

MAHATHIR-ISA

83 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 10 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY MALAYSIA WOULD NOT MAKE A FORMAL PROTEST TO THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT ON THE STATEMENT BY ITS PRIME MINISTER, ENCIK ANDREAS VAN AGT CRITICISING MALAYSIA'S INTERNAL SECURITY ACT (ISA).

+AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, I COULDN'T CARELESS,+ HE SAID WHEN COMMENTING ON A FOREIGN NEWS AGENCY REPORT QUOTING ENCIK VAN AGT AS SAYING THAT THE MALAYSIAN LEGISLATION'S ENFORCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY WAS +FUNDAMENTALLY CONTRADICTORY+ TO INTERNATIONAL NORMS.

SPEAKING AS A FOREIGN MINISTER BEFORE A PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE DUTCH LEADER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE SHARED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S CONCERN OVER THE LARGE NUMBER OF DEATH SENTENCES IN MALAYSIA.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR FELT THAT IT WAS USELESS TO MAKE ANY FORMAL REPLY TO THE ALLEGATIONS AS +I HAVE SAID ENOUGH+.

+WHY SHOULD I, WHEN I HAVE MADE A CLEAR STATEMENT OF PROTEST IN THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY DURING MY POLICY SPEECH?+ HE ADDED.
--MORE 1455/AN

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AT TODAY'S ASSEMBLY, HE URGED THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT TO REFLECT ON THEIR ACTIONS DURING THE DUTCH EAST INDIES RULE BEFORE ACTING AS +A MAN OF CONSCIENCE+.

MEANWHILE FOREIGN MINISTER, TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE SAID HE WAS STILL PUZZLED OVER WHAT PROMPTED ENCIK VAN AGT TO MAKE THE STATEMENT.

+IT IS STUPID, TO SAY THE LEAST,+ HE ADDED.

HE DID NOT FORESEE HOW SUCH DAMAGING STATEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE WHEN MALAYSIA HAD NOT CONDUCTED ANY MOVES WHICH AFFECTED THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES.

+IT PUZZLES ME ESPECIALLY WHEN THE DUTCH PRIME MINISTER LAST VISITED THIS COUNTRY, HE WAS VERY CORDIAL TOWARDS US.+ HE SAID.

--BERNAMA 1505/AN