

CNS1947

R GE 06-01 00231 EA135

aae tbe

Mahathir-Indochina

MALAYSIA HAPPY TO ASSIST IN ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION OF INDOCHINA

(Embargo: For use after 2130 hours, Jan 6)

'93  
KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight Malaysia, like Thailand, was happy to be able to assist and contribute in some modest ways to the economic reconstruction of Vietnam, Laos and even Cambodia through trade and private investment.

It was indeed heartening to see the economic transformation taking place in these countries, he said at the official dinner in honour of his Thai counterpart Encik Chuan Leekpai at Seri Perdana, here tonight. Chuan arrived here today for a three-day official visit to Malaysia.

+We are doing so in the belief that a prosperous and stable Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam closely linked to ASEAN or even as members of ASEAN would contribute to the peace, stability and prosperity of the entire Southeast Asian region,+ Dr Mahathir said, adding that the same went for Myanmar.

It was for this reason that Malaysia viewed with serious concern the refusal of the Khmer Rouge to participate fully in the peace process in Cambodia, he said.

+Such a stand runs the risk of plunging the country back into a civil war, affecting the peace and stability of the entire region,+ he said. -- more

▼06/01/18-52MST

R GE 06-01 00236 EA136

aae tbe

Mahathir-Indochina 2 Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

He said Malaysia would like to appeal to the leaders of the Khmer Rouge to return to the peace process and spare the country from turmoil and hardship.

He said that while ASEAN had stood firmly behind the efforts of the United Nations to enforce the Paris Agreement, Malaysia would like in particular to pay tribute to Thailand for its decision to fully enforce UN Security Council trade sanctions against the Khmer Rouge even though some Thai business interests might be effected.

On the cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand, Dr Mahathir said it was very firm, adding that more needed to be done to tap the full potential of trade and economic opportunities available in either country.

He said Malaysia and Thailand had, over the years, built an impressive network of cooperation and this had brought about great success in the fight against communist terrorists along their common border, which culminated in the elimination of the communist terrorist threat in 1990.

+We have equally benefitted from our cooperation in such fields as anti-drug trafficking measures, agriculture, transport and communications.

+The ending of the communist terrorist threat along our common border has opened new scope for cooperation both at government and private sector levels in the economic as well as social fields,+ Dr Mahathir said. -- more

▼06/01/18-56MST

CNS1961

R GE 06-01 00189 EA137

aae tbe

Mahathir-Indochina 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

On broader international issues, he said it was difficult for Malaysia to ignore the death, deprivation, hunger and blatant violation of human rights taking place, specifically in Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said that though Malaysia could feel somewhat relieved that the situation in Somalia had improved following the despatch to that country of an international force led by the United States, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina continued to be grim.

+Serbian guns continue to pound senselessly on innocent civilians in Sarajevo and other Bosnian-controlled areas.

+Thousands of Bosnians, Muslims and non-Muslims have been and are being raped, tortured and massacred everyday,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir asked how many thousands more must be killed and tortured before the UN decided to use force, and added that peace negotiations had proven futile again and again.

He stressed that only force could bring about results and added that +we cannot believe the forces of righteousness will only assert themselves when their quarry will pose no lethal threat to their forces+ -- Bernama

▼06/01/18-58MST