

CNS9351

U GE 27-07 00169 EA947

aae

Mahathir-Indonesia '''

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, July 27, (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there was no special message in his letter to President Suharto apart from wishing to strengthen relations between the two countries.

+There is no issue, nothing specific,+ he told a press conference after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting here today.

The Prime Minister was asked on the content of the letter to President Suharto, which was delivered by the Deputy Prime Minister Encik Ghafar Baba who visited Jakarta yesterday.

Asked whether the letter touched on the issue of the Malaysian islands of Sipadan and Ligitan which were claimed by Indonesia, he said the matter was one of the topics discussed by Encik Ghafar . .

Encik Ghafar told reporters in Jakarta yesterday, that his visit was to deliver the letter from the Prime Minister and at the same time to discuss matters of bilateral interests with the Indonesian leader.

-- more

♥27/07/17-38MST

CNS9361

U GE 27-07 00137 EA949

aae

Mahathir-Indonesia 2 Kuala Lumpur '''

Replying to a question, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir rejected notions that the Japanese suggestion that the Post Ministerial Meeting discuss issues on security was a compromise for Japan to accept the proposal for the setting up of East Asia Economic Group (EAEG)

+ No, it has nothing to do with EAEG. Its not a give and take or compromise,+ he said.

He said Japan was free to express its views on the matter at the Post Ministerial meeting.

Malaysia's views and those of the Asean member countries was that PMC could be used to discuss security matters but not solely for that purpose.

Japan is among the seven dialogue partners having annual meeting with ASEAN foreign ministers. -- Bernama

♥27/07/17-58MST