

MAHATHIR-CONGRESS

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 5 P.M. TODAY, DEC. 4)

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 4⁸⁰ (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES, THE EXTENSION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE THROUGHOUT THE RURAL AREAS AND THE TRAINING OF PERSONNEL FOR THE NATION'S HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMME.

THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER SAID SO MUCH NEEDED TO BE DONE THAT PRIORITIES MUST BE WORKED OUT.

OPENING THE 15TH MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE CONGRESS OF MEDICINE HERE, HE SAID THAT LIKE OTHER DOCTORS, HE HAD OFTEN BEEN UPSET AND WORKED UP BY CERTAIN DEFICIENCIES IN THE HEALTH SERVICES.

HE TOUCHED ON THE SHORTAGE OF SPECIALISTS AND SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO ORGANISING POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION.

THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE, THE NEEDS OF THE VARIOUS SPECIALITIES, THE TEACHING RESOURCES AND THE MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS WERE AMONG THE MANY CONSIDERATIONS, HE ADDED.

+IT WOULD HELP IF THE DOCTORS CAN AGREE MORE THEMSELVES.
BUT THIS IS NOT TO BE. I KNOW TOO MANY DOCTORS TOO WELL. IT IS
NOT BY ACCIDENT THAT I NEVER BECAME THE HEALTH MINISTER,+ HE
SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1520/SZ

182

NO42 (F)
MAHATHIR-CONGRESS 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER ALSO MENTIONED THE DISSATISFACTIONS
AMONG DOCTORS WHICH HE VIEWED AS HEALTHY AND A NECESSARY PRELIMINARY
TO THE WORKING OUT OF SOLUTIONS.

HE SAID THERE WERE PROBLEMS ABOUND IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES OF
ANY COUNTRY, EVEN THE MOST ADVANCED.

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS SEVERELY
CRITICISED, MORE BY THE DOCTORS THAT THE PUBLIC, HE SAID.

MEDICAL CARE IN THE UNITED STATES WAS NOTORIOUSLY EXPENSIVE.

HE NOTED THAT IN AUSTRALIA TOO MANY OPERATIONS WERE DONE.

ON THE CONGRESS, HE WAS HAPPY TO NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS
BASICALLY A FORUM FOR DOCTORS AND RESEARCHERS OF MALAYSIA AND
SINGAPORE, IT HAD GRADUALLY ACQUIRED AN ASEAN AND AN INTERNATIONAL
FLAVOUR WITH INCREASING PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION FROM
ABROAD. — BERNAMA 1525/SZ → 83

MAHATHIR - CONGRESS 3 KUALA LUMPUR (REOPENS ITEM NO42)

EARLIER, THE MASTER OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE FOR MALAYSIA,
DR. MAHMOOD MERICAN, STRESSED ON THE NEED FOR AN ORGANISED
AND SYSTEMATIC POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION TO OVERCOME
THE PRESENT SHORTAGE OF SPECIALISTS.

HE SAID THE ACADEMY HAD LONG ADVOCATED A NATIONAL POST-GRADUATE
MEDICAL BOARD, ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT, THE UNIVERSITIES AND PROFESS-
SIONAL BODIES SHOULD BE REPRESENTED, TO COORDINATE TRAINING AND
BE RESPONSIBLE FOR POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATION.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE BOARD WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THE BEST
USE OF THE SCARCE TEACHING RESOURCES IN THE COUNTRY AND TO
MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS.

DR. MAHMOOD HOPED THE PROPOSED BILL TO ESTABLISH THE COLLEGE
OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS, COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND
COLLEGE OF SURGEONS WOULD BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
FUTURE OF POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY.

IT SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR A RAPID AND COORDINATED
ADVANCEMENT IN POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION, HE ADDED.

HIS SINGAPORE COUNTERPART, PROF. LIM PIN, SAID THE ACADEMY
WOULD HOLD A SPECIAL JUBILEE CONGRESS TO COMMEMORATE THE
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN SINGAPORE IN 1982.

THE CONGRESS LATER CONFERRED HONORARY MEMBERSHIP OF THE
ACADEMY ON THE FINANCIAL CONSULTANT TO THE GOVERNMENT, TUN TAN
SIEW SIN, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIA COLLEGE OF
SURGEONS, PROF. DOUGLAS TRACY. — BERNAMA 1843/AZ