

MAHATHIR-LUNCH 2'2'2'

FROM K.C. LEONG

BANGKOK, AUG. 24 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE WOULD CONTINUE TO BUILD AND IMPROVE ON THE STRONG FOUNDATION HE HAD INHERITED FROM HIS THREE PREDECESSORS FOR BUILDING A PROGRESSIVE, PROSPEROUS AND UNITED MALAYSIA. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE SHARED THE SAME OBJECTIVES OF HIS PREDECESSORS ALTHOUGH MY APPROACH AND STYLE MAY BE DIFFERENT. +

ADDRESSING A LARGE LUNCHEON GATHERING ORGANISED BY THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB OF THAILAND (FCCT) AT THE ORIENTAL HOTEL HERE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA'S FIRST THREE PRIME MINISTERS HAD TOILED HARD TO BUILD THE COUNTRY INTO WHAT IT WAS TODAY.

+THEY HAD THEIR DREAM AND VISION OF A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS MALAYSIA OF MALAYSIANS UNITED AND DISCIPLINE. I SHARE THE SAME DREAM AND VISION. +HE TOLD HIS AUDIENCE OF BANGKOK-BASED FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, DIPLOMATS AND SENIOR THAI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

+RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, HE HAD ACQUIRED MANY LABELS DURING HIS POLITICAL CAREER AND SINCE BECOMING PRIME MINISTER THERE HAD BEEN MORE SPECULATION ABOUT HIS BRAND OF POLITICS AND THE COURSE OF ACTION HE WOULD TAKE HE SAID.

HE SAID TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN, TUN PAZAK AND TUN HUSSEIN ONN HAD SPARED NO EFFORT IN PURSUING THESE NOBLE GOALS AND THE RESULT WAS AN ACHIEVEMENT MALAYSIANS WERE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF.

— BERNAMA MORE 1630/SZ

NO57 (F)

MAHATHIR-LAUNCH 2 BANGKOK

+NOW THE BURDEN OF GUIDING MALAYSIA IS ON MY SHOULDERS. IT IS NOW MY TASK TO PURSUE THE VISION OF MAKING MALAYSIA INTO A PROGRESSIVE, PROSPEROUS AND UNITED NATION. + DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADDED.

+MY APPROACH AND STYLE MAY BE DIFFERENT BUT THE OBJECTIVES ARE THE SAME. I WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD AND IMPROVE ON THE STRONG FOUNDATION THAT I HAVE INHERITED. +

HE ALSO PLEDGED TO ENDEAVOUR TO STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE THE CLOSE TIES AND COOPERATION WHICH HAD BEEN FORGED BY HIS PREDECESSORS IN RELATION WITH MALAYSIA'S NEIGHBOURS AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

SPEAKING ON THE MALAYSIAN EXPERIENCE, + DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TRACED THE DEVELOPMENTS IN MALAYSIA SINCE INDEPENDENCE WHEN MALAYSIAN LEADERS STARTED GRAPPLING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF BUILDING A NATION. +

THE LEADERS... HE SAID WERE DETERMINED TO BUILD A UNITED MALAYSIAN SOCIETY AND IN THE PROCESS HAD BORROWED SOME IDEAS AND EXPERIMENTED WITH THEORIES AND CONCEPTS BUT A GREAT DEAL WERE INNOVATIONS COMPLETELY THEIR OWN. — BERNAMA MORE 1635/SZ

NO58 (F)
MAHATHIR-LUNCH 3 BANGKOK

THE MALAYSIAN EXPERIENCE HAD SHAPED AND MOULDED POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS, MEASURES AND THE RESPONSES. THESE HAD INCLUDED THE ALLIANCE GOVERNMENT, THE CONFERENCE OF RULERS, THE NATIONAL OPERATIONS ROOM, BUM PUTRAS, THE MALAY DILEMMA, THE SEDITION ACT, THE BARISAN NASIONAL AND THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

THE MALAYSIAN EXPERIENCE ALSO HAD ITS SHARE OF STRESS AND STRAIN, SOME OF THEM WITH BITTER AND TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES. HE CITED THE 1948-1960 EMERGENCY AND THE MAY 13, 1969 INCIDENT AS EXAMPLES.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE POLITICAL PRAGMATISM OF OUR EXPERIENCE HAS BROUGHT US STABILITY, SECURITY AND A MEASURE OF UNITY WHICH HAS ENABLED US TO PURSUE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR PEOPLE.

THE MALAYSIAN EXPERIENCE HAD ALSO TAUGHT MALAYSIANS NOT ONLY TO LIVE AND SAFEGUARD THEMSELVES IN PEACE AND HARMONY INTERNALLY BUT ALSO TO COOPERATE WITH THEIR NEIGHBOURS. MALAYSIA VALUED COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOURS WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS AND THE PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.

MALAYSIA WAS ALSO EQUALLY CONCERNED WITH THE BROADER ASPECT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND OF GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY, HE SAID. — BERNAMA 1640/SZ