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LEAD SUMMIT - SECRETARIAT R'R'R'R'

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 1, (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA WILL CONSIDER HOSTING THE PROPOSED PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE G-15 SUMMIT IF THE OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE IN FAVOUR OF IT, FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK ABU HASSAN OMAR SAID TODAY.

+HOWEVER, WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR A PROPOSAL OR PROPOSALS FROM THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES DURING THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE SUMMIT MEETING, + HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE G-15 SUMMIT AT THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE HERE.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAD PLEDGED MALAYSIA'S SUPPORT FOR SUCH A SECRETARIAT WHEN DELIVERING HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SUMMIT. HE ALSO SAID THE SECRETARIAT NEED NOT BE ELABORATE AND COULD DO WITH A MINIMAL STAFF AND AN AUSTERE BUDGET.

+WE ARE WILLING TO HOST THE SECRETARIAT IF THERE ARE NO OBJECTIONS FROM THE OTHER COUNTRIES, + SAID DATUK ABU HASSAN.

ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROPOSED SECRETARIAT, DATUK ABU HASSAN SAID THE DELEGATIONS TO THE SUMMIT HAVE TO DISCUSS IT IN DETAILS.

HE SAID THERE WERE SEVERAL IDEAS SUCH AS GATHERING A SELECTED GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS AND OFFICERS FROM THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES, AND FOR THE HOST COUNTRY TO PROVIDE THE MANPOWER. -- MORE  
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THE G-15 COMPRISES ALGERIA, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, EGYPT, INDIA, INDONESIA, JAMAICA, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, NIGERIA, PERU, SENEGAL, VENEZUELA, YUGOSLAVIA AND ZIMBABWE.

VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REINALDO FIGUEROA SAID HIS GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT FOR THE G-15 SUMMIT, ADDING THAT VENEZUELA WAS PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY MECHANISM FOR SETTING UP THE SECRETARIAT.

HE SAID THE SUMMIT SHOULD NOT ONLY BE A PLACE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS BUT ALSO A MEETING WHERE CONCRETE PLANS OF ACTION COULD BE INITIATED TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEMS OF THE SOUTH.

MR FIGUEROA LAUDED MALAYSIA'S EFFORTS IN INITIATING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AND IN HOSTING THE ENSUING INAUGURAL SUMMIT MEETING WHICH HE

DESCRIBED AS A HISTORIC EVENT.

NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RILWANU LUKMAN SAID THE SUGGESTION BY MALAYSIA FOR THE SETTING UP OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT FOR THE G-15, INCLUDING A TRADE INFORMATION NETWORK AND THE SOUTH INVESTMENT DATA EXCHANGE

CENTRE WAS A LOGICAL MOVE BECAUSE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH DID NOT HAVE SUCH DEDICATED FACILITIES TO IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL TRADE BETWEEN THEMSELVES.

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MR LUKMAN SAID THE SITING OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT HAD TO BE DECIDED BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATION DURING THE SUMMIT.

MEANWHILE, ZIMBABWEAN FOREIGN MINISTER NATHAN SHAMUYARIRA SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHICH COUNTRY SHOULD BE THE HOST FOR THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT FOR THE G-15.

IT SHOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED IN DETAILS BY THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED,

HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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