

NO82 (F)
MAHATHIR-PAMPHLETS
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 16 ⁸¹ (BERNAMA) ^P --DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) WARNED TODAY THAT THE POLICE WILL TAKE STERN ACTION AGAINST THOSE WHO STILL DISTRIBUTED PAMPHLETS AIMED AT INCITING THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE MALAYS, AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT REALISED THAT THE POLITICAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PAMPHLETS WAS TO URGE THE MALAYS NOT TO SUPPORT THE PARTY THAT CO-OPERATED WITH OTHER RACES.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS HERE, HE SAID THE PAMPHLETS WERE FIRST FOUND TO HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN 1978, DURING THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE PAMPHLETS WERE SAID TO BE ORIGINALLY WRITTEN IN ENGLISH BY A GROUP OF CHINESE WHO DESIRED TO SEIZE POWER IN THE COUNTRY AND AS SUCH HAD URGED THE CHINESE TO BE UNITED TO GAIN POWER FOR THEMSELVES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PAMPHLETS HAD FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF MALAYS, WERE TRANSLATED AND DISTRIBUTED WIDELY AMONG THE MALAYS WITH THE ADVICE THAT THEY MAKE COPIES AND DISTRIBUTE THEM TO OTHER MALAYS IN THE CHAIN-LETTER WAY. --BERNAMA MORE 1740/MD

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE AIM OF THE PAMPHLETS WAS TO AROUSE FEELINGS OF HATRED AMONG THE MALAYS AND THE CHINESE, I.E. TO WORK UP RACIAL SENTIMENTS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO DISUNITY AMONG THE RACES IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THE POLICE HAD BANNED THE PAMPHLETS SINCE 1978 BUT THEY CONTINUED TO BE DISTRIBUTED.

MANY ADDITIONS WERE LATER ENTERED INTO THE PAMPHLETS SUCH AS THE ISSUES OF A SECOND PRIME MINISTER AND THE UNIVERSITI MERDEKA.

IN ADDITION TO THE LOCAL MALAYS, THE PAMPHLETS WERE ALSO SENT TO MALAY STUDENTS OVERSEAS, AND THIS HAD CREATED CONFUSION AMONG THEM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET IDENTIFIED WHO FIRST DISTRIBUTED THE PAMPHLS. --BERNAMA MORE 1745/MD

FOURTH PARA SHOULD READ: CREATED CONFUSION (RPT) CREATD.....

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HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT SUSPECTED THAT THERE WAS A GROUP WHICH DID THIS WITH THE AIM OF DIVIDING THE PEOPLE AND AROUSING RACIAL SENTIMENTS BY MAKING ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE PARTY WHICH CO-OPERATED WITH OTHER RACES, HE SAID.

SO FAR, NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH REGARD TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PAMPHLETS. --BERNAMA 1826/MD