

CNS9460  
R GE 12-05 00178 AB727

aae

REPEAT

Mahathir-talks

MAHATHIR HOLDS TALKS WITH LI PENG

from Abdul Rahman Sulaiman

BEIJING, May 12 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today held talks with Prime Minister Li Peng aimed at further enhancing relations between the two countries. *overseas info*

Dr. Mahathir said relations between Malaysia and China had been good and that there were only "very little problems" to be resolved.

Regional matters and international issues, particularly the latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, South Africa and Rwanda, were believed to have been discussed during their meeting in Li's office, the Purple Pavilion, in the Great Hall of the People here.

Dr. Mahathir, here on a private visit, would have also briefed the Chinese leader on the outcome of his discussions with several world leaders.

He had over the past two weeks met with newly-installed black South African President Nelson Mandela and former President F.W. de Klerk in Johannesburg, French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur in Paris and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington. -- more

ARS LDB

♥12/05/17-49MST

CNS9457

U GE 12-05 00192 EA834

aae tbe

Mahathir-talks 2 Beijing

Dr. Mahathir, known to be supportive of China's current programmes of liberalisation and reform, has been very critical of the manner by which some western countries were handling their relations with China and their perceptions of Beijing's long-term interests.

During his meeting with Clinton last week, Dr. Mahathir told the US president not to use arm-twisting tactics in dealing with China.

Washington and Beijing were locked in a diplomatic tussle over the issue of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status which the latter now enjoys.

Under US trading terms, an MFN nation was guaranteed the lowest possible tariff for its exports to the US market.

Clinton, who will decide on China MFN status by June 3, had threatened to withdraw the facility unless Beijing improved its human rights record.

In a keynote address to the ongoing "1994 China Summit Meeting" here yesterday, Dr. Mahathir again backed the Chinese stance.

He said China did the right thing in sticking to its brand of socialist politics while espousing a version of the market economy. -- more

ARS LDB

♥12/05/17-49MST

CNS9459

U GE 12-05 00101 EA835

aae

Mahathir-talks 3 (last) Beijing

"It is right because it has managed to avoid the kind of economic and political anarchy the Soviet Union has suffered," he said.

"It is right because it is apparently more successful economically. It is growing and growing very fast."

Later today, Dr. Mahathir will call on the Chinese President Jiang Zemin at the Diaoyutai Guest House in downtown Beijing.

He will also be a guest of honour at a dinner hosted by the president.

Dr. Mahathir leaves for home tomorrow. -- Bernama