

N116 (F)
OANA - REACTION

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 4, 1981 (BERNAMA)-- ASIAN JOURNALISTS ATTENDING THE FIFTH OANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE HAVE GIVEN WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT AND EXPRESSED AGREEMENT TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD'S CRITICISM ON MISREPRESENTATIONS OF THE COUNTRY'S AFFAIRS BY WESTERN MEDIA.

THEY SAID IT WAS +A TIMELY RETORT+ AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD CHANGE THE PRESENT IMBALANCED NEWS FLOW.

A DELEGATE FROM BANGLADESH, ENCIK N.A. MASOOD, SAID: +WE MUST NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE +PATTERNED+ BY THESE AGENCIES TO SUIT THEIR OWN PURPOSE, AS THEY MUST CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE+.

ENCIK MASOOD, WHO IS THE JOINT SECRETARY OF THE BANGLADESH INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTRY, SAID THE FREQUENT INCIDENTS OF DELIBERATE MISREPORTING WOULD SERVE AS +OBSTACLES+ TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING AND UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

HE BELIEVED THAT WITH THE ADDITION OF NINE OTHER COUNTRIES INTO OANA, THERE WOULD BE A BETTER CHANCE TO OFFSET THE CRITICISMS AND MISCONCEPTIONS OF THE WESTERN MEDIA.--BERNAMA MORE 1925/AH

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+OANA SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THESE MATTERS, AND THOSE PROBLEMS THAT IT MAY ENCOUNTER. EXPANDING OANA IS A CONCRETE LINE OF ACTION,+ HE SAID.

+WE MUST BE SERIOUS IN EVALUATING THE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THESE AGENCIES AND TO DO THIS THERE MUST BE EFFECTIVE COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES.+

THE BANGLADESH DELEGATE ALSO CALLED FOR MORE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS BETWEEN COUNTRIES WITHIN THE ASEAN REGION AND OTHER ASIAN NATIONS.

A WOMAN DELEGATE SAID THE CRITICISM REFLECTED THE +URGENCY TO REMEDY THE DISTORTION AND MISREPORTING THAT EXISTS IN THE WESTERN MEDIA.+

SHE ADDED: +THERE IS A NEED TO DISCIPLINE OUR APPROACH AND TREND OF WRITING FOR THE AGENCIES, AND IN RETROSPECT, I BELIEVE THAT THESE REMARKS ARE VERY TIMELY AND HAVE GIVEN MOST OF THE AGENCY JOURNALISTS AN INSIGHT INTO THE THREAT POSED BY THE WESTERN AGENCIES.+--BERNAMA MORE 1929/AH

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ANOTHER DELEGATE, IN WELCOMING THE REMARKS, SAID THERE WAS NOW A NEED TO +RETAIN OUR OWN INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY+ IN THE WAKE OF THE MISREPRESENTATIONS BY THE AGENCIES.

ANTARA DELEGATE CIK MARIANY SULEIMAN SAID BIASED AND SLANTED REPORTING OF NEWS BY WESTERN AGENCIES WERE +INCIDENTS+ WHICH VERY COUNTRY SHOULD BE WARY OF.

SHE SAID THERE WERE MANY PROSPECTS OPENED TO OANA NOW THAT IT HAD EXPANDED AND INCREASED ITS MEMBERSHIP.

CIK MARIANY SAID: +IN VIEW OF THESE CHALLENGES, OANA MEMBER COUNTRIES WOULD BE ABLE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION IN THE REGION, AS REGARD THE NEWS EXCHANGE APART FROM SERVING AS +GATEKEEPERS+ OF NEWS.+--BERNAMA 1932/AH