

MAHATHIR-LAND

FROM REJAL ARBEE

NEW YORK, SEPT. 30 (BERNAMA) ⁸³ (P) --- THE UNITED NATIONS HAS BEEN ASKED TO CONVENE A MEETING TO DEFINE THE PROBLEM OF UNINHABITED LANDS LIKE THE ANTARTICA TO DETERMINE THE RIGHTS OF ALL NATIONS TO THEM.

PRIME MINISTER/DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, IN HIS MAIDEN ADDRESS TO THE 37TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE THIS AFTERNOON (EARLY THIS MORNING IN MALAYSIA) SAID IT WAS NOW TIME FOR THE WORLD BODY TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION TO SUCH AREAS, WHICH MIGHT BE CLAIMED OR UNCLAIMED.

A NEW INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WAS REQUIRED SO THAT HISTORICAL EPISODES WERE NOT MADE INTO FACTS TO SUBSTANTIATE CLAIMS, HE ADDED.

HE SAID WITH AGREEMENT REACHED ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, THE DAYS WHEN THE RICH NATIONS OF THE WORLD COULD TAKE FOR THEMSELVES WHATEVER TERRITORY AND RESOURCES THAT THEY HAD ACCESS TO WERE OVER.

"HENCEFORTH ALL THE UNCLAIMED WEALTH OF THIS EARTH MUST BE REGARDED AS THE COMMON HERITAGE OF ALL THE NATIONS OF THIS PLANET."

- MORE 1017/SZ

NO18 (F)

MAHATHIR-LAND 2 NEW YORK

HE, HOWEVER, SAID THERE WERE STILL AREAS IN THE WORLD WHICH WERE NOT COVERED BY ANY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT AND HAD NEITHER NATIVES NOR SETTLERS.

"THERE IS, THEREFORE, NO ONE TO INHERIT THE LAND AND TO SET UP VIABLE GOVERNMENTS."

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAD IN THE PAST, SENT EXPEDITIONS TO THE CONTINENT OF ANTARTICA, THE LARGEST OF SUCH LAND AREAS, AND HAD NOT LIMITED THEMSELVES TO MERE SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION BUT HAD CLAIMED HUGE WEDGES OF THE AREA FOR THEIR COUNTRIES.

AS THE CLAIMS HAD NOT DEPRIVED ANY NATIVES OF THEIR LANDS, SUCH COUNTRIES WERE NOT REQUIRED TO DECOLONISE, HE ADDED.

"BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT THESE UNINHABITED LANDS DO NOT LEGALLY BELONG TO THE DISCOVERERS AS MUCH AS THE COLONIAL TERRITORIES DO NOT BELONG TO THE COLONIAL POWERS."

-- MORE 1025/SZ

NO19 (F)

SERVICE MESSAGE TO EDITORS, SEPT. 30

THE DIRECTOR OF CID, DATUK ABDUL RAHMAN ISMAIL, WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE CID CONFERENCE ROOM, BUKIT AMAN TODAY (SEPT. 30) AT 3 P.M. -- BERNAMA 1027/SZ

NO20 (F)

MAHATHIR-LAND 3 NEW YORK

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: "LIKE THE SEAS AND THE SEA-BEDS, THESE UNINHABITED LANDS BELONG TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

"THE COUNTRIES PRESENTLY CLAIMING THEM MUST GIVE UP SO THAT EITHER THE UNITED NATIONS ADMINISTER THESE LANDS OR THE PRESENT OCCUPANTS ACT AS TRUSTEES FOR NATIONS OF THE WORLD."

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WAS AWARE OF THE TREATY OF ANTARTICA CONCLUDED BY A FEW NATIONS WHICH PROVIDED FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WHILE PROHIBITING NON-PEACEFUL ACTIVITIES.

"WHILE THERE IS MERIT IN THIS TREATY, IT IS NEVERTHELESS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN A SELECT GROUP OF COUNTRIES AND DOES NOT REFLECT THE TRUE FEELINGS OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS".

