

N153 (F)
MAHATHIR-DINNER

FROM AHMAT WAHAB

SINGAPORE, DEC. 17⁸⁾ (BERNAMA). -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, SAID TONIGHT WHATEVER ACTIONS TAKEN BY EITHER MALAYSIA OR SINGAPORE WERE CONTRIBUTORY AND COMPLEMENTARY TOWARDS EACH OTHER'S PROGRESS AND AS SUCH THERE WAS NO REASON FOR MISTRUST AND SUSPICION AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD ALWAYS CONSULT EACH OTHER AND FRANKLY DISCUSS MUTUAL PROBLEMS WHENEVER THEY AROSE.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER HOSTED BY HIS SINGAPORE COUNTERPART NCIX LEE KUAN YEW, HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT MALAYSIA DID NOT REGARD AS AN OBJECT OF ENVY SINGAPORE'S SUCCESS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS BUT TOOK IT AS A MODEL FOR HER OWN DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID THE RAPID PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY OF SINGAPORE MEANT THAT MALAYSIA BEING HER NEAREST NEIGHBOUR WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE A HAPPY AND STABLE NEIGHBOUR.

"AN UNHAPPY SINGAPORE CAN BE DESTABILISING TO MALAYSIA AND LIKEWISE DISCONTENT IN MALAYSIA CAN AFFECT THE REPUBLIC," HE SAID.

-- BERNAMA MORE 2205/AN

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MAHATHIR - DINNER 2 SINGAPORE

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT MALAYSIA VIEWED SINGAPORE'S EFFORTS TO BOLSTER ITS DEFENCE AS BEING TO COMPLEMENT THE DEFENCE CAPABILITY AND GREATER RESILIENCE OF THE REGION AGAINST EXTERNAL THREAT TO THE AREAS SECURITY.

HE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE OF SUCH A LINK BETWEEN THE NATIONAL DEFENCES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES THAT THE TWO SIDES AGREED AND CO-OPERATED WITHIN THE FIVE POWER DEFENCE ARRANGEMENT.

THE TWO SIDES ALSO HAD NEVER ONCE CEASED TO COOPERATE IN MATTERS RELATING TO THE THREAT OF SUBVERSION AGAINST THEIR SOCIETIES.

HE SAID THE SECURITY APPARATUS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD CONTINUOUSLY COOPERATED CLOSELY AGAINST ANY SUBVERSIVE AND CRIMINAL ELEMENTS THAT COULD AFFECT THEIR STABILITY.

+ALL THESE GO TO PROVE THAT WE SHARE COMMON OBJECTIVES AND ARE LIKEMINDED IN ENDEAVOURING TO CONTINUE WITH OUR CLOSE BILATERAL COOPERATION AND TO RESOLVE ISSUES BEFORE THEY BECOME PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA MORE 2209/AN

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MAHATHIR-DINNER 3 SINGAPORE

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THAT THIS COMMON INTEREST WHICH LINK THE DESTINY OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES WOULD NOT ONLY BE PRESERVED BUT FURTHER ENHANCED.

MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE, HE SAID, HAD MANY THINGS IN COMMON DUE LARGELY TO THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY AND HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE.

THE TWO COUNTRIES ALSO SHARE A CONVERGENCE OF PRIORITIES AND VALUES PARTICULARLY THEIR PREOCCUPATION WITH RAISING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF THE PEOPLE AND THEIR CONCERN TO ENSURE THAT DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES WERE PRESERVED.

HE ADMITTED HOWEVER THAT WHILE THE OBJECTIVES CONVERGED, THE EMPHASIS AND STYLE DIFFERED BECAUSE OF THE PECULIARITIES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SETTINGS.

CITING ON EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY WAS HETEROGENEOUS WHILE SINGAPORE'S WAS ALMOST HOMOGENEOUS. BESIDES THAT THE MALAYSIAN POPULATION WAS LARGELY RURAL WHILE THAT OF SINGAPORE

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MAHATHIR-DINNER 4 SINGAPORE

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT AN APPRECIATION OF THESE DIFFERENCES WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT AS THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE COMMON HISTORICAL AND GEOPOLITICAL BACKGROUND IN THE FOSTERING OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS HAPPY THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD IMPROVED TREMENDOUSLY DURING THE LAST F W YEARS.

DESCRIBING IT WAS A GRATIFYING DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID THE CLOSE RAPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED.

TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE HE REITERATED HIS FIRM SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE IN THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE SET UP BY THE TWO COUNTRIES IN FULFILLING ITS TASK AND THUS FURTHER ENHANCING BILATERAL RELATIONS.

ON ASEAN, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE REGIONAL GROUPING WOULD CONTINUE TO FEATURE PROMINENTLY IN MALAYSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATION UNDER THE PRESENT MALAYSIAN LEADERSHIP.

— BERNAMA MORE 2218/AN

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MAHATHIR-DINNER 5 SINGAPORE

ASEAN, HE SAID, HAD GAINED TREMENDOUS MOMENTUM AND RESPECT SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1967 SO MUCH SO THAT IT IS TODAY RECOGNISED AS A REGIONAL ENTITY AND FORCE IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE REGION AND THE WORLD.

TO SUSTAIN THIS CREDIBILITY HE URGED ASEAN MEMBERS TO WORK COLLECTIVELY TO PRESERVE ASEAN'S IMAGE AS A VIABLE AND COHESIVE GROUPING AS WELL AS TO PRESERVE THE RECOGNITION AND RESPECT THAT THE GROUPING HAD ACHIEVED.

HE REMINDED THAT ASEAN WAS UNIQUE IN THAT IT WAS NOT ONLY A GROUPING OF FIVE SOVEREIGN NATIONS EACH WITH A MIND OF ITS OWN BUT THERE ALSO EXISTED A FEELING OF WARMTH FOR EACH OTHER WHICH TRANSCENDED THE BASIC OBLIGATIONS ENshrINED IN THE 1967 BANGKOK DECLARATION.

'NO WHERE ELSE HAVE WE SEEN A GROUP OF NATIONS DELIBERATING ON THE FUTURE OF EACH OTHER'S WELL BEING WITH SO MUCH SINCERITY AND GOODWILL;' HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID ASEAN'S COMMITMENT TRANSCENDED LIMITED AND LOCALISED NATIONAL OUTLOOKS, THUS MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR MORE DARING PROGRAMMES FOR THE FUTURE BASED ON A PEACEFUL AND STABLE SOUTHEAST ASIA.

— BERNAMA MORE 2222/AN

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MAHATHIR-DINNER 6 SINGAPORE

THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED ASEAN'S STAND IN DEPLORING THE FOREIGN ARMED INTERVENTION IN KAMPUCHEA.

HE SAID SUCH INTERVENTION WAS CONTRARY TO ASEAN'S BELIEF IN THE CONDUCT OF INTER STATE RELATIONS AND A VIOLATION OF ASEAN'S COMMON PROGRAMME FOR A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE EVENTS IN THE INDOCHINA STATES HAD BROUGHT COMMUNISM CLOSER TO THE DOOR STEPS OF BOTH MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE.

HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT AS LONG AS THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF STATES WAS RECOGNISED AND THE SANCTITY OF SOVEREIGN STATES WAS RESPECTED, MALAYSIA WAS WILLING TO CO-EXIST.

"WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN DOUBLE STANDARDS IN THE CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS", HE SAID.

"WE CANNOT ACCEPT COMMITMENT TO PURSUE FRIENDLY RELATIONS ON THE ONE PLANE AND ON ANOTHER INDULGE IN ACTS OF SUBVERSION AND TERRORISM TO WEAKEN OUR NATIONAL RESILIENCE".

— BERNAMA MORE 2224/AN

N159 (F)
MAHATHIR-DINNER 7 SINGAPORE

HE STRESSED THAT RELATIONS, IF IT WAS TO BE DURABLE, MUST BE BASED ON THE MUTUALLY ACCEPTED NORMS OF EQUALITY AND RESPECT AND THAT THERE COULD NOT BE ANY COMPROMISE ON IT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH ITS ABUNDANT WEALTH AND STRATEGIC LOCATION HAD BEEN A CONSTANT TARGET OF BIG POWER RIVALRY.

HE WARNED ASEAN COUNTRIES THAT TO OPT FOR SUPER POWER COLLUSION WOULD BE TO SUBMIT THEMSELVES TO BE PAWNS IN THEIR CONFLICTS AND RIVALRIES.

HE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE DANGER OF SUCH BLEAK PROSPECT THAT ASEAN HAD ADVOCATED THE CONCEPT OF ZOPFAN TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF THE SMALL NATIONS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

— BERNAMA 2226/AN