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LID-MAHATHIR/G-7

G-7 HAS NOT INVITED G-15 FOR SUMMIT, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

By: E. Sivabalan

LANGKAWI, July 27 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Group of Seven (G-7) developed nations have not invited the Group of 15 (G-15) developing nations to the G-7 Summit to be held later this year although he had asked them (G-7) to do so.

The prime minister said he had suggested to the G-7 that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the current chairman of the G-15, represent the developing countries at the meeting.

"But they (G-7) have not invited us," he told Bernama in an exclusive interview at the fourth Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) here.

Dr Mahathir was asked to clarify on a statement by Kyrgyzstan Speaker of Parliament Usup Mukambayev that he (Dr Mahathir) should speak on behalf of developing countries at the G-7 Summit.

Usup, who is here for the LID, made the suggestion at his meeting with Dr Mahathir earlier today.

Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States make up the G-7, otherwise known as the "club of rich nations". If Russia is included, the grouping is collectively known as G-8.

Dr Mahathir said it was not true that he would be making a speech at the G-7 Summit.

He said what happened was that the G-15 members wanted him to attend the G-7 Summit.

"I can't meet them (G-7) because it must be the current head (of G-15) to meet them," Dr Mahathir clarified.--BERNAMA

ES MR SHY