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U E281 AAE BMX LIB
SUMMIT-DINNER

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 3 (BERNAMA) -- THE GROUP OF 15 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (G-15) IS NOT GANGING UP FOR ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVE IN CONVENING ITS INAUGURAL SUMMIT MEETING, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

+THOUGH WE ARE LEADERS OF NATIONS IN THE SOUTH, WE DO NOT MEET AS ONLY ACKNOWLEDGED LEADERS OF THE SOUTH NOR AS ITS APPOINTED SPOKESMEN,+ HE NOTED IN HIS SPEECH AT A DINNER IN HONOUR OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS AT SHANGRI-LA HOTEL HERE.

HE SAID THE G-15 WAS SIMPLY A GROUP OF LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES WHICH CAME TOGETHER TO SEE IF THEY COULD BEGIN A PROCESS TOWARDS TANGIBLE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.

+WE HAD NO SECRET AGENDA OR HIDDEN MOTIVES IN CONVENING THIS MEETING,+ HE SAID.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUMMIT SAID THE G-15 HOPED THAT THE PROCESS WOULD LEAD TO A REVITALISATION OF THE MUCH-SOUGHT-AFTER COOPERATION. -- MORE

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D480

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SUMMIT-DINNER 2 KUALA LUMPUR (LAST)

HE SAID, +COMING FROM ALL THE CORNERS OF THE SOUTH AND BEING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF NEARLY EVERY POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GROUPING IN THE SOUTH FROM ASEAN TO THE CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVES, I THINK WE ARE WELL PLACED TO THIS (COOPERATION).+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS HAD EXPLORED THE PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR COOPERATION WHICH WAS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING, ADDING THAT ALL THAT REMAINED WAS FOR THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED TO INFUSE THESE IDEAS WITH THE POLITICAL WILL TO ENABLE THEM TO BECOME A REALITY.

+JUDGING FROM OUR DISCUSSIONS THESE LAST FEW DAYS, I WOULD SAY THAT THE POLITICAL WILL IS ALREADY VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THERE WERE AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT BUT SUCH DISAGREEMENTS WERE NATURAL AND TO BE EXPECTED, ESPECIALLY AT ANY FIRST MEETING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HOWEVER THAT +IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE BEGUN A PROCESS TOWARDS HARMONISING OUR SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS AND OF SEEKING WAYS TO BRING TO BEAR THE COLLECTIVE WEIGHT OF THE SOUTH IN SUPPORT OF POLICIES WHICH INDIVIDUALLY WE COULD NOT HOPE TO PURSUE WITH SUCCESS.

HE SAID +THE EXPERIENCE WE HAVE GAINED FROM ORGANISING THIS CONFERENCE HAS CONVINCED ME MORE THAN EVER THAT CULTURAL, LINGUISTIC AND EVEN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DIFFERENCES ARE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE BARRIERS TO COOPERATION THAT

THEY ARE MADE OUT TO BE.+ -- BERNAMA
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