

MAHATHIR-FOREIGN

82 (P)

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 10 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA NEEDS TO RE-ALIGN ITS APPROACH TOWARDS FOREIGN RELATIONS IN VIEW OF CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE WORLD, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE COUNTRY NEEDED TO DETERMINE ITS PRIORITIES FROM TIME TO TIME TO SUIT PREVAILING CONDITIONS.

FOR EXAMPLE, MALAYSIA NO LONGER DEPENDED FULLY ON THE STRENGTH OF AND ASSISTANCE FROM COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.

+IN FACT, LARGE PORTION OF OUR TRADE IS WITH NON-COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES+, HE SAID IN HIS POLICY SPEECH AT 33RD UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE. --MORE 0907/AN

NO10 (F)

MAHATHIR-FORIGN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT SAID MALAYSIA NO LONGER DEPENDED ON TIN AND RUBBER FOR ITS REVENUE. IT HAD BECOME A PRODUCER OF PALM OIL, PETROLEUM, LOGS AND MANUFACTURED GOODS.

THE NATION'S ECONOMY WAS NO LONGER IN THE HANDS OF FOREIGNERS OR ANY ONE COMMUNITY.

HE SAID BRITAIN, THE FOUNDER OF THE COMMONWEALTH ITSELF, HAD NEGLECTED THE ORGANIZATION FOLLOWING HER PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, ASEAN WAS ESTABLISHED, THE UNITED STATES WAS DEFEATED IN VIETNAM AND CHINA HAS OPENED HER DOORS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

IN VIEW OF THE CHANGES, MALAYSIA NEEDED TO RE-ALIGN ITS APPROACH TOWARDS FOREIGN RELATIONS BY GIVING HIGHER PRIORITIES TO TIES WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES. --MORE 0910/AN

MAHATHIR-FOREIGN 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT ASEAN HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN STABILISING THE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. IN THIS RESPECT, MALAYSIA HAD MADE EFFORTS THROUGH ASEAN TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM.

+WHATEVER IT IS, WE CANNOT CONDONE ANY AGGRESSION BY ONE COUNTRY AGAINST ANOTHER+, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE SECOND PRIORITY WAS RELATIONS WITH ISLAMIC COUNTRIES.

HE WAS AWARE OF THE DISUNITY IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD BUT MALAYSIA WAS NOT TAKING ANY SIDE AND IF NECESSARY WAS PREPARED TO ACT AS MEDIATOR OR PEACEMAKER.

IN LINE WITH THIS NON-ALIGNED STAND, MALAYSIA WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS ROLE IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AS THE THIRD PRIORITY.

ON THE COMMONWEALTH, HE SAID ALTHOUGH THE ORGANIZATION WAS INACTIVE MALAYSIA WOULD CONTINUE TO HELP SMALL NATIONS IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

--MORE 0920/AN

NO12 (F)

MAHATHIR-FOREIGN 4 KUALA LUMPUR

AS SUCH HE WOULD ATTEND THE FORTHCOMING COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT REGIONAL MEETING (CHOGRM) NEXT MONTH IN FIJI BECAUSE MANY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FROM SMALL COUNTRIES WOULD ATTEND.

MEANWHILE BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE INTENSIFIED BECAUSE MANY PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED THROUGH BILATERAL RATHER THAN MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

BILATERAL COOPERATION ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS WOULD ALSO BE CONTINUED WITH MALI IN AFRICA AND OTHER PACIFIC COUNTRIES.

HE EMPHASISED THAT SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES DID NOT CONFINE TO PROBLEMS WITHIN THE COUNTRY BUT ALSO INVOLVED INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

TOUCHING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER, HE SAID MALAYSIA HAD OFFERED HER NEW ECONOMIC POLICY CONCEPT WHICH WAS AIMED AT ACHIEVING A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME AND ERADICATING POVERTY.

ON THE GOVERNMENT'S LOOK EAST POLICY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO STUDY WHAT SHOULD BE ADOPTED FROM THE EAST AND LEFT OUT FROM THE WEST.

--MORE 0925/AN

NO13 (F)

MAHATHIR-FOREIGN 5 KUALA LUMPUR

THE WEST COULD NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED A MODEL BECAUSE THEIR VALUES HAD CHANGED.

THE WEST PARTICULARLY THE YOUNG GENERATION CONSIDERS HARD WORK VERY LOWLY AND LOOKED DOWN UPON IT.

LOOKING EAST MEANS TO LOOK AT OURSELVES AND ADOPT THE GOOD VALUES FROM THEM AND DISCARD THOSE THAT DO NOT BENEFIT US+, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT IN FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLES OF JAPAN AND KOREA IN THE WORK ETHICS, FACTORS WHICH WERE AGAINST THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM WOULD DEFINATELY BE ELIMINATE.

ONLY VALUES WHICH WERE ACCEPTABLE TO ISLAM WOULD ACCEPTED.

--BERNAMA 0926/AN