATER SUPPLY FROM BATAM ISLAND (INDONESIA), SAID IT WAS A MATTER FOR THE JOHOR GOVERNMENT TO EVALUATE SUCH POSSIBILITY AND WHICH ONE WAS MORE POSSIBLE AND CHEAPER.

+ALL THESE ARE COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS. I DO NOT WANT TO DISCUSS IT AND I ONLY AGREE TO SUPPLY WATER TO SINGAPORE,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE STATUS OF MALAYSIA'S NAVAL BASE IN WOODLANDS, SINGAPORE, HE SAID THE FACILITY IS MALAYSIA'S AS LONG AS IT IS USED AS A NAVAL BASE.--BERNAMA

1556MST 11 03 90