

R E235 AAE
MAHATHIR-KOREA
BM

MELAKA, SEPT 3⁹⁰ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DENIED RUMOURS THAT HE WOULD CANCEL HIS VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK TO HOLD THE GENERAL ELECTION. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT NEGLECT HIS DUTIES OVERSEAS EVEN IF HE HAD MUCH WORK TO BE DONE IN THE COUNTRY.

+IN SHORT, I WILL NOT REST. IF I HAVE MUCH WORK TO BE DONE IN THE COUNTRY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT I WILL NOT GO OVERSEAS BUT JUST BECAUSE I HAVE MUCH WORK IN THE COUNTRY DOES NOT MEAN THE GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD SOON,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER ADDRESSING A GATHERING AT THE EXPO CENTRE IN AIR KEROH NEAR HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE WITH HIS VISITS TO THE STATES TO BRIEF LEADERS OF UMNO AND THE BARISAN NASIONAL AFTER HIS RETURN FROM SOUTH KOREA.

HOWEVER, HE SAID HE HAD YET TO DECIDE IF HE WOULD ATTEND THE UNITED NATIONS' GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MONTH, ADDING THAT HE WOULD ATTEND IF NECESSARY. -- MORE
2100MST 03 09 90

R E241 AAE
MAHATHIR-KOREA 2 MELAKA

+IF I FEEL THAT I SHOULD GO, I WILL GO. IF I FEEL THAT I SHOULD BE IN THE COUNTRY ATTENDING TO DOMESTIC MATTERS, I WILL NOT GO. THIS I HAVE NOT DECIDED YET.

+THEREFORE, THE PEOPLE CANNOT MAKE ANY PREDICTION. EVEN IF I WERE TO GO, I MAY CALL A GENERAL ELECTION AFTER MY RETURN,+ HE SAID. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD DEFINITELY GIVE PRIORITY TO DOMESTIC RATHER THAN EXTERNAL MATTERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SOME PEOPLE HAD PREDICTED THAT THE DEWAN RAKYAT WOULD BE DISSOLVED TODAY, THE GENERAL ELECTION WOULD BE HELD ON SEPT 15 AND THE FOLLOWING DAY (SEPT 16) A NEW PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE DECLARED.

ON HIS SERIES OF VISITS, HE SAID THEY DID NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE WORK PERFORMANCE OF THE PEOPLE. IN FACT, HE ADDED, THE NATIONAL ECONOMY CONTINUED TO GROW WITH REPORTS INDICATING THAT IT WOULD ACHIEVE DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH.

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2130MST 03 09 90

R E248 AAE
MAHATHIR-KOREA 3 MELAKA

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD NO WORRY ABOUT HIS HEALTH BECAUSE HE TOOK CARE OF IT, ADDING THAT HIS DOCTOR WIFE ALSO GAVE PRIORITY TO IT.

ASKED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE TO INVITE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVERS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD WRITTEN TO OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES TO SEEK THEIR VIEWS BUT HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY REPLY.

HE SAID: +WE WROTE TO THE OPPOSITION PARTIES THROUGH (PARTI SEMANGAT 46 SECRETARY-GENERAL) DATUK HAJI SUHAIMI (KAMARUDDIN) WHO CLAIMED TO REPRESENT THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, ASKING WHETHER THEY AGREED TO THE INVITING OF OBSERVERS FROM COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES. SO FAR, I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY REPLY.+

ADDRESSING THE GATHERING, THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED THE PEOPLE TO UNITE TO END THE +POLITICAL CAREER+ OF PARTI SEMANGAT 46 PRESIDENT TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION. -- MORE
2150MST 03 09 90

R E249 AAE
MAHATHIR-KOREA 4 MELAKA

HE SAID TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAD CONTRADICTED HIMSELF IN HIS STATEMENTS TO PAS AND THE DAP ON THE FUTURE CHIEF MINISTER OF PULAU PINANG IF THE OPPOSITION CAME TO POWER.

HE SAID THE PARTI SEMANGAT 46 LEADER HAD PROMISED PAS THAT HE WOULD APPOINT A MALAY AND TOLD THE DAP THAT HE WOULD GIVE THE POST TO A CHINESE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID TENGKU RAZALEIGH WAS PREPARED TO MAKE ALL KINDS OF PLEDGES TO THE PEOPLE BECAUSE HE (TENGKU RAZALEIGH) FEARED THAT PARTI SEMANGAT 46 WOULD BECOME EXTINCT LIKE PARTI NEGARA AND THE IMP (INDEPENDENCE OF MALAYA PARTY) OF THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE ERA.

THIS AFTERNOON, THE PRIME MINISTER, HIS WIFE AND DELEGATION OF BN LEADERS HAD LUNCH AND A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH STATE BN LEADERS AT +SERI BENDAHARA+, THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER.

LATER, THE PRIME MINISTER OPENED THE SERI SIANTAN FLATS COSTING ABOUT \$10.4 MILLION AT BUKIT BARU HERE. -- MORE
2155MST 03 09 90

R E253 AAE
MAHATHIR-KOREA 5 MELAKA

IN HIS SPEECH, DATUK SERI DR SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE PROUD OF THIS COUNTRY WHICH HE SAID WAS MORE BEAUTIFUL AND DEVELOPED THAN EVER.

HE SAID THE DESIGNS OF HOUSES IN THE COUNTRY WERE COMPARABLE WITH THOSE IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DELEGATION WERE MCA PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR LING LIONG SIK, MIC PRESIDENT DATUK SERI S. SAMY VELLU, GERAKAN PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR LIM KENG YAIK, SARAWAK CHIEF MINISTER TAN SRI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD, PARTI BANSAR DAYAK SARAWAK PRESIDENT DATUK LEO MOGGIE AND UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT. -- BERNAMA
2157MST 03 09 90