

CNS3139

R GE 05-12 00242 EF661

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ATTENTION EDITORS: Correction

In item E162 slugged +Mahathir-OJC+ pls read in third graf in Senegal next week...RPT... in Senegal. next week. and not as sent.. Herewith rptn.

MALAYSIA DOES NOT WANT THE IRAQIS TO CONTINUE SUFFERING

Mahathir-OJC

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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- Malaysia does not want the people of Iraq to continue suffering as a result of economic sanctions imposed on that country following the Gulf War, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

The people of that country should not be punished for the mistakes committed by their government, he told reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang near here on his return after attending the G-15 summit in Caracas, Venezuela.

+We feel that in this age we should not punish the people for the crimes that might have been committed by their government,+ he said when asked on Malaysia's stand on the question of economic sanctions imposed on Iraq by the United Nations. The matter will be discussed at the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Senegal next week.

+We should not block food supply and other essential goods for the people even though we do not like their government,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir however said that Malaysia had to study the question of economic sanctions against Iraq before making a decision. --
more

▼05/12/23-27MST

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Mahathir-OIC 2 Kuala Lumpur

+We have to study it first ... We cannot say that it will be lifted but whatever we do at all we should not involve the innocent people,+ he said.

He said that it was necessary to study the matter because Malaysia did not wish to see the possibility of revenue derived by that country from free trade to be used to cause tension to the situation in West Asia.

Deputy Prime Minister Encik Ghafar Baba left for Senegal tonight to attend the five-day OIC meeting beginning Sunday.

Asked to comment on the report that the Sarawak government plans to reduce logging, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that it was a good move but reminded that such measures should not cause the people to lose jobs or to earn less.

+We feel that the developed countries that are buying tropical woods should pay a higher price so that our income will not be reduced and timber could be saved,+ he said. -- more

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Mahathir-OIC 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that the question of environment including the United Nations Conference on Environment. Development to be held in Brazil next year was also discussed with other G-15 leaders at Caracas.

+We agreed that we should have a common stand but Malaysia did not declare whether or not to attend (the conference in Brazil),+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that generally the G-15 summit in Caracas was a success because consensus had been reached on several political and economic issues by the 11 heads of government attending the summit.

He said that although some heads of member countries did not attend the summit, it was for reasons that could not be avoided.

He added that foreign ministers of the member countries would study the criteria for countries to be admitted as members following a proposal made at the summit to increase its membership.

Encik Ghafar and Cabinet ministers were present at the airport to greet Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Ali, --
Bernama

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