

06/06/1997

Anwar in tele-conference with Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Members of the Umno supreme council today witnessed a video tele-conference between party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is on leave in London and the acting president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The link-up was made soon after the supreme council ended its monthly meeting at the party's headquarters. Dr Mahathir was visiting a factory in Surrey, just outside London, when the link-up was made.

The following are excerpts from the tele-conferencing:

Anwar: "Where are you Datuk Seri?"

Dr Mahathir: "This is the Fraser Nash research laboratory near London. Fraser Nash is the manufacturer of the Azan clock. They are also doing projects for Selangor Pewter. I'm here to see the research work which is being carried out. Maybe they are of use in Malaysia."

Anwar: "What sort of research?"

Dr Mahathir: "There's a variety ... but mostly related to electronics, solar power, solar-powered car, solar-powered golf cart. What interests us is the Head-Up Display for aircraft. So ... there are quite a lot of things to see today."

Anwar: "What about the electric car, is it part of their project?"

Dr Mahathir: "Yes, that's right. The electric car was once brought to Malaysia, but apparently there are some improvements and I want to see the improvements. Tan Sri Bashir (Ismail, Malaysia Airports Berhad chairman) is also here."

Anwar: "I can see the white beard...."

Dr Mahathir: "Everyone is here. I thought when I came here, I was alone. But as you can see behind me, there is a crowd. They follow me everywhere, there is no privacy at all. I am supposed to be on holiday ... look at all these people, they come here and force me to work. So I'm asking for extra holiday since I have to work."

Anwar: "During the Cabinet and supreme council meeting, it was discussed who is actually on holiday...."

Dr Mahathir: (laughter) "But there are a lot of ideas that we can gain for our programmes at home...."

The Prime Minister concluded the link-up by saying: "I'm going to go for a demonstration and I would like to wish you all the best. I'm fine here and I've been able to carry out my work a little bit. I came here to do some writing.

"Please give my regards to everyone including Cabinet members who are not at the meeting."

Anwar: "Please give our regards to Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah (Mohd Ali) and everyone there."

Dr Mahathir: "Okay, I'll do that. Please give my regards to everyone and their wives too."

(END)