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ARAFAT PRAISES MALAYSIA FOR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE
Arafat-Malaysia
From Ahmad Zukiman Zain (P)

JAKARTA, Sept 2 (Bernama) -- Palestinian President Yasser Arafat today thanked Malaysia for its continued support to the Palestinian people.

Emerging from a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Hilton Hotel here, he said Palestine was getting wide support from Malaysia.

+I thanked the Prime Minister for the support we are getting in all fields from Malaysia. I thanked him personally for what he is doing for the sake of our people,+ he told Bernama.

Arafat, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Farouk Khadoum and the Palestinian Ambassador to Malaysia Ahmad al-Farra, briefed Dr Mahathir on the latest round of the Middle East peace talks.

Foreign Ministry Deputy Secretary-General Datuk Abdul Halim Ali and the Malaysian Ambassador to Indonesia Datuk Abdullah Zawawi Haji Mohamed were present. during the half-hour meeting, -- more

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Arafat-Malaysia 2 Jakarta

Arafat, here to attend the 10th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit, said the Israelis were still refusing to comply with the United Nations resolutions on Palestine.

In his address to the summit yesterday, Dr Mahathir reiterated Malaysia's active support for the Palestinian struggle and said their rights must be respected.

He added that Malaysia viewed the latest development positively and he hoped that peace negotiations be entered into with sincerity by both sides.

Asked what he thought about Dr Mahathir's call for NAM to change lest its name became a misnomer in the post-Cold War era, Arafat said the 31-year-old movement should be revamped.

+No doubt, we appreciate much what he had mentioned and I thanked him from our hearts,+ he added.

Arafat also said the UN should send forces to all troubled spots in the world.

+We are looking for the United Nations to be participating in all areas of conflict, including Palestine,+ he added. -- more

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Shortly before Arafat called on him at his suite, Dr Mahathir received his Nepalese counterpart Kirija Prasad Koirala and their talks included discussion on the future of NAM.

Speaking to Nepali reporters after the meeting, Dr Mahathir said NAM must re-adjust itself to the world situation, in particular to represent the South in the dialogue with the North.

+You must have heard the Prime Minister's speech.. . that is quite clear,+ Xoirala interjected.

Dr Mahathir was scheduled to receive Bosnia-Herzegovina Foreign Minister. Dr Harris Siladjic, Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khalida Zia and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif separately for talks at the Jakarta Convention Centre, venue of the summit.

His press conference is also scheduled to take place later in the day.

-- Bernama

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