

NO22 (F)  
MAHATHIR - FOREIGN  
PM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 15<sup>81</sup> (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA WILL PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON CLOSER RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES IN THE EAST, PARTICULARLY JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA, TO BALANCE UP WITH HER RELATIONS WITH THE WEST; DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS MOVE HAD BEEN DECIDED ON NOT ONLY BECAUSE RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES IN THE EAST HAD RELEVANCE TO THE NATION'S EXPANDING ECONOMY BUT ALSO TO STRIKE A BALANCE IN THE PEOPLE'S WORLD OUTLOOK SO THAT IT WAS NOT INCLINED TOWARDS ONE AREA.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER OPENING THE MEETING OF MALAYSIAN HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION AT WISMA PUTRA HERE.

THE MEETING, THE FIRST TO BE HELD SINCE INDEPENDENCE, IS BEING ATTENDED BY 45 HIGH COMMISSIONERS, AMBASSADORS, CHARGE D' AFFAIRES AND CONSULS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1355/MK

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AT THE MEETING THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED TO THE SENIOR DIPLOMATS THE GOVERNMENT POLICY AND CHANGES THAT WERE TAKING PLACE.

+I EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY IS AN EXTENSION OF ITS DOMESTIC POLICY,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE SAID THAT WITH AN IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING OF THIS FACT, THE HEADS OF MISSION WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO EXPLAIN THE POLICY NOT ONLY TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS BUT ALSO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS SO THAT THEY WOULD UNDERSTAND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY IT.

HE ALSO BRIEFED THE SENIOR DIPLOMATS ON MALAYSIA'S PRIORITIES IN HER RELATIONS WITH EXISTING WORLD GROUPINGS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1359/MK

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THE NATION'S FIRST PRIORITY WAS ASEAN, FOLLOWED BY THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND THE COMMONWEALTH.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID HE STRESSED TO THE SENIOR DIPLOMATS THE NEED TO MAINTAIN EFFICIENCY, COMPETENCY AND INCORRUPTIBILITY IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THEIR MISSIONS IN LINE WITH THE EMPHASIS IN THE HOME COUNTRY.

+I STRESSED TO THEM THAT THEY MUST HAVE THE SAME ATTITUDE TOWARDS WORK, REGARDLESS OF THEIR POSITION, AS WAS BEING EMPHASISED BACK HOME IN THE COUNTRY,+ HE ADDED.

THE CONFERENCE IS BEING HELD WITH THREE OBJECTIVES:

+ TO ENABLE THE HEADS OF MISSION TO HAVE A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLICIES OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION;

+ TO ENABLE THEM TO KNOW THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND THE VARIOUS APPROACHES BEING TAKEN IN FORMULATING POLICIES; AND

+ TO PROVIDE THEM WITH INFORMATION ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO KAMPUCHEA.

FOREIGN MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE AND FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY-GENERAL TAN SRI ZAKARIA ALI WERE ALSO PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE. -- BERNAMA 1404/MK