

N110 (F)
SUMMIT-MA ATHIR

FRGM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

TAIF, JAN. 27 (BERNAMA) -- ⁸⁾ ⁹⁾ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD DELIVERED A HARD-HITTING SPEECH AT THE THIRD ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE HERE TODAY, SPEAKING STRONGLY ABOUT WHAT HE SAW AS WEAKNESSES OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE LACK OF REALLY EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM.

HE EXHORTED THEM TO +FACE FACTS AND BE MORE PRACTICAL+ IF THEY WISHED TO OVERCOME THEIR PROBLEMS AND FAILURE TO MAKE PROGRESS IN CERTAIN FIELDS.

HE SAID LEADERS OF ISLAMIC NATIONS IN THE WORLD MUST NOT FORGET THAT MORE THAN 900 MILLION MUSLIMS LOOKED UP TO THEM WITH GREAT HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER REFERRED TO THE LACK OF AN EFFECTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR MORE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC) AND CONTINUING SQUABBLES AMONG SOME ISLAMIC STATES.

HE ALSO TOUCHED ON OTHER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEAKNESSES OF ISLAMIC NATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE LITERALLY +HUNDREDS OF WAYS+ IN WHICH ECONOMIC COOPERATION COULD BE EFFECTED BETWEEN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES. --BERNAMA MORE 1926/BY

HOWEVER THEIR SUCCESS WOULD DEPEND ON HOW FAR THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES WERE WILLING TO GO IN REALISING THE OBJECTIVE.

+TALKING ABOUT ISLAMIC BROTHERHOOD IS NOT ENOUGH. ECONOMIC COOPERATION IS NOT PARITY. THERE IS AN OBLIGATION ON BOTH SIDES, A MUTUALITY OF BENEFITS WHICH IS THE REAL BASIS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION,+ HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OIC WAS AS MUCH FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AS IT WAS FOR ISLAMIC UNITY AND THAT ALTHOUGH SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE, ISLAMIC LEADERS SHOULD NOT +DELUDE+ THEMSELVES INTO BELIEVING THAT MUCH HAD BEEN DONE.

WHAT HAD GONE INTO THIS ECONOMIC COOPERATION WAS A MERE +DROP IN THE OCEAN+ COMPARED WITH THE TOTAL ECONOMIC INVESTMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES BY THE ISLAMIC NATIONS.

+AS IT WERE, IT IS MONEY FROM THE ISLAMIC WORLD THAT IS PROPPING UP THE INDUSTRIES OF EUROPE AND AMERICA WITH RESULTANT PRICE RISES AND ECONOMIC PRESSURES AROUND WHICH WE NEED NOT REPEAT HERE,+ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1957/12

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TURNING TO CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN KING KHALED IBNI ABDUL AZIZ OF SAUDI ARABIA, HE CONTINUED: +WE CAN HAVE MORE RESOLUTIONS BUT WE KNOW QUITE WELL THAT THEY WILL GET US NOWHERE.

+THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OIC COULD WELL BE YET ANOTHER RECITATION OR ADMISSION OF OUR FAILURE TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES.+

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS LEADING MALAYSIA'S FIVE-MEMBER DELEGATION TO THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE, SAID THAT ANOTHER MAIN WEAKNESS OF MUSLIMS WAS THEIR RELUCTANCE TO FACE THE HARDSHIPS OF MIGRATION AND THE PROBLEMS AND RISKS ATTENDANT UPON ALL ENDEAVOURS.

BECAUSE OF THIS ATTITUDE, ISLAMIC COUNTRIES COULD NOT EVEN DEPEND ON MUSLIMS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES TO +WORK IN THE SUN+ AND PARTICIPATE IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT BUT HAD TO RECRUIT NON-MUSLIMS FROM THE COLD COUNTRIES.

