

MAHATHIR - DINNER

FROM REJAL ARBEE

82 (9)
APIA (WESTERN SAMOA), JUNE 7 (BERNAMA)-- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID HERE TONIGHT THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD WORK TOGETHER IF THEY WISH TO UPLIFT THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THEIR PEOPLE.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER GIVEN BY WESTERN SAMOAN PRIME MINISTER VAAI KOLONE AT TUSITALA HOTEL HERE, HE SAID: +WE HAVE BEEN SO USED TO LOOKING AT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR AID THAT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN TO LOOK AT OUR OWN CAPACITIES.

+YET, IF WE DO, I AM SURE WE WILL FIND THAT WE HAVE SOME ASSETS WHICH CAN BE OF HELP TO US.

+OF COURSE, IF WE WORK TOGETHER OUR COMBINED ASSETS WILL BE FAIRLY CONSIDERABLE. WE WILL THEN BE ABLE TO HELP OURSELVES IN A VERY EFFECTIVE WAY.+

THE VISITING MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER SAID HE FELT SURE THAT IF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA AND WESTERN SAMOA WORK TOGETHER THEY WOULD GAIN IN TERMS OF A MORE STABLE ECONOMY AND A STRONGER VOICE IN WORLD AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY IN MATTERS AFFECTING THEM.

--BERNAMA MORE 1906/AH

N112 (F)

MAHATHIR - DINNER 2 APIA (WESTERN SAMOA)

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS FOR THAT REASON THAT MALAYSIA HAD EMBARKED ON A +MODEST PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION+ ESPECIALLY GEARED TOWARDS HELPING COUNTRIES WITHIN THE REGION.

+I AM SURE THAT THERE ARE MANY AREAS OF COOPERATION WHICH CAN BE EXPLORED AND FIELDS IN WHICH OUR MUTUAL EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE COULD BE PUT TO BETTER USE.

+DEVELOPING NATIONS MUST STAND BY EACH OTHER AND STRIVE HARD TO ACHIEVE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES THAT WE HAVE LAID OUT FOR OUR DEVELOPMENT NEEDS,+ HE ADDED.

TOUCHING ON MALAYSIAN-WESTERN SAMOAN RELATIONS, HE SAID THE TWO NATIONS HAD FOR FAR TOO LONG LIVED IN RELATIVE ISOLATION DESPITE GEORGRAPHICALLY BEING IN THE SAME REGION.

CULTURALLY, HISTORICALLY AND TRADITIONALLY, MALAYSIA AND WESTERN SAMOA SHARED VERY MANY COMMON TIES, HE SAID, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE TIES WOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED AND THAT THE COUNTRIES COULD COOPERATE MORE ACTIVELY TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE IN THE AISA-PACIFIC REGION.

VAAI KOLONE SAID THERE WAS A STRONG DESIRE BY NATIONS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC TO SCULTIVATE LINKS WITH THEIR DEVELOPING NEIGHBOURS AND TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP THE DIALOGUE THAT HAD BEGUN BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM.

HE SAID THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM, TO WHICH THE SOUTH SEA NATIONS BELONG, WOULD NOT ONLY FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BUT WOULD ALSO ACT AS A CATALYSIT IN LAUNCHING INITIATIVES THAT WOULD BE TO THEIR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

VAAI KOLONE SAID MALAYSIA HAD EXTENDED ASSISTANCE TO WESTERN BAMOA UNDER ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME AND HE HOPED FOR ITS CONTINUANCE.--BERNAMA 1928/AH