

NO68: (F)
MAHATHIR-SECURITY
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 8⁸⁾ (BERNAMA) — (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY MALAYSIA DOES NOT INTEND TO BECOME PROXY TO ANY BIG POWER OR BECOME THEIR TARGETS.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN LINE WITH ITS STAND OF WANTING WORLD PEACE, MALAYSIA HAD STRESSED MANY TIMES THAT BIG POWERS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

HE SAID IT WAS FEARED THAT IF SUCH INTERFERENCE CONTINUED, IT MIGHT LEAD TO WAR BETWEEN THE BIG POWERS.

HE SAID THIS WHEN OPENING THE CONFERENCE OF DISTRICT SECURITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, THE FIRST ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE DECADE OF THE EIGHTIES WAS SEEING KEEN COMPETITION AMONG THE BIG POWERS IN SECURING STRATEGIC AREAS THROUGH DIRECT MEANS OR BY THE USE OF PROXIES,
— BERNAMA MORE 1824/LK

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FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE BIG POWERS WERE ACTIVELY PURSUING EFFORTS TO GET MORE SMALL NATIONS WHICH WERE PREPARED TO BOW UNDER THEIR DIRECTIVES AND POLITICAL CONTROL.

THE BIG POWERS WERE ALSO TRYING TO SEIZE POWER AND CONTROL THE ECONOMY OF COUNTRIES PRODUCING RAW MATERIALS AS WELL AS THEIR MARKETS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THOUGH THE BIG POWERS OPENLY DISPLAYED FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD INTENTIONS IN THEIR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THEY WERE STILL CARRYING OUT CERTAIN SUBTLE MANIPULATIONS TO ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVE OF GETTING NEUTRAL NATIONS TO BOW TO THEIR INFLUENCE.

+WHATEVER THE REASON FOR THE POWER STRUGGLE, IN THE END IT IS THE SMALL NEUTRAL NATIONS SUCH AS MALAYSIA THAT BECOME VICTIMS, + HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO BECOME TOOLS OF THE POWERS, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. — BERNAMA MORE 229/LK

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REGARDING EVENTS IN THE REGION, HE SAID THAT THE COMPETITION AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNIST POWERS TO HAVE CONTROL HAD RESULTED IN DISPUTES BETWEEN VIETNAM AND KAMPUCHEA AND BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE CHALLENGES OF THE EIGHTIES COULD ONLY BE OVERCOME BY BECOMING SELF-RELIANT IN AS MANY FIELDS AS POSSIBLE.

THIS WAS A FACT THAT MUST BE ACCEPTED BECAUSE IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE FUTURE OF A NATION DEPENDED ON ITS ABILITY TO DEFEND ITS FREEDOM BY ITSELF.

HE SAID THAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDED TO BE MILITARILY EQUIPPED TO TAKE OVER THE FULL RESPONSIBILITY OF ITS DEFENCE.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED, EXPANSION OF THE SECURITY FORCES WITHOUT ECONOMIC STRENGTH WOULD BE MEANINGLESS BECAUSE THIS WOULD INCREASE THE DEPENDENCE ON BIG POWERS WHICH HAD DIFFERENT INTERESTS.

— BERNAMA MORE 1843/LK

NO71: (F)

MAHATHIR—SECURITY 4 KUALA LUMPUR

+THE GROWTH OF OUR ECONOMY WILL NOT AND SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY ANY INCREASED EXPENDITURE FOR DEFENCE.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, INCREASED DEFENCE EXPENDITURE SHOULD ENCOURAGE MORE RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH, + HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE MAIN FACTOR FOR NATIONAL RESILIENCE WAS THE OVERALL ROLE AND INVOLVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE AS A RESULT OF THEIR AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE NATION,

THE FEELING OF PATRIOTISM MUST BE AROUSED AMONG THE PEOPLE **SO THAT THEIR LOVE OF THE COUNTRY WOULD BE SO GREAT THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO DEFEND IT WITH THEIR LIVES, HE SAID.**

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REGRETTED THAT CERTAIN GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY DID NOT HAVE SUCH SPIRIT. — BERNAMA MORE 1845/LK

NO72: (F)

MAHATHIR—SECURITY 5 KUALA LUMPUR

'SOME OF THEM WERE EVEN PREPARED TO SMEAR THE NAME AND IMAGE OF THE NATION NOT ONLY WITHIN THE COUNTRY, BUT ELSEWHERE SUCH AS AT INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, HE SAID,

WITHIN THE COUNTRY, SOMETIMES OPPOSITION DIRECTED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT CAME FROM THE PEOPLE IN AREAS WHERE DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED, HE ADDED,

THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE IS ATTENDED BY 92 DISTRICT OFFICERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, — BERNAMA 1847/LK