HE SAID THOUGH EXPLOITATION OF THE RESOURCES IN ANTARTICA WAS STILL TOO COSTLY AND THE TECHNOLOGY NOT YET AVAILABLE, THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN ANTARTICA COULD PROVIDE THE WORLD WITH FOOD AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT,

"IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT SUCH EXPLOITATION SHOULD BENEFIT THE POOR NATIONS AS MUCH AS THE RICH."

-- MORE 1035/SZ

MAHATHIR-LAND 4 NEW YORK

IN HIS 40-MINUTE ADDRESS, THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO TOUCHED ON VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES BESETTING THE WORLD AND THE ROLE THAT THE UN COULD PLAY AS A TRULY EFFECTIVE BODY TO MAINTAIN WORLD PEACE AND STABILITY.

HE SAID THE CREDIBILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS WAS NOW AT ITS LOWEST EBB AND THAT THERE WAS NOW A PRESSING NEED TO RESTORE FAITH IN THE WORLD BODY.

IT WOULD BE PURE RHETORIC TO SAY THAT COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA MUST HELP TO RESTORE THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE ORGANISATION'S ABILITY TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS AND CRISES.

"WHAT IS NEEDED IS THE FULL BACKING OF THE POWERFUL NATIONS. THEY MUST BREATHE LIFE INTO IT BY ABIDING BY ITS DECISIONS AND LENDING IT THEIR WEIGHT," HE ADDED.

HE SAID LAW AND ORDER HAD BROKEN DOWN AND MIGHT SEEMED TO BE THE ONLY THING THAT WAS RIGHT.

-- MORE 1037/SZ 1

N022 (F)

MAHATHIR-LAND 5 NEW YORK

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: "WEAK COUNTRIES LIKE AFGHANISTAN, KAMPUCHEA AND LEBANON ARE TRODDEN OVER BY THE BOOTS OF INVADING ARMIES AS THE REST OF THE WORLD STOOD BY.

"THE ECONOMIES OF THE POOR NATIONS ARE WRECKED BY RECESSION RESULTING FROM MAN-MADE POLICIES IN THE POWERFUL COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRES OF THE WORLD.

"THE PLIGHT OF THE POOR ARE BUT SECONDARY SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSIONS BY THE RICH AS THEY MEET TO PLAN THEIR OWN WORLD IN THE CANNONS AND VERSAILLES OF THEIR WORLD.

"AND IN LEBANON THOUSANDS OF PALESTINIANS ARE MURDERED IN THE NAME OF SECURITY FOR THE ISRAELIS AND THEIR COHORTS."

DATOR SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE UN SENT A MULTI-NATION FORCE TO STOP AN INVASION AND DID IN FACT SUCCEED. "BUT IT IS NOW HELPLESS".

-- MORE 1040/SZ

ND23 (F)

MAHATHIR-LAND 6 NEW YORK

"RESOLUTION AFTER RESOLUTION ARE PASSED BY THE VARIOUS UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEES BUT THE INVASION, THE ATROCITIES, AND THE ECONOMIC BULLYING GO ON", AND THE WEAK AND SMALL NATIONS LIVE IN FEAR FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE, THEIR WELL-BEING AND EVEN THEIR LIVES, HE ADDED.

HE SAID IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM CONTINUED TO POSE A THREAT TO PEACE AND SECURITY AND THOUGH THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD FOR THREE YEARS CALLED FOR THE TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES AND THE EXERCISE OF SELF-DETERMINATION BY THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE, "THOSE WHO ARE IN A POSITION TO HELP ACHIEVE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT HAVE SHOWN LITTLE CONCERN FOR THE ACCEPTED NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE."

DATOR SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE WORLD MUST GIVE SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA BEFORE BIG-POWER RIVALRY ESCALATED INTO OPEN CONFRONTATION AND WHEN THAT HAPPENED, THE UN WOULD AGAIN BE POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING.

HE CALLED ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT THE COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA HEADED BY PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK SAYING THAT THE PRINCE'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO KAMPUCHEA TO RESTORE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE IN HIS HOMETLAND WAS AWAITED WITH KEEN ANTICIPATION.

-- MORE 1050/SZ

MAHATHIR-LAND 7