

PM - KAMPUCHEA

82 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 24 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY APPEALED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HELP STRENGTHEN THE PRINCE SIHANOUK-LED GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FORMATION OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT AMONG THE THREE KHMER NATIONALIST LIBERATION FACTIONS WOULD GREATLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A POLITICAL SOLUTION ENVISAGED UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON KAMPUCHEA (ICK).

ADDRESSING THE FIFTH JAPAN-ASEAN SYMPOSIUM, HERE, HE SAID ASEAN'S APPROACH TO THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS WAS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING A SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT AND NEUTRAL KAMPUCHEA RESPECTED AND GUARANTEED BY THE POWERS.

SUCH A SOLUTION WOULD NOT ONLY EXCLUDE EXTERNAL POWER INTERFERENCE AND DOMINATION BUT ALSO CONSTITUTED AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS THE REALISATION OF THE ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZOPFAN) IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE MILITARY INTERVENTION AND OCCUPATION OF KAMPUCHEA HAD NOT ONLY VIOLATED THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, BUT ALSO DISRUPTED ASEAN'S PEACEFUL MOVE OF FORGING A MEANINGFUL CO-OPERATION WITH HANOI. -- MORE 1928/MB

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"SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY HAS SINCE ADDED TO THE DESTABLISING OF THIS REGION," HE SAID.

CONSCIOUS THAT SUCH RIVALRY MUST BE REMOVED FROM INDOCHINA BEFORE THERE WOULD BE ANY PROSPECT OF ESTABLISHING PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, ASEAN WAS MORE THAN EVER DETERMINED TO PURSUE THE OBJECTIVE OF ZOPFAN, HE SAID.

"IN THIS CONTEXT, THE CENTRAL THRUST OF ASEAN'S EFFORT IS TO WORK FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM," HE SAID.

TO ASEAN, THE CONTINUED MILITARY OCCUPATION OF KAMPUCHEA BY VIETNAM WOULD ONLY INVITE FURTHER INTERFERENCE DOMINATION AND RIVALRY AMONG MAJOR POWERS LEADING TO FURTHER INSTABILITY IN THE REGION.

"IT IS, THEREFORE, IN THE INTEREST OF VIETNAM AS WELL AS ASEAN THAT THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM SHOULD BE QUICKLY RESOLVED," HE ADDED. -- MORE 193D/MB

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HE SAID THAT APART FROM THE INSTABILITY AND UNCERTAINTY CAUSED BY THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA, THE CURRENT GLOBAL RECESSION WAS THREATENING TO RETARD ASEAN'S INDUSTRIALISATION EFFORTS.

"THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE OPTED FOR PROTECTIONISM AS PANACEA FOR THEIR AILING INDUSTRIES," HE SAID.

HE WARNED THAT IF THIS TENDENCY WAS NOT CHECKED, NOT ONLY WOULD THE EXPORTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BE AFFECTED BUT THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIALISATION EFFORTS WOULD BE SERIOUSLY HAMPERED.

ASEAN, HE SAID, THROUGH CONCERTED EFFORT AND UNITED STAND HAD MANAGED TO FACE THESE CHALLENGES.

ABOUT 150 PARTICIPENTS COMPRISING GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR EXECUTIVES, INCLUDING THOSE FROM JAPANESE FIRMS HERE, AND ASEAN DIPLOMATS ARE ATTENDING THE THREE-DAY SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY THE HAINICHI NEWSPAPERS GROUP OF JAPAN.

ATTENDING THE SYMPOSIUM FOR THE FIRST TIME ARE THREE OFFICIALS REPRESENTING THE BRUNEI GOVERNMENT.

A TOTAL OF 13 PAPERS PRESENTED BY PROMINENT PERSONALITIES FROM MALAYSIA, JAPAN, INDONESIA, THAILAND, SINGAPORE AND THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE DISCUSSED.

-- BERNAMA 1948/LK