

ST. - 8 APR 1963
KUALA LUMPUR,

Fri.—An Alliance MP today described Asia as a tinder-box that threatened to engulf the world in a last holocaust.

"The cycle that Asia has gone through in the last 5,000 years, the cycle of war and expansion, peace and consolidation, then weakness and destruction, brings the emerging Asia once again to the brink of calamity," Dr. Mahatir bin Mohamed said.

He was speaking on "The Historical Perspective of Asian Heritage" at a World Assembly of Youth Asian regional youth leadership training course at the University of Malaya.

An example

The three-week course is being attended by 32 delegates from 10 countries

He cited as an example Indo-China, where the failure of Asians to decide and come to terms with each other had resulted in one of the most pitiful and futile wars ever.

As a result of this also, Asian countries were glaring at each other to the delight of European and other powers.

China, a cradle of human civilisation with an incomparable source of ethical codes and systems, now stood glaring balefully at the rest of the world, with her 700 million people living in isolated seclusion.

China's power

One must not, however, belittle the achievements of modern China, which in less than two decades under the Communist influence, had emerged as a world power with a huge army, a powerful, well co-ordinated bureaucracy, developed industries and a leader in scientific research.

"But now the country is facing the threat of being torn apart through internal dissension and diverging loyalties to leaders rather than to the nation," he said.

"One cannot but help thinking that a powerful China and Japan could have righted the economic imbalance between Asia and Europe and bring stability.

"This, however, is not to be. The heritage of disorder is about to prevail as Asia, hardly recovered from the dark period of serfdom to

Europe, once again sets her course for destruction.

"History is a great teacher, but Asians have not been apt pupils."