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MUSTAPHA-MAHATHIR  
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KOTA KINABALU, JAN 19 (BERNAMA) -- USNO PRESIDENT TUN DATU HAJI MUSTAPHA DATU HARUN TODAY SAID MALAYSIA SHOULD BE PROUD BECAUSE IT HAS A DYNAMIC AND WISE LEADER IN PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD.

-----@"-S-AID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS A STATESMAN WHO HAD ACTED FAIRLY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR.

HE SAID THE PRAISES AND SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO USNO DID NOT MEAN THAT HE WAS SIDING USNO.

TUN DATU HAJI MUSTAPHA TOLD REPORTERS HERE THAT A CLEAR PROOF WAS THE WILLINGNESS OF THE PRIME MINISTER TO ASSIGN OFFICIAL DUTIES TO FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK MUSA HITAM RECENTLY.

+THIS CLEARLY PROVES THAT HE ACTED FAIRLY, DOES NOT PRACTISE FAVOURITISM AND GIVES PRIORITY TO UNITY TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE  
2050MST 19 01 89

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R E475 ENG  
MUSTAPHA-MAHATHIR 2 KOTA KINABALU

HE ALSO SAID MALAYSIA HAD ACHIEVED PROGRESS UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER'S LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY AND GAINED RECOGNITION BOTH AT HOME AND AT INTERNATIONAL-LEVEL.

HE SAID THE SUCCESS OF THE NATIONAL CAR, PROTON SAGA, PROJECT, THE LAYING DOWN OF ARMS BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM) AND THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM) WERE SUFFICIENT TO DEMONSTRATE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S LEADERSHIP QUALITIES.

HE COMMENDED THE PRIME MINISTER FOR HIS SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE 22ND USNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY YESTERDAY WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS CONSTRUCTIVE AND DYNAMIC.

ON THE ABSENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE RULING PARTY, PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS), AT THE OPENING CEREMONY; HE SAID THAT INVITATIONS HAD BEEN SENT TO CHIEF MINISTER DATUK SERI JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN BUT HE DID NOT ATTEND.

+WE HAVE SENT THE INVITATIONS, IF THEY DO NOT WANT TO COME IT IS UP TO THEM. EVEN IF THEY WANT TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES FROM A BRANCH IT IS ALL RIGHT,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA  
2052MST 19 01 89