

MAHATHJR-RELA

BM

90
KUALA LUMPUR, JAN 13 (BERNAMA) - - DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD **CONTINUE** TO STRENGTHEN THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY AND DEFENCE FORCES EVEN THOUGH THERE IS PEACE IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THE STRENGTH OF COUNTRY'S **EXISTING** SECURITY AND DEFENCE FORCES WAS IN FACT **MINIMAL** IF ONE CONSIDERED THE STRENGTH REQUIRED BY A DEVELOPING COUNTRY.

THE LAYING-DOWN OF **ARMS** BY THE **COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM)** MIGHT REDUCE DUTIES OF THE ARMED FORCES AND POLICE BUT THERE WERE MANY OTHERS REQUIRING THEIR **SERVICES**, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER INSPECTING THE NATIONAL LEVEL PARADE BY RELA **MEMBERS** HERE.

IN HIS SPEECH, THE **PRIME MINISTER** SAID ' IN SPITE OF THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE SECURITY **FORCES FOLLOWING CPM'S END OF ARMED STRUGGLE**, THEY SHOULD REMAIN VIGILANT AT ALL TIMES.

+THE EXPERIENCE DURING THE **41-YEAR COMMUNIST INSURGENCY IS** VERY USEFUL IN OUR EFFORT TO SAFEGUARD THE COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY,+ HE SAID. - - **MORE**

1559MST 13 01 90

0435

R E476 AAE

MAHATHIR-RELA 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE **PRIME MINISTER** SAID **WITH THE CHANGING ROLE ALSO**, RELA MEMBERS COULD NOW HELP THEIR RESPECTIVE STATES IN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

HE SUGGESTED THAT STATE GOVERNMENTS AND RELEVANT AGENCIES DEPLOYED RELA **MEMBERS** IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SUCH AS THAT ON ERADICATING POVERTY **AMONG RURAL PEOPLE**.

THIS SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS TAKING **ADVANTAGE** OF RELA **MEMBERS** BUT WAS MORE INTENDED TO INCULCATE THE SPIRIT OF **SERVING** THE COUNTRY AMONG THEM, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO RETAIN RELA REFLECTED THE TRUST IT HAD IN THE **ORGANISATION** IN SECURITY AND DEFENCE MATTERS WHETHER IN **TIME** OF PEACE OR OTHERWISE.

HE SAID THE **HOME** MINISTRY HAD TAKEN STEPS TO FORMULATE SEVERAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEER CORPS AS ONE OF COUNTRY'S SECURITY MACHINERIES, -- **MORE**
1601MST 13 01 90

0435

RE483 A A E

MAHATHIR-RELA 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE **PRIME MINISTER** ALSO SAID EVERY RELA **MEMBER MUST BE VIGILANT** AGAINST THREAT TO PEACE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS AND BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE THE TASK OF **ELIMINATING** SUCH THREAT WHEN DIRECTED TO.

ON **FORMER CPM MEMBERS**, HE SAID THAT UNLIKE THE THAI **GOVERNMENT**, THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT **GIVE THEM** SPECIAL TREATMENT INCLUDING THE GRANTING OF LAND.

HE SAID THOSE **WISHING** TO GO-BACK TO **MALAYSIA** WOULD STILL BE 'SUBJECTED TO THE COUNTRY'S LAW AND THIS WAS NOT UNUSUAL

THE **GOVERNMENT**, HE SAID, APPRECIATED THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT IN ENDING THE **CPM** THREAT BECAUSE BOTH PARTIES SHOULDERED THE BURDEN OF THE THREAT. EVEN THOUGH THE CPM ONLY OPPOSED **MALAYSIA**, ITS ACTIVITIES ALSO CAUSED PROBLEH TO THAILAND,, HE **..SAID..**

HE SAID THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO HELPED **MALAYSIA** A LOT DURING OPERATIONS AGAINST **COMMUNIST** TERRORISTS AND IT WOULD BE +RUDE FOR US NOT TO APPRECIATE THEIR CO-OPERATION.+

THE **PARADE**, HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH RELA DAY, WAS MOUNTED BY **560** RELA OFFICERS AND HEN **FROM** THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE PARADE COHANDER WAS **JOHOR** RELA DIRECTOR ENCIK **MOHAMED NOH AHMAD**. -- **BERNAMA**