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MAHATHIR-ARAB R'R'R'

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JITRA, AUG 2 4 (BERNAMA) PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY MALAYSIA WILL RUSH TROOPS TO SAUDI ARABIA ONLY IF THE HOLY CITY OF HEKAH AND MADINAH ARE ENDANGERED.

OTHERWISE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DESPATCH HALAYSIAN SERVICEMEN TO THAT COUNTRY, NOW EMBROILED IN THE LATEST GULF CRISIS, ONLY UPON REQUEST AND APPROVAL BY THE UNITED NATIONS.

+WE WILL RUSH HELP IF HEKAH AND MADINAH ARE THREATENED, OTHERWISE, MALAYSIA WILL ABIDE BY UN DECISIONS,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE NATIONAL-LEVEL RELA SERVICE HONTH AT SEKOLAH MENENGAH SRI MAHAWANGSA HERE.

HE SAID MALAYSIA WOULD ONLY RESPOND TO UN'S REQUESTS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS IT HAD DONE TO HELP IN UN PEACEKEEPING IN THE CONGO AND OBSERVATION OF THE IRAN-IRAQ CEASEFIRE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS A TWO-DAY VISIT TO THE STATE, DEEPLY REGRETTE THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT'S HASTY DECISION TO SEEK MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES AND NOT FROM OTHER MUSLIM NATIONS IN FACING THE CRISIS FOLLOWING THE IRAQI INVASION AND ANNEXATION OF KUWAIT.-- HORE

1300MST 24 08 90

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MAHATHIR-ARAB 2 JITRA R'R'R'

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ALTHOUGH BEING AWARE OF THE SAUDI PREDICAMENT, THE UN COULD NOT ACT FAST AS IT HAD TO GET MEMBERS' CONSENSUS FIRST.

+WE APPRECIATE THE PRESSURE BUILDING ON THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT WHICH IS TRYING TO SECURE WHATEVER HELP THAT COMES ALONG FAST AS IT COULD NOT DEFEND THE COUNTRY ON ITS OWN,+ SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

SAUDI ARABIA IS IN SUCH A PREDICAMENT BECAUSE IT LACKED A STRONG MILITARY, HE SAID.

IN SOME RICH COUNTRIES THE PEOPLE WERE NOT WILLING TO DIE FOR THE NATION AND FOREIGN MERCENARIES HAD TO BE ENGAGED TO KEEP PEACE, HE SAID.

MERCENARIES COULD NOT GUARANTEE A NATION'S SECURITY AS THEY ONLY CARED ABOUT THE MONEY, HE SAID.

IN THIS CONTEXT, HE URGED MALAYSIANS TO BE PREPARED TO FACE CHALLENGES TO PRESERVE THE NATION'S PEACE AND PROSPERITY. -- HORE

1300MST 24 08 90

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MAHATHIR-ARAB 3 JITRA 9' 9' 9'

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID RELA -- THE PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEER CORPS -- HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PRESERVE PEACE TO COMPLEMENT THE TASK UNDERTAKEN BY THE POLICE AND THE MILITARY,

AS SUCH IT MUST OPERATE AS PARA-MILITARY CORPS WITH DISCIPLINED MEMBERS BECAUSE WITHOUT DISCIPLINE A UNIT COULD BE EASILY DEFEATED DURING CRISIS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS HOME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE MUST BEAR IN MIND THAT THE PEACE THE NATION WAS ENJOYING MIGHT NOT LAST IF NOT PRESERVED.

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER ACCOMPANIED BY RELA DIRECTOR-GENERAL, RAMLI ABDUL RAHMAN, INSPECTED A GUARD OF HONOUR MOUNTED BY 99 OFFICERS AND MEN UNDER TERENGGANU RELA DIRECTOR KAPT (B) HUSSEIN MOHAMAD.

SOME 1,500 RELA MEMBERS FROM 14 STATES ATTENDED THE LAUNCHING OF THE SERVICE MONTH WHICH WAS AIMED AT, AMONG OTHERS THINGS, FAMILIARISING THEM WITH RELA'S LATEST STRATEGY REQUIRING THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN NATION BUILDING EFFORTS.

DURING THE MONTH, RELA MEMBERS BUILD HOMES FOR THE NEEDY, DONATE BLOOD AND BUILD RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS FLUSH TOILETS.

AT THE LAUNCH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR RECEIVED SCHOOL UNIFORMS DONATED BY RELA TO 150 POOR CHILDREN IN KUBANG PASU DISTRICT FROM STATE DEPUTY EDUCATION DIRECTOR ABDULLAH BAKRI. --- BERNAMA

1340MST 24 08 90