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MAHATHIR

1974

(P) KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 11 (BERNAMA)— THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED TODAY CLARIFIED THAT HE WAS NOT REFERRING TO MALAYSIAN STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WHEN HE COMMENTED ON THE +OUT-OF-DATE+ VIEWS OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND STUDENTS ON SATURDAY.

HE TOLD BERNAMA TODAY THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND NATIONALS WHO ARE STUDENTS AT THE VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES IN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

HE SAID THAT THEY HAD VOICED CONCERN OVER WHAT WAS +HAPPENING+ IN MALAYSIA.

+THIS COMMENT WAS MADE IN VIEW OF VARIOUS STUDENT PUBLICATIONS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WHICH OF LATE HAVE BEEN VERY CRITICAL OF MALAYSIA +AFFAIRS,+ HE ADDED.

ON SATURDAY, DR. MAHATHIR TOOK TO TASK AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND STUDENTS FOR BEING +ONLY TOO WILLING+ TO LISTEN TO CRITICISMS AGAINST THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT.

THOSE STUDENTS, WITH THEIR SO-CALLED CONCERN FOR MALAYSIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WERE +REMINISCENT OF COLONIAL OFFICERS WHO FELT THAT IF MALAYA BECAME INDEPENDENT SHE WOULD GO TO THE DOGS,+ HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR MADE THE CLARIFICATION AS HE FELT THAT HIS COMMENTS ON SATURDAY MIGHT APPEAR AMBIGUOUS. —BERNAMA 1225/MD