

MAHATHIR-HODZA

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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 2^{7a} (BERNAMA) — (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS EXPRESSED MALAYSIA'S CONCERN OVER THE CONFLICTS AND CRISIS INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID SUCH PROBLEMS ONLY SERVED TO SAP THE ENERGIES OF MEMBER NATIONS AND +PREVENT US FROM REACHING OUR GOALS.+

SPEAKING AT A DINNER IN HONOUR OF THE VISITING VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE YUGOSLAV PRESIDENCY, ENCIK FADILJ HODZA, HERE TONIGHT, HE WARNED THAT UNLESS CHECKED, SUCH DIVISIVE TENDENCIES COULD IMPAIR THE MOVEMENT'S UNITY AND SOLIDARITY.

HE SAID: +WE SHOULD REGARD WHATEVER MISUNDERSTANDINGS OR PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE AS BEING WITHIN THE FAMILY.

+OUR ROLE SHOULD BE TO CREATE HARMONY AND PEACE AND BRING THE PARTIES TOGETHER RATHER THAN BE MADE TO TAKE SIDES OR TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM.

+WHAT IS PARAMOUNT HERE IS THE UNITY AND THE SOLIDARITY OF THE MOVEMENT.+ — BERNAMA MORE 2223/A1

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA HAD STRONGLY ADHERED TO AND ABIDED BY THE PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES OF THE MOVEMENT.

HE DESCRIBED NON-ALIGNMENT AS A DURABLE AND PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE TO COUNTRIES WHICH WISHED TO STAY CLEAR OF MILITARY PACTS AND BLOC POLITICS.

+THIS IS WHY WE ATTACH SO MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS CONCEPT,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THE MOVEMENT WAS FOUNDED — RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NON-AGGRESSION WERE VERY RELEVANT TO THE SITUATIONS PREVAILING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TODAY.

HE STRESSED THAT PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION COULD ONLY BE RESTORED THROUGH THE OBSERVANCE OF THESE PRINCIPLES.

+FOR SO LONG AS THESE PRINCIPLES CONTINUE TO BE FLOUTED, TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST,+ HE SAID. — BERNAMA

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO REGRETTED THAT THE SITUATION HAD NOT BEEN MADE ANY EASIER BY THE UNABATED FLOW OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT TO THE SHORES OF MALAYSIA AND THE SHORES OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

HE STRESSED THAT NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR COULD PLAY A ROLE BY TAKING POSITIVE INTEREST AND ASSISTING ASEAN EFFORTS IN REMOVING ALL SOURCES OF FRICTION AND IN THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY. — BERNAMA 2229/A1