AS A RESULT, +A LITTLE OF OUR INDEPENDENCE IS LOST BECAUSE WE CANNOT CARRY OUT OUR OWN DEVELOPMENT OURSELVES+. AND AS THIS SITUATION CONTINUED, +OUR SKILLS WILL GET LESS AND LESS WHILE OUR DEPENDENCE ON OTHERS WILL GET MORE AND MORE.+ — BERNAMA MORE 2000/12

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HE URGED ALL ISLAMIC COUNTRIES TO STRIVE TO BE SELF-RELIANT TO THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL AND SAID MALAYSIA, ON HER PART, WAS WILLING TO HELP IN ORGANISING AND PROVIDING THE NECESSARY TRAINING.

DATUK SERI DR. MA ATHIR ALSO REGRETTED THE CONTINUED +PASSIVE ACCEPTANCE+ BY ISLAMIC NATIONS OF THE EURO-CENTRIC BIAS IN THE INTERNATIONAL INCOME DISTRIBUTION.

ON ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AND VIEWS HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO UNDERMINE ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION.

+WE HAVE ALSO ALLOWED OUR DIFFERENCES TO BE EXPLOITED TO THE EXTENT THAT EVEN WHEN OUR BROTHERS ARE TRAMPLED UNDER AND THEIR COUNTRIES OVERRUN, WE ARE STILL UNABLE TO REACH A CONSENSUS AND PUT UP A UNIFIED FRONT.

+AND NOW WE FIND THAT OUR OWN MEMBERS ARE IN OPEN CONFRONTATION AND EVEN WAR WITH EACH OTHER+: HE DECLARED IN AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT.

HE SAID THAT THE CONFLICT WAS A SOURCE OF CONTINUING AND UN-BEARABLE GRIEF AND ANXIETY FOR EVERY MUSLIM. --BERNAMA MORE 2024/BY

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THIS WAS PARTICULARLY SO AS THE CONFLICT FORMED THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE ALREADY NUMEROUS CRISIS FACING THE UMMAH SUCH AS THE BAITUL MAQDIS, PALESTINE AND AFGHANISTAN ISSUES.

HE REMINDED THE PARTIES CONCERNED THAT WHAT OUGHT TO BE UPPERMOST WAS THE SOLIDARITY OF ISLAM AND ITS WELL-BEING AND THE WELL-BEING OF THE UMMAH AS A WHOLE.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DECLARED THAT IF THE PARTIES INVOLVED COULD NOT RECONCILE THEMSELVES WITH EACH OTHER, THEY SHOULD ACCEPT A FORMULA DEvised BY A THIRD PARTY. 04

IN THIS CONNECTION, THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT TO THE UMMAH, THE OIC WAS THE MOST ACCEPTABLE THIRD PARTY.

HE PLEDGED MALAYSIA'S READINESS TO ASSOCIATE HERSELF WITH EFFORTS THAT WOULD BRING ABOUT AN EARLY CESSATION OF THE CONFLICT THROUGH A JUST AND HONOURABLE SOLUTION. —BERNAMA MORE SUMMIT—MAHATHIR & AIF

ON THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS SAD TO SEE THE PLIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS STILL LEFT UNRESOLVED AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.

HE URGED ALL MEN OF GOODWILL TO ABHOR THE MASS PERSECUTION PERPETRATED BY THE ZIONISTS WHO CRAVED THE SYMPATHY OF THE WORLD +WHEN THEY WERE PERSECUTED BUT ARE NOT BETTER THAN THEIR FORMER PERSECUTORS WHEN THEY HAVE THE POWER+.

ON THE STRUGGLE OF THE AFGHANS TO FREE THEIR LAND FROM SOVIET MILITARY OCCUPIERS, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT WHAT THESE FIGHTERS NEEDED WAS NOT MONEY BUT ARMS WHICH THE ISLAMIC NATIONS WERE NOT ABLE TO SUPPLY BECAUSE THEY THEMSELVES WERE DEPENDENT ON OTHERS FOR ARMS.

HE REGRETTED THAT SOME ISLAMIC NATIONS COULD NOT EVEN SYMPATHISE WITH THE AFGHANS BECAUSE THEY WERE DEPENDENT ON THE AGGRESSOR NATION FOR MILITARY SUPPORT. —BERNAMA 2030/BY