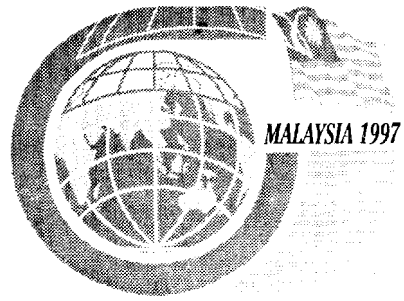


Suharto *thanks* 59 Malaysia for aid 5 4 11 97



KUALA LUMPUR: Indonesia's President Suharto has thanked Malaysia for its US\$1bil aid as part of an international assistance package to restore confidence in the country's economy.

Suharto, who met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the sidelines of the Group of 15 Summit here yesterday, told Dr Mahathir that Jakarta appreciated the

support and friendship in the Asean spirit in helping it face the currency problem.

"Malaysia's aid is much appreciated. Indonesia felt the amount was not important but the spirit and readiness to help tackle the problem," Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said here.

The International Monetary Fund announced last Saturday a US\$18bil package to help re-

vive the Indonesian economy.

Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, the United States and Malaysia have agreed to contribute an extra US\$10bil.

Suharto also appreciated Malaysia's assistance and co-operation in fighting forest fires in Kalimantan and Sumatra and pledged to continue battling the fires, especially with more aid coming from other coun-

tries.

He also expressed Indonesia's appreciation for Malaysia's willingness to host the G-15 Summit because it was supposed to be Indonesia's turn to host the seventh summit.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir was happy with the good response to the summit, especially from friendly countries like Indonesia, to make the event a success.