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Papers-India

DR MAHATHIR, MALAYSIA'S GUARDIAN ANGEL, SAYS INDIAN PAPER

From Mahesh Prasad ¹²

NEW DELHI, March 14 (Bernama) -- "The man is once again making international news, not because he is desperate to hit headlines but because he does not hesitate to speak up for the country and the people and at times for a common cause of the developing world."

Thus begins an article in the English daily, The Hindu, entitled "Malaysia's Guardian Angel" with a pencil sketch of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

Writing for the paper from Singapore, Sridhar Krishnaswami says: "Some critics might argue that in the present row with Britain, the Prime Minister might have forced himself into a corner by announcing the ban on British firms for new official projects."

With the two-way trade in the neighbourhood of some US\$112 billion, Malaysia could get hurt too should London take measures to counter Kuala Lumpur's move, he added.

Britain also, he pointed out, "could put the squeeze on high technology and mobilise support for it in Europe." -- more

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But, the author says: "Unlike the row Malaysia had with Australia in the past, the present problem with Britain appears to be in no danger of getting out of hand. And there are no individuals involved and apologies being sought."

He added that it was the contention of Dr. Mahathir and his government "that London did nothing to stop the spread of 'lies' by the British press."

The argument that the British government has no hold over the press has few takers in Kuala Lumpur, he said, added: "On the contrary, it is felt in Malaysia that Britain made no attempts to come out with the facts."

The article carries a brief sketch of Dr. Mahathir, who has been in active politics since 1945, and had his education in medicine from King Edward VII College of Medicine.

It also describes him as a "journalist's delight." -- Bernama

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