

D814

U E699 AAE
MAHATHIR-GSP R'R'R'
BM

KULIM, JULY 14 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DESCRIBED THE ATTEMPT BY UNITED STATES CONGRESSMEN TO DENY MALAYSIA AID AND GSP (GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES) PRIVILEGES OVER ITS POLICY ON VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AS A THREAT WHICH WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO MALAYSIA.

+THIS IS OUR COUNTRY, WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHO CAN COME IN AND WHO CANNOT,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AT SEKOLAH MENENGAH LABU BESAR HERE THIS EVENING.

-- MORE

2149MST 14 07 90

D819

U E700 AAE
MAHATHIR-GSP 2 KULIM R'R'R'

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS IN REPOSE TO NEWS REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT U.S. CONGRESSMEN WERE PLANNING LEGISLATION TO BAR MALAYSIA FROM GETTING AID AND TO REMOVE IT FROM A LIST OF COUNTRIES RECEIVING PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP).

REPUBLICAN RESEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DUNCAN HUNTER RECOMMENDED ON THURSDAY THAT THE UNITED STATES CUT OFF AID AND DENY TRADE PREFERENCES TO MALAYSIA UNLESS IT REINSTATE ITS STATUS AS A COUNTRY OF FIRST ASYLUM AND STOPPED PUSHING VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AWAY FROM ITS SHORES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA WOULD NOT REDIRECT VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AWAY FROM ITS SHORES IF THE UNITED STATES COULD GUARANTEE THAT IT WOULD TAKE THEM. -- MORE

2159MST 14 07 90

D822

U E701 AAE
MAHATHIR-GSP 3 KULIM R'R'R'

+IF THEY CAN GUARANTEE THAT EVERY VIETNAMESE REFUGEE WAS ONLY STOPPING IN MALAYSIA ON TRANSIT TO THE UNITED STATES, WE CAN THEN ACCEPT THEM...ONE MILLION ALSO WE WILL ACCEPT THEM,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE UNITED STATES WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT ONLY SOME OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO REACHED THIS COUNTRY AND THERE WERE MOREOVER MANY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH WERE NOT AT ALL WILLING TO ACCEPT THEM.

+THEY (THE UNITED STATES) HAD ONCE WANTED TO PUSH INTO THE SEA REFUGEES FROM TAHITI....AND IMMIGRANTS FROM MEXICO.+

+WHY ARE THEY ANGRY WITH US? WE HAVE NEVER CRITICISED THEM...,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. -- MORE
2211MST 14 07 90

D823

U E702 AAE
MAHATHIR-GSP 4 KULIM R'R'R'

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IF MALAYSIA'S POLICY ON REDIRECTING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WAS THE EXCUSE TO WITHDRAW THE GSP PRIVILEGES THEN IT WAS UNFAIR BECAUSE IT WOULD CAUSE 130,000 WORKERS IN THIS COUNTRY TO SUFFER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO DISCLOSED THAT HE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH URGING MALAYSIA NOT TO DRIVE AWAY VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND THAT HE HAD REPLIED THAT LETTER.

IN HIS REPLY TO PRESIDENT BUSH, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID MALAYSIA HAD NOT ONLY TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES BUT ALSO THE BURDEN ARISING FROM THE ENTRY INTO THIS COUNTRY OF 700,000 FILIPINOS AND INDONESIANS. -- MORE
2225MST 14 07 90

0824

U E703 AAE
MAHATHIR-GSP 5 KULIM R'R'R'

+THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ORIGINATED FROM THE WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES FORCES FROM THAT COUNTRY AS SUCH THEY SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

+IF THEY ACCEPT THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, WHO WERE ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF THE POPULATION OF THAT COUNTRY..IF THEY ARE WILLING TO TAKE THE REFUGEES THEN THEY CAN SETTLE THEM IN GUAM WHICH WAS THEIR OWN TERRITORY,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
2237MST 14 07 90

0826

U E704 AAE
MAHATHIR-GSP 6 KULIM R'R'R'

EARLIER WHEN ADDRESSING ABOUT 8,000 PEOPLE AT THE SEKOLAH KEBANGSAAN MALAU PADANG IN THE BALING DISTRICT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID NO OTHER PARTY HAD THE CAPACITY TO FORM A STRONG GOVERNMENT OTHER THAN THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

HE SAID OPPOSITION PARTIES REALISED THAT THEY COULD NOT FORM A GOVERNMENT ON THEIR OWN AND THEREFORE HAD TO SET UP THE +BARISAN TIRUAN+ (BARISAN IMITATION). -- MORE
2245MST 14 07 90

0830

U E706 AAE
MAHATHIR-GSP 7 KULIM R'R'R'

HE SAID PAS HAD DEVIATED A LOT FROM ITS ORIGINAL POLICIES WHILE THE DAP'S STRENGTH DEPENDED ON EXTREMIST FACTIONS IN THE CHINESE COMMUNITY.

PARTI SEMANGAT 46 HAD TO LOOK FOR SUPPORT FROM AMONG FORMER ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND PEOPLE WHO DID NOT GET A PLACE IN UMNO, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

EARLIER THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS WIFE WERE GIVEN A ROUSING WELCOME ON THEIR ARRIVAL HERE.

AT THE FUNCTION AT THE SCHOOL, THE PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED APPLICATION FORMS FROM 50 FORMER PAS MEMBERS FROM KAMPUNG TOK SIN IN THE MUKIM OF BAKAI, MALAU, TO JOIN UMNO. -- BERNAMA
2250MST 14 07 90