

NO05: (F)
MAHATHIR ๑'๑'๑'

1981

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 3 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY THAT THE TIME HAS NOW COME FOR THE ASIAN NEWS-EXCHANGE CONCEPT TO BE MADE A REALITY AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW WORLD INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ORDER.

HE SAID THAT ASIAN COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT ALLOW OTHERS TO MONOPOLISE INFORMATION ABOUT THEM.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO WAS OPENING THE FIFTH ORGANISATION OF ASIAN NEWS AGENCIES (OANA) GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE, SAID THAT THE THIRD WORLD HAD SUFFERED MUCH FROM +FREEDOM TO SEEK, RECEIVE AND IMPART INFORMATION AND IDEAS OF ALL KINDS, REGARDLESS OF FRONTIERS.+

+WHILE OUR FRONTIERS HAVE BEEN BREACHED AGAIN AND AGAIN, WE HAVE NOT HAD THE SAME CAPACITY WITH REGARD TO THE FRONTIERS WHICH CONTROL WORLD MEDIA,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS BECAUSE THE EXERCISE OF PRESS FREEDOM IS SO LOADED IN FAVOUR OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THAT WE HAVE TRIED TO FIGHT FOR A NEW WORLD INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ORDER.+ -- BERNAMA MORE 1139/A1

NO06: (F)
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR ๑'๑'๑'

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE WESTERN CONTROL OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA HAD SUBVERTED THE GOVERNMENTS OF MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNTIL SOME WERE EVEN OVERTHROWN.

+THE SAD THING IS THAT THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH TOOK OVER ARE OFTEN LESS DEMOCRATIC THAN THE MALIGNED PREDECESSORS,+ HE ADDED.

+WHATEVER GOVERNMENTS TAKE OVER THEY SOON BECOME SUBJECTS OF INTERNATIONAL VILLIFICATIONS BY THE WESTERN MEDIA,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD MORE THAN 20 NEWS AGENCIES, INCLUDING THOSE FROM THE NON-OANA MEMBER PACIFIC COUNTRIES, PARTICIPATING IN THE FOUR-DAY ASSEMBLY THAT HE REALISED THAT INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES WERE VERY POWERFUL.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, HAD SEVERAL BRUSHES WITH THEM AND HAD BEEN +BADLY BRUISED.+

+BUT IN THE NAME OF PRESS FREEDOM ITSELF, WE CANNOT BE COWED BY THREATS TO OUR COUNTRY'S IMAGE,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA MORE 1146/A1

N007: (F)
MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR ㊦'㊦'㊦'

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THAT HE TERMED AS THE LACK OF A SENSE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ON THE PART OF SOME MEDIA PERSONNEL.

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH THE FREQUENT INCIDENTS OF MISREPORTING, DELIBERATE OR OTHERWISE, ABOUT HER AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN PRESS, ESPECIALLY THE WESTERN PRESS.

MALAYSIA HAD HER FIRST FEW BITTER DOSES OF UNCALLED FOR PUBLICITY SHORTLY AFTER THE MAY 13, 1969 RACIAL RIOTS IN WHICH FOREIGN READERS WERE REGALED WITH DISTORTED VIEWS OF THE EVENTS HAPPENING THEN.

+INDEED DIRE PREDICTIONS WERE MADE WHICH IMPLIED THAT THE WORLD COULD WRITE OFF MALAYSIA, + DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

IN THE EVENT, MALAYSIA DID NOT ONLY GET OVER HER DIFFICULTIES BUT SHE EMERGED STRONGER, MORE UNITED AND MORE PROSPEROUS THAN EVER BEFORE. -- BERNAMA MORE 1150/A1

N008: (F)
MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR ㊦'㊦'㊦'

HE SAID THAT THE YEAR FOLLOWING THAT UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT ALSO SAW MALAYSIA OCCASIONALLY FALLING VICTIM TO THE WILD IMAGINATIONS AND SENSATION-MINDEDNESS OF SOME IRRESPONSIBLE JOURNALISTS, SOME OF WHOM HAD NOT EVEN VISITED THE COUNTRY.

+LATELY AS A RESULT OF OUR LEGITIMATE ATTEMPTS TO GAIN CONTROL OF OUR OWN RESOURCES, WE HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO VARIOUS REPORTS CULCULATED TO FRIGHTEN AWAY FOREIGN INVESTORS FROM OUR COUNTRY, + HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO RELATED THE RECENT INCIDENT WHEREBY A PUBLISHER OF A CHILDREN'S BOOK DESCRIBED MALAYSIANS AS PEOPLE WHO WERE STILL LIVING ON TREETOPS TO ESCAPE FROM WILD ANIMALS.

