

Tun Razak said this when presenting the estimates for the Ministry of Defence amounting to \$257,542,668 in the Dewan Raayat this evening.

1969

Kuala Lumpur Jan. 23 (BERNAMA)

PARLIAMENT-DEBATE-DEFENCE 11 KUALA LUMPUR

THE ALLIANCE MEMBER FOR KOTA STAR SELATAN, DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMED, SAID THAT MALAYSIA WAS NOW IN THE MARKET NOT ONLY FOR JET AIRCRAFT BUT ALSO FOR FRIENDS.

HE SAID THAT IF IT WAS WORTHWHILE MALAYSIA WOULD SWITCH FRIENDS. DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT BRITAIN STILL HAD CONSIDERABLE INTERESTS IN THIS COUNTRY.

HE SAID: OUR PROSPERITY IS TIED UP WITH OUR PROSPERITY. +THEREFORE LOOKING AFTER OUR PROSPERITY WE MUST BE GUARDING THE PROSPERITY OF BRITAIN AS WELL.

+BRITAIN THINKS THAT THIS MUST ALWAYS BE SO, THAT IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO PROTECT THEIR INTEREST.

+I THINK IT IS ABOUT TIME THAT BRITAIN CEASES TO TAKE THIS FOR GRANTED.

+IT MAY COST US QUITE A BIT TO DIVORCE OUR PROSPERITY FROM THE WELL-BEING OF BRITISH INTERESTS IN THIS COUNTRY BUT IF WE HAVE TO DO SO, IF WE HAVE TO BREAK THE TIES, WE WILL DO SO. - BERNAMA MORE 1969

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PARLIAMENT-DEBATE-DEFENCE 12 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THAT FRIENDSHIP WAS NOT A PERMANENT INSTITUTION.

+A FRIEND OF TODAY MAY BE A FOE TOMORROW, LIKEWISE A FOE TODAY MAY BE A FRIEND TOMORROW.

+WE ARE IN THE MARKET NOW NOT ONLY FOR JET AIRCRAFT BUT ALSO FOR FRIENDS.

+IF IT IS WORTH OUR WHILE WE WILL SWITCH FRIENDS. +

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA'S CONCEPT OF THE ROLE OF BRITAIN IN THIS REGION MIGHT APPEAR OUTMODED BUT SHE HAD REASONS FOR PROPOSING THAT BRITAIN SHOULD CONTINUE THIS ROLE.

IT WAS NOT ALL ENTIRELY IN MALAYSIA'S INTEREST, HE ADDED.

HE SAID IF BRITAIN COULD NOT SEE THAT MALAYSIA WAS IN FACT ASKING BRITAIN TO LOOK AFTER HERSELF THEN MALAYSIA WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LET THEIR INTERESTS GO TO THE DOGS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID: +THIS IS OUR COUNTRY, AND IT MUST BE IN OUR INTEREST TO DEFEND IT OURSELVES.

+IF IN THE PAST WE HAD SEEMED TO DEPEND UPON THE BRITISH IT WAS MERELY BECAUSE IT WAS A TEMPORARY CONVENIENCE.

+ WE WILL NOW MIND OUR BUSINESS AND DECIDE FOR OURSELVES WHAT WE WILL DO AND WHOM WE WILL CHOOSE TO WORK WITH. +

HE WAS GLAD THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW NO LONGER TOO BOTHERED ABOUT SENTIMENTS AND WAS MORE HARD HEADED IN THE MATTER OF DEFENCE. - BERNAMA MORE 1969