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NO PROVOCATIVE ACTS ALONG BORDER, THAILAND ASSURES MALAYSIA

Mahathir - border

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SINGAPORE, Jan 26⁹² (Bernama) -- Thailand today gave the assurance that it will not resort to provocative acts against Malaysia in matters relating to their common border, Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said here.

He said the assurance was conveyed to him by Thai Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun in their bilateral talks on the eve of the Fourth Asean Summit.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said both of them agreed that all problems relating to the border should be discussed by both countries.

+Thailand has agreed that it will not resort to provocative acts and will have discussions with Malaysia on any problem relating to territory,+ he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who arrived here yesterday to attend the two-day summit, also met Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkuah of Brunei and President Suharto of Indonesia today for bilateral discussions. -- more

▼26/01/20-26MST

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Mahathir - border 2 Singapore

The assurance follows five incidents where Thai uniformed personnel intruded into Padang Besar, once in July and four times last month, purportedly to stamp out smuggling.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he accepted the clarification by Encik Anand that the incidents were beyond his knowledge because the acts were committed by local commandants.

+I explained that if there was smuggling in their territory, they should only take action in their area but what had happened was that they had entered our territory,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said: +What we want is for such incidents not to recur.+

The border was also a topic of the discussions between Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and President Suharto. They discussed the Sipadan and Ligitan islands which Indonesia is laying claim to.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said both leaders agreed that neither country would resort to any action that would aggravate the situation. -- more

▼26/01/20-57MST

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Mahathir - border 3 (last) Singapore

Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, elaborating on the Malaysian-Thai border issue, said the matter would be left to the foreign ministers of both countries to discuss at the Malaysia-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) to be held in Kuala Lumpur next month.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and Encik Anand also discussed the issues to be raised at the JCM. -- Bernama

▼26/01/21-06MST