

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stressed today that developing countries in seeking the establishment of the New International Economic Order, was not "asking for charity or donations."

"They are only asking for a fair share of the markets. Trade is the basic need of the developing countries — not aid."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was opening the eight-day Regional Seminar on the Brandt Commission Report organised by the Asian Youth Council in co-operation with the Culture, Youth and Sports Ministry, the Malaysian Youth Council and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

He also hit out at the fear among richer countries that the new order would create economic monsters or "little

# Dr M: We only want fair share

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Japans" of the developing countries.

This fear, he added, was only a myth created by the advocates of obstructionism and protectionism.

"I would like to state categorically and emphatically that this fear is baseless and is only creating further obstacles in establishing

the New International Economic Order based on justice and equality."

The Deputy Prime Minister also stressed that to achieve a more balanced trade between developed and developing countries, trade barriers would have to be removed and the economic structure radically re-structured for a peaceful, secure and happy world in the future.

"At present, developing countries' share in the world economy is only nine per cent. It is only logical that the developing countries want this share to be raised to at least 25 per cent by the end of the century."

The Third World countries, he said, were also denied the basic right to process and fabricate their primary commodities.

"The time has come for the industrialised countries to realise that this imbalance in trade and one-sided agreements will have to be changed."

They must also realise that the interest of the developed countries was very closely linked with the interest of the developing countries, he said.

"Either we co-operate or perish together," he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also reiterated Malaysia's view, expressed in the last UN General Assembly, that the re-emergence of the conditional Most-Favoured-Nation was an unhealthy and dangerous

trend.

He said there was even more danger in the practice to settle economic problems behind closed doors by "elite groups" without the participation of those developing countries most affected by these decisions.

This practice, he added, could not remain unchallenged and would have to be changed.

He said while expecting the industrialised countries to sacrifice and liberalise trade barriers, it was also necessary for the Third World countries to develop co-operation among themselves.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Western world has often blamed oil producing countries for the present recession in the world.

However, oil prices was not solely responsible for this state of affairs. It was mainly the result of an extreme form of laziness and lethargy among workers in industrialised countries, he added.

He said developed countries must stop waste to reduce demand for oil and they must also produce more of their own fuel.

The Deputy Prime Minister said Mr Willy Brandt and his commission members have worked hard to produce a viable report, emphasising that global co-operation was actually a matter of survival of the future generations.

About 60 participants from 14 countries are attending the seminar.