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Mahathir-Issues 93

CHINESE LEADERS SHARE OUR VIEWS. SAYS MAHATHIR

From Abdul Rahman Sulaiman

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Beijing, June 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said here today that leaders of the People's Republic of China shared Malaysia's views on a number of bilateral, regional and international issues.

He got this impression after having discussions with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Prime Minister Li Peng and the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Qiao Shi.

The Prime Minister, here on a 10-day official visit to China as guest of Li, told a press conference that he was very satisfied with the results of the talks.

"We seem to have the same views on bilateral, regional and international issues," he said.

The subjects dealt with in his discussions with the Chinese leaders over the past three days included economic cooperation, expansion of trade between the two countries, investment, China-Asean relations, regional security, including the Spratlys issue, world trade, human rights and democracy, and the Bosnian War. -- more

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Mahathir-Issues 2 Beijing

Dr. Mahathir is internationally known as a strong advocator of a freer global trade regime, and highly critical of the Western interpretation of human rights and democracy.

He had also criticised the United States and its allies in the handling of the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue.

Visibly pleased with the outcome of his visit, the Prime Minister said more than 30 agreements and Memoranda of Understanding on joint ventures and other deals were signed by Malaysian businessmen accompanying him and their Chinese counterparts.

"As a result of this, there will be a great deal of business interchange between Malaysia and China. I'm satisfied with the results so far and am looking forward to continuing success for the rest of the visit," he added.

On China's stand on the Spratlys issue, Dr. Mahathir said he had been assured that China was willing to sit down and discuss the issue bilaterally with the countries involved.

"I'm satisfied with this. We do not expect the issue to be resolved immediately," he said. -- more

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Mahathir-Issues 3 Beijing

The Spratly Islands in the South China Sea are being claimed by China and almost all the Asean member countries.

Asked whether China opposed Malaysia's close trade relations with Taiwan while at the same time promoting close relations with China, Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia's recognition to Taiwan was reduced to one of a mere economic entity following the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kuala Lumpur and Beijing.

"China does not mind this," he added. -- Bernama

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