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POSITIVE RESPONSE TO PM'S SPEECH AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Abdullah - speech

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SUBANG, Oct 9th (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech at the recent United Nations (UN) General Assembly in New York drew positive response from Third World countries but a mixed reaction from the developed world.

Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said that on the whole, however, all the leaders respected the conviction shown by Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir in his speech.

+The Prime Minister's speech touched on topics which struck a chord among the leaders of many countries, particularly those from developing nations, + he told reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport here today on his return after attending the UN General Assembly in New York.

He said the mixed reaction from the developed world was probably due to the fact that the thrust of the Prime Minister's speech was directed at the stance and attitude adopted by developed countries.

But not all of the Prime Minister's views were rejected by leaders of developed countries, he said, adding that some of them agreed that several of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's views deserved recognition. -- more.

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Speech 2 Subang

Datuk Abdullah also said that next week's Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe was expected to pass a resolution allowing for people-to-people relations with South Africa.

He said the resolution, forwarded by Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers after their recent meeting in New Delhi, India, would be discussed in detail first.

He said the move to allow people-to-people relations with South Africa, however, did not mean that trade was allowed with that country.

+Business contacts can be established but no trade agreements can be implemented until all economic sanctions against South Africa are withdrawn, + he said. -- Bernama.

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