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+THE ONLY PEOPLE MALAYSIANS WOULD LIKE TO ESCAPE FROM ARE THESE KIND OF PUBLISHERS,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR FELT THAT THE ANSWER TO ALL THESE PROBLEMS LAY TO A GREAT EXTENT WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES.

+WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW OTHERS TO MONOPOLISE INFORMATION ABOUT OURSELVES. WE SHOULD EXPAND OUR EFFORTS AT INFORMING THE WORLD WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES AND WHAT IS FICTION,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA MORE 1206/A1

MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR 'a' 'a' 'a'

+ASIANS SHOULD NOT FALL INTO THE PATTERN OF SENSATIONALISM AND UNMITIGATED EMBELLISHMENTS OF THE TRUTH THAT CHARACTERISED THE WESTERN PRESS. WE SHOULD TELL THINGS AS THEY ARE.

+IN TIME, THE WORLD WILL LEARN THAT WE ARE RELIABLE AND OUR CREDIBILITY WILL ENSURE OUR ACCEPTANCE,+ HE ADDED.
-- BERNAMA MORE 1208/A1

NO10: (F)

MAHATHIR 6 KUALA LUMPUR 'a' 'a' 'a'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID AS IT WAS NOW, THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES HAD FAR TOO LONG BEEN SUFFERING FROM THE CONSTANT ILL-TREATMENT BY THE POWERFUL WESTERN AGENCIES FROM THE INSUFFICIENT SPACE GIVEN TO THEM BY THE WESTERN NEWSPAPERS.

WHATEVER THE REASONS FOR THIS IMBALANCE OF NEWS FLOW BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE STATE OF AFFAIRS COULD NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED BY THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FACT THAT MORE THAN 20 ASIAN NEWS AGENCIES WERE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE WAS A +CLEAR MANIFESTATION OF YOUR SERIOUSNESS+ IN WANTING TO SET UP THE ASIAN NEWS EXCHANGE NETWORK.

HE ALSO SAID HE REALISED THAT THERE WAS A +GREATLY FELT+ NEED FOR THE VARIOUS TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITIES TO REDUCE THEIR TARIFF RATES TO ENSURE A MORE VIABLE NEWS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME AMONG THE NON-PROFIT MAKING NEWS AGENCIES OF THE REGION. -- BERNAMA MORE 1215/A1

NO11: (F)
MAHATHIR 7 KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA HAD ALREADY REDUCED THE RATE SUBSTANTIALLY FOR THE LONG TERM INTEREST OF THE REGION AND ITS PEOPLE. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MALAYSIA WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.

+WE BELIEVE THAT AN EFFICIENT NETWORK OF NEWS EXCHANGES ACROSS ASIA AND THE PACIFIC WOULD NOT ONLY FACILITATE THE FLOW OF NEWS BETWEEN AND WITHIN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE REGION BUT ALSO FROM THE REGION TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS ALSO HIS HOPE THAT THE TIME WOULD NOT BE TOO LONG FOR THEM TO SEE ASIA'S IMAGE BEING PAINTED BY ASIANS THEMSELVES, RATHER THAN BY OUTSIDERS +WHO ARE NEITHER SENSITIVE TO OUR NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS NOR SYMPATHETIC TO OUR CAUSE.+

+A JUST AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION WITHIN THE REGION AND OUTSIDE WOULD INEVITABLY HELP PROMOTE REGIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND IN THE LONG RUN, ENHANCE FURTHER THE CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS AMONG THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION,+ HE ADDED.

THE FOUR-DAY ASSEMBLY HOSTED BY BERNAMA IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE OANA STATUTE TO ACCOMMODATE NEW MEMBERSHIP FROM THE PACIFIC COUNTRIES. -- BERNAMA 1219/AI

NO20 (F)
CORRECTION

IN BERNAMA ITEM006 SLUGGED +MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR+ FOURTH PARA SHOULD READ.....INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS GOVERNING MEDIA ETHICS, LIKE THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE, WERE VERY POWERFUL.

(REPEAT).... FOURTH PARA SHOULD READ.... INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS GOVERNING MEDIA ETHICS, LIKE THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE WERE VERY POWERFUL. - BERNAMA