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MAHATHIR-ELECTION

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KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 8 (BERNAMA) -- COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL CHIEF EMEKA ANYAOKU HAS NO OBJECTION TO SEND A TEAM TO OBSERVE THE CONDUCT OF THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH CHIEF ANYAOKU AT A MEETING IN LONDON ON HIS WAY BACK FROM A FIVE-DAY VISIT TO VENEZUELA.

+I EXPLAINED TO HIM WHAT IS MEANT BY OBSERVERS BECAUSE THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF CONFUSION REGARDING IT,+ HE SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN SUBANG NEAR HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT AS OBSERVERS THE TEAM DID NOT HAVE THE SAME SCOPE OF DUTIES AS A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IN ASSESSING THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTION IN THE COUNTRY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT WRITTEN OFFICIALLY TO CHIEF ANYAOKU ON THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO INVITE OBSERVERS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH. -- MORE

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D386

U E588 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ELECTION 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THIS WAS BECAUSE SEVERAL PEOPLE INCLUDING OPPOSITION CHIEF ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG HAD REQUESTED THAT A MEETING FIRST BE HELD WITH HIM TO DISCUSS THE INVITATION AND THE SCOPE OF DUTIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVERS, HE ADDED.

ON THE DISMISSAL OF PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER PUAN BENAZIR BHUTTO BY PRESIDENT GHULAM ISHAQ KHAN ON MONDAY, HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES HAD NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY CONCERNED.

+IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE LAW OF THAT COUNTRY ITSELF ... IF ITS PRESIDENT IS VESTED WITH THE POWER TO SACK THE PRIME MINISTER, WE CANNOT OPPOSE IT,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS UP TO PAKISTAN TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM ON ITS OWN, HE SAID.

ON HIS VISIT TO VENEZUELA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IT WAS FRUITFUL AND HOPED TO FURTHER PROMOTE COOPERATION NOT ONLY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT ALSO COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH.

HE PROPOSED THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE COUNTRY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES TO EXPAND COOPERATION WITH BUSINESS PARTNERS IN VENEZUELA. -- BERNAMA

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