

MAHATHIR - UMNO 7 KUALA LUMPUR

+ONCE THEY GAIN POWER, THESE SOCIALIST LEADERS WOULD INTRODUCE AN ADMINISTRATION WHICH WOULD NOT PROVIDE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS TO JEOPARDISE THEIR POSITION, HE SAID.

ON THE RELIGIOUS OPPORTUNISTS, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS GROUP HAD EXISTED FOR A LONG TIME BUT THEIR ACTIVITIES WERE NOT APPARENT AS SOME OF THEM HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT.

SPLINTERS OF THIS GROUP HAD COME UP WITH VARIOUS MOVEMENTS, PURPORTEDLY BASED ON ISLAM, WHICH DURING THE EARLY SEVENTIES COOPERATED WITH THE SOCIALIST GROUPS OF VARIOUS RACES.

THESE SO-CALLED ISLAMIC SOCIALISTS TOOK PART IN THE VARIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS THEN.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHEN THE SOCIALIST EFFORTS FAILED, THESE RELIGIOUS GROUPS BROKE AWAY AND CARRIED OUT THEIR OUT STRUGGLES.

HOWEVER, THEIR TACTICS AND STRATEGIES AND OBJECTIVES REMAINED THE SAME. — BERNAMA MORE 1043/YF

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UNFORTUNATELY CERTAIN GROUPS WHICH OBSERVED TRUE ISLAMIC TEACHINGS, INCLUDING UMNO MEMBERS, WERE TRAPPED BY THESE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THAT ONCE AGAIN UMNO'S STRUGGLE IN THE CAUSE OF THE NATION AND RELIGION WAS BEING CHALLENGED AND THREATENED.

HE ADDED THAT THE RELIGIOUS OPPORTUNISTS REALISED THAT RELIGION REPRESENTED POWER WHICH INFLUENCED THE VALUES AND ACTIONS OF THE MALAYS.

THEY EXPLOITED RELIGION TO DIVIDE THE MALAYS SO THAT THEY WOULD BECOME WEAK AND BE DEPENDENT ON THEM.

HE SAID THESE RELIGIOUS GROUPS WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH ISLAM AS THERE WAS NO COERCION IN THE RELIGION.

— BERNAMA MORE 1142/AZ

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THEY PREFERRED A RELIGION WHICH GAVE RELIGIOUS LEADERS POWERS TO PASS JUDGMENT AND TO PUNISH.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE PEOPLE WANTED TO BE THE POWERS BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THE DEVELOPMENT IN A CERTAIN COUNTRY IN CENTRAL ASIA WHERE THE CLERGY HAD THE POWER TO PASS JUDGMENT AND TO PUNISH, HAD AROUSED THESE PEOPLE'S INTEREST.

THIS GROUP, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID, INTERPRETED SEVERAL FIELDS OF EDUCATION AS BEING SECULAR AND THUS SHOULD NOT BE PURSUED BY MUSLIMS.

IN THIS WAY THEY HOPED TO MAKE THEMSELVES THE ONLY INTELLECTUALS IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD. — BERNAMA MORE 1145/AZ

MAHATHIR-UMNO 10 KUALA LUMPUR

THEY ALSO DID NOT WANT MUSLIMS TO PURSUE MATERIAL WEALTH ALTHOUGH ISLAM DID NOT PROHIBIT THIS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REGRETTED THAT THERE WERE UMNO MEMBERS WHO HAD BEEN TAKEN IN BY THIS FALSE INTERPRETATION AND THOSE VALUES ADVOCATED BY THE RELIGIOUS OPPORTUNISTS.

HE SAID THAT THERE WERE ALSO UMNO MEMBERS WHO FELT THAT THE PARTY SHOULD PRACTISE THESE FALSE RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS TO SHOW THAT ITS INTEREST IN RELIGION WAS NOT LACKING.

THIS WAS EVIDENT IN THE VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY SOME PARTY DIVISIONS.

FOR EXAMPLE, SOME UMNO MEMBERS WANTED THE ATTIRE WORN BY A MUSLIM TO BE THE YARDSTICK OF HIS FAITH IN THE RELIGION.

THERE WERE ALSO OTHERS WHO WANTED THE GOVERNMENT LED BY UMNO TO COMMIT WRONGDOINGS AND MAKE NON-MUSLIMS SUFFER IN ORDER TO PROVE THAT IT WAS CHAMPIONING ISLAM. — BERNAMA MORE 1147/AZ

MAHATHIR-UMNO 11 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE FACT THAT ALL THESE WERE CONTRARY TO ISLAM AND NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE TRUE ISLAMIC GOVERNMENT LED BY THE PROPHET WAS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

THE PROBLEMS FACING MUSLIMS WERE MUCH MORE THAN THE QUESTION OF ATTIRE OR THE AVAILABILITY OF SPACE IN AN AIRCRAFT OR TRAIN FOR PRAYERS.

THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS THAT OF SURVIVAL AND HOW TO FORGE UNITY AND BROTHERHOOD, GAIN RESPECT FOR THE RELIGION AND ITS FOLLOWERS AND SPREAD THE RELIGION. — BERNAMA 1149/AZ