

MAHATHIR - STUDENTS

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 25⁷⁴ (BERNAMA)— MALAYSIAN STUDENTS STUDYING OVERSEAS FOUND TO BE INVOLVED IN MILITANT COMMUNIST ORGANISATIONS WILL BE DEATH WITH APPROPRIATELY WHEN THEY RETURN, EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED WARNED TODAY.

HE SAID AS MALAYSIA WAS STILL FIGHTING MILITANT COMMUNISM SHE COULD NOT TOLERATE HER STUDENTS BEING INVOLVED IN SUCH UNDERSIRABLE ACTIVITIES.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THESE STUDENTS PICTURED A GLOOMY PICTURE OF THEIR COUNTRY IN THE FOREIGN PRESS TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS +OPPRESSIVE+ AND HENCE IT WAS UNSAFE TO GO BACK.

THEY DID THIS WITH THE HOPE THAT THE HOST GOVERNMENTS WOULD SYMPATHISE WITH THEM AND LET THEM BECOME CITIZENS. — BERNAMA MORE 1630/1B

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID THEY COULD SAY WHAT THEY LIKE WHILE OVERSEAS BUT SO LONG AS THEY DID NOT JOIN ANY MILITANT ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT BY UNDEMOCRATIC MEANS THEY WOULD BE SAFE WHEN BACK HOME.

HE SAID IT WAS STILL FASHIONABLE FOR SOME +SHITE+ MEN TO ADOPT A TYPICAL COLONIAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ONCE-COLONISED COUNTRY.

FOR INSTANCE, THESE PEOPLE STILL CHERISHED THE BELIEF THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ONCE-DOMINATED COUNTRY COULD NOT RULE THE COUNTRY ONCE THE +WHITE+ MEN LEFT.

ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REGULATE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS STUDYING OVERSEAS, DR. MAHATHIR SAID AS FAR AS THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED, SHE HAD NO CONTROL ON MALAYSIAN STUDENTS GOING TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. STUDENTS GOING TO THESE COUNTRIES MADE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED THROUGH THE RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES, HE ADDED. — BERNAMA 1635/1B