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MAHATHIR-JORDAN

ALOR SETAR, AUG 24 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA WILL ASK JORDAN TO ALLOW PASSAGE FOR THE LAST BATCH OF HALAYSIANS WAITING TO LEAVE BAGHDAD FOR HOME FOLLOWING THE GULF CRISIS, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY .

--- HE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HELP. DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE SULTAN ABDUL HALIM AIRPORT HERE BEFORE RETURNING TO KUALA LUMPUR AFTER A TWO-DAY VISIT TO KEDAH.

HE WAS REPLYING TO QUERIES FROM REPORTERS FOLLOWING PRESS REPORTS THAT JORDAN HAD CLOSED ITS BORDER WITH IRAQ, THUS HAMPERING EVACUATION OF FOREIGNERS FROM IRAQ AND IRAQ-OCCUPIED KUWAIT THROUGH AMMAN, THE JORDANIAN CAPITAL.

THE HALAYSIANS IN BAGHDAD INCLUDE 44 DIPLOMATIC STAFF AND THEIR DEPENDANTS AND 25 OTHER MALAYSIANS, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT WAN HUSSEIN WAN MOHAMED, AND SEVERAL OTHER EMBASSY STAFF AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THESE MALAYSIANS WOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE BAGHDAD SAFELY LIKE THE TWO PREVIOUS BATCHES. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-JORDAN 2 ALOR SETAR

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR VISITED THE UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA (UUM) CAMPUS IN SINTOK, ABOUT 30KM FROM HERE. THE UNIVERSITY WILL BEGIN TO ADMIT STUDENTS FOR THE 1990/1991 SESSION FROM SEPT 15.

ASKED ABOUT THE CAMPUS, HE SAID THAT IN THE PAST 20 MONTHS MANY MAIN BUILDINGS HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED, TO ACCOMMODATE LECTURE ROOMS AND HOSTELS.

MORE THAN \$500 MILLION HAD BEEN SPENT TO BUILD THE CAMPUS, HE SAID AND REHINDED THE STUDENTS SELECTED FOR COURSES THERE THAT THEY ENJOYED THE FACILITIES THROUGH THE SACRIFICES MADE BY THE PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER INCLUDING THE HALAYSIAN LABOUR ORGANISATION (MLO) IN THE NATIONAL LABOUR ADVISORY COUNCIL IF THE BODY COULD PROVE THAT IT HAD THE SUPPORT OF WORKERS.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER EVERY ORGANISATION WHICH REPRESENTS WORKERS. IF THE WORKERS CHOOSE A PARTICULAR ORGANISATION IT IS THEIR RIGHT, + HE SAID.

+IF MANY WORKERS SUPPORT THE MLO, THEN THE HTUC (MALAYSIAN TRADES UNION CONGRESS) CANNOT SAY THAT IT IS THE ONLY ORGANISATION THAT HAS THE RIGHT TO REPRESENT WORKERS. IT IS NOT THE RIGHT OF THE MTUC, IT IS THE RIGHT OF THE WORKERS, + HE ADDED. -- BERNAHA
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