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Attention editors ''''

Repetition inserting dropped words

MALAYSIA FEARS VIOLENCE BREAKING OUT IN THE SOVIET UNION

Mahathir - Soviet, ''

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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1.0 (Bernama) -- Malaysia fears violence may erupt in the Soviet Union if its economy is not rehabilitated, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Soviet people, particularly now unemployed members of the armed forces, would get more and more restless if the severe economic problems continued unresolved, he said.

+The important thing now is not the question of separation but the question of reviving the economy, + he told reporters when commenting on the upheaval in the Soviet Union which is facing disintegration.

Yesterday, three Soviet republics -- Russia, Byelorussia and the Ukraine which controlled 70 percent of the economy and accounted for 70 per cent of the Soviet Union's population -- formed a commonwealth and declared that the Soviet Union ceased to exist.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he had anticipated that such a development would take place. -- more

♥10/12/18-47MST

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Mahathir - Soviet: 2 Kuala Lumpur ''

Asked whether Malaysia would recognise the commonwealth formed by the three republics, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the question of recognition did not arise at present.

Nevertheless Malaysia would have relations with all former republics of the Soviet Union, he said after 'flagging off the Commonwealth Games Support Run 1998 at Merdeka Square here.

On his talks with Australia's Minister of Industry, Technology and Trade Senator John Button, the Prime Minister said the minister expressed his country's desire to have good relations with Malaysia particularly in the field of trade.

+We agree. . we have no problems with the Government of Australia now.. for its stand differed' from that of the Australian press.. . this is what we want, + he said.

Malaysia was familiar with the attitude of the Australian media and there was no point in paying any attention to it, he said. -- more

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Mahathir - Soviet 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur ''

Malaysia - Australia relations were cool not long ago when the Australian media including the electronic media put out reports discrediting this country.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said the Cabinet Committee which discussed the civil servants New Remuneration System (SSB) yesterday decided on several details.

It was the last meeting before its implementation, he added.

There was not much difference from the SSB announced in October and the one decided by the Cabinet Committee, he added. -- Bernama

♥10/12/19-12MST