

SECOND PARA READ ... MAKING MAXIMUM USE
SUMMIT

FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

TAIF, JAN. 17 (BERNAMA) - MALAYSIA IS TO PRESS FOR A MORE DEFINITE COMMITMENT FROM OIL-RICH ARAB STATES TO HELP IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE "LESS FORTUNATE" ISLAMIC COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN THE 42-MEMBER ORGANISATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC).

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WILL BE THE STAND MALAYSIA IS TO TAKE AT THE THIRD ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE BEGINNING IN THE HOLY CITY OF MECCA, ABOUT 80 KILOMETRES FROM HERE, ON JAN. 25.

SUCH A STAND IS NOT ONLY CONSISTENT WITH THE COUNTRY'S POSITION IN PAST CONFERENCES BUT ALSO THOUGHT TO BE THE MOST LOGICAL WAY OF REALISING THE MUCP TALKED-ABOUT OBJECTIVE OF STRENGTHENING THE SOLIDARITY OF THE "UMMAH".

MOST NON-ARAB MEMBER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND ASIA WHICH SHARE THE SAME VIEW FEEL THAT ALTHOUGH THIS CONCEPT OF "HELPING OTHER FELLOW MUSLIMS" HAD BEEN ACCEPTED DURING PAST CONFERENCES, NOTHING MUCH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN THIS RESPECT THUS FAR.

OBSERVERS HERE FEEL THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE RICHER MEMBERS OF THE OIC TO COME UP WITH CONCRETE POLICIES PARTICULARLY THOSE PERTAINING TO TRADE AND INVESTMENT. - BERNAMA MORE 1917/A1

NO86: (F)
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THIS NECESSITY IS FELT MORE URGENT IN VIEW OF THE GENERAL RELUCTANCE OF INDUSTRIALISED WESTERN NATIONS TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE REALISATION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE OIC MEMBER NATIONS ENDOWED WITH DIVERSIFIED NATURAL RESOURCES LIKE PETROLEUM, AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS AND ABUNDANT LABOUR COULD BE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH IF THEY COULD COME OUT WITH SOME KIND OF FORMULA TO BREAK THE MONOPOLY OF THE WESTERN ECONOMIES IN DETERMINING THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC PATTERN.

HOWEVER, BEFORE THIS COULD BE EFFECTED, AN "INTER-COMMUNITY" APPROACH OUGHT TO BE INITIATED.

"THE OIL-RICH ARAB STATES MUST BE TOLD TO CHANGE THEIR PRESENT ATTITUDE AND REVERT TO THE REAL SPIRIT OF THE ISLAMIC BROTHERHOOD."

"THIS MEANS THAT THEY MUST HAVE STRONGER POLITICAL WILL TO SHARE THEIR ENORMOUS OIL WEALTH FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT OF THE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBER STATES," SAID ONE OBSERVER. -- BERNAMA MORE 1922/A1

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CONFERENCE SOURCES POINT OUT THAT A MAJOR PORTION OF WEST ASIAN OIL WEALTH FLOWS TO JAPAN, HONG KONG, TAIWAN, KOREA AND SINGAPORE THROUGH TRADE RATHER THAN TO MALAYSIA OR INDONESIA, WHICH HAD A MUSLIM POPULATION OF MORE THAN 150 MILLION, A FIGURE WHICH EXCEEDS THE NUMBER OF MUSLIMS IN ALL THE ARAB STATES COMBINED TOGETHER.

MALAYSIA FEELS THAT WEST ASIAN COUNTRIES MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN RECTIFYING THE SITUATION IF THE TRUE SPIRIT OF JIHAD IS TO BE ADHERED TO.

SHE BELIEVES THAT MORE TANGIBLE ECONOMIC COOPERATION OUGHT TO BE WORKED OUT AMONG THE OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THE INTERESTS OF ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY. 212

MALAYSIA'S POSITION ON THE MATTER IS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED,) IN HIS SPEECH AT THE FOUR-DAY SUMMIT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WHO WILL BE LEADING THE COUNTRY'S 23-MEMBER DELEGATION WOULD ALSO PROBABLY TOUCH ON THE NEED FOR A RECYCLING OF THE WEST ASIAN PETRO-DOLLAR FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBER STATES.

THIS WILL CALL FOR THE MASSIVE TRANSFER OF THE ENORMOUS WEST ASIAN OIL SURPLUS REVENUE NOW PRESERVED IN BANKS IN THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. -- BERNAMA 1990/41