

PARLIAMENT - SABAH 3 KUALA LUMPUR

*Dr. Mahathir*

16 Oct 68  
LATER IN THE PARLIAMENT THE GOVERNMENT WAS URGED TO PURCHASE SURFACE-TO-AIR AND SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES TO DETER THE PHILIPPINES FROM FOLLOWING THEIR +TRIGGER-HAPPY MENTALITY. +

THE CALL WAS MADE BY THE ALLIANCE MEMBER FOR KOTA STAR SELATAN, DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMED, DURING THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION ON THE PHILIPPINES ANNEXATION OF SABAH.

HE SAID: +NO ONE CAN SAY THAT WE HAVE ANY TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS, AND WHEN WE SPEND MONEY ON WEAPONS, IT IS ONLY FOR THE DEFENCE OF OUR COUNTRY.

+THEREFORE I WOULD URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO SPEND MONEY ON TWO WEAPONS. THESE ARE THE SURFACE-TO-AIR AND SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES.

+THESE WEAPONS WILL DETER THE PHILIPPINES FROM FOLLOWING THEIR TRIGGER-HAPPY MENTALITY. -- BERBAMA MORE

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT JUST AS MALAYSIA HAD GOT OVER THE INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION, AND HAD SETTLED DOWN TO BUILDING A STRONG ECONOMY, SHE HAD BEEN FORCED INTO ANOTHER CONFLICT.

HE SAID: THIS WAS GOING TO BE A PROMPT AND CLEAR EXAMPLE OF WHAT INDEPENDENCE CAN MEAN TO A COLONIAL PEOPLE.

+WE WERE JUST SETTLING DOWN TO DO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE OF THE BLUE AND THE CORREGIDOS AFFAIRS.

HE ADDED THAT ANNEXATION WAS QUOTE ANOTHER THING FROM JUST TALKING ABOUT LEGAL RIGHTS WHEN MALAYSIA MET THE PHILIPPINES AT THE BANGKOK TALKS.

HE ADDED: +COUNTRIES HAVE GONE TO WAR FOR MUCH LESS.

+SOEKARNO USED TO HAVE A PRIVATE MAP OF INDONESIA WHICH INCLUDED MALAYSIA AND THE RESULT WAS CONFRONTATION.

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+NOW THE PHILIPPINES HAD ANNEXED SABAH. TRUE IT IS ONLY A PAPER ANNEXATION, BUT ARE WE TO SAY THAT THIS IS JUST AN INTERNAL POLITICAL STUNT. +

+WHAT GUARANTEE IS THERE THAT THERE WILL BE NO INCIDENTS. FILIPINOS ARE NOT NOTED FOR BEING LAW-ABIDING.

+CAN THEY BE EXPECTED TO ABIDE BY INTERNATIONAL LAW OR INTERNATIONAL CODES, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEIR COUNTRY SO OPENLY FLOUTS ALL CODES AND LAWS.

+THERE IS VERY POSSIBILITY THAT INCIDENTS WILL OCCUR AND ESCALATION TAKE PLACE. +

DR. MAHATHIR ADDED THAT IT WAS THIS POSSIBILITY AND THE NEED TO ATTEND TO A WHOLLY UNNECESSARY SITUATION THAT PROVOKED MALAYSIANS AND MADE THEM REACT WITH SUCH VEHEMENCE.

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIANS HAD NO WISH TO QUARREL WITH ANYONE. THEY HAD NO WISH TO WASTE THEIR ENERGIES AND HARD-WORKING WEALTH ON USELESS CONFRONTATION.

+BUT WILLINGLY OR UNWILLINGLY WE ARE ONCE AGAIN BEING DRAWN INTO CONFLICT WITH A NEIGHBOUR. + HE ADDED.

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DR. MAHATHIR THEN CALLED FOR AN EXAMINATION OF THE PECULIAR SITUATION THAT THE SABAH INTERNATIONAL LAW COURT FIRSTLY, HE SAID, IF SABAH, ACCORDING TO THE FILIPINO PART OF THE PHILIPPINES, SURELY GOODS GOING FROM SABAH AND THE PHILIPPINES COULD NOT BE TAXED.

+SO THE QUESTION OF SMUGGLING BETWEEN SABAH AND THE PHILIPPINES DOES NOT ARISE, HE ADDED.

+SMUGGLING OCCURS WHEN THE GOODS ARE IMPORTED INTO SABAH FROM ELSEWHERE.

+DO THE FILIPINO CUSTOMS OFFICERS PROPOSE TO CHECK GOODS IMPORTED INTO SABAH FROM MALAYSIA?

DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE FILIPINOS' DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER MANOEUVRES OVER SABAH WAS TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD TO THIS ISSUE.

SO FAR THE WORLD HAD IGNORED THE PHILIPPINE CLAIM.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN ASIA THE FILIPINOS WERE REGARDED AS PEOPLE WHO HAD LOST PRIDE IN THEIR ASIAN HERITAGE.

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+THE AMERICANS DON'T SEEM TO REGARD THESE BROWN AMERICANS AS AMERICANS, + HE ADDED.

+EVEN THE LATIN AMERICANS SMUGGER AT THE SPANISH PRETENSIONS OF THE FILIPINOS. ALL THIS MAKES THE FILIPINOS FURIOUS, +

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT SABAH WAS NO LONGER A PIECE OF REAL ESTATE.

SABAH HAD AN IDENTITY NOW. THE PEOPLE THERE HAD A MIND OF THEIR OWN.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IT WAS FAR BETTER TO TELL THE FILIPINOS THAT MALAYSIA MEANT BUSINESS AND THAT SHE WAS DETERMINED TO DEFEND SABAH AT WHATEVER COST.

+IF THIS THING MUST ESCALATE, LET ESCALATE NOW, + HE SAID.

+WE MUST SHOW THE FILIPINOS THAT WE ARE NOT TO BE BULLIED.

+IF THIS STUPID CONFRONTATION LASTS A HUNDRED YEARS WE WILL NOT BE DETERRED.

+WE WILL ARRANGE OUR AFFAIRS SO THAT WARDING OFF MINOR IRRITATIONS LIKE THIS CONFRONTATION BECOMES PART OF OUR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. -

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DR. MAHATHIR SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACQUIRE SURFACE-TO-SURFACE GUIDED MISSILES AND SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES WHOSE EFFECTIVENESS HAD BEEN DEMONSTRATED IN THE VIETNAM AND THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

+THEY WILL COST US MONEY BUT THESE WEAPONS WILL DETER THE FILIPINOS FROM ADVENTURES THAT THEIR TRIGGER-HAPPY MENTALITY MIGHT TEMPT THEM INTO,+ HE SAID.

+THIS CONFRONTATION FROM THE PHILIPPINES WAS PROVING QUITE USEFUL IN INDICATING WHAT WE MAY EXPECT FROM OUR DEFENCE TREATY.

+IT IS CLEAR THAT IF AN ATTACK IS AGAINST US SURELY THEN WE CAN EXPECT NO HELP BUT IF IT IS GOING TO INVOLVE AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND THEN THEY WOULD RATHER USE MALAYSIA AS A BATTLEGROUND THAN THEIR BEAUTIFUL CITIES.

HE SAID MALAYSIA WOULD NEED A LOT OF MONEY TO DEFEND HERSELF.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD HAD AGREED TO ACCEPT FROM BRITAIN \$150,000,000 ON HER PULL-OUT.

HE THEN WARNED THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST BEING DRAWN INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES AND ADDED:

+OUR EXPERIENCE OF TALKS AND CONFERENCES WITH THIS PECULIAR COUNTRY IS LITTERED WITH ALL SORTS OF BROKEN WORDS AND PROMISES.

+THE AMEXATION OF SABAH DURING A COOLING OFF PERIOD IS SO AUDACIOUS AS TO BOGGLE THE MIND.+

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT MALAYSIA HAD TO BE ESPECIALLY VIGILANT AND PREPARED TO DEFEND HIMSELF SINCE SHE WAS BEING BATTERED BY CONSTANT WAR AGAINST THE CHINA AND HAWAIIANS AND OTHERS WHO WOULD NOT LET THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS GO UNCHANGED.

MALAYSIA MUST BE DETERMINED TO RESOLVE BY ANY MEANS TO OVERCOME THE CHINA THREATS TO HER SOVEREIGNTY.

HE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER ANY SUGGESTION OF A TREATY WITH THE PHILIPPINES.

IF MARCOS WISHES TO BE FRIENDS WITH US, LET HIM RENOUNCE THE FILIPINO CLAIM TO SABAH AND LET THIS BE A FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF THE PHILIPPINES -- THAT THEY MAY NOT CLAIM ANY TERRITORY THAT IS NOT ACTUALLY THEIRS NOW, DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

IF THERE IS GOING TO BE RESTORATION OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THE PHILIPPINES, THEN THE FILIPINO PEOPLE MUST EXHIBIT THEIR RESOLVE IN A WAY THAT CAN MINIMISE HOSTILE

FRUITFUL TALKS OF SMALL ASSURE THAT THIS THE BEGINNING OF A HUNDRED YEARS OF USELESS CONFRONTATION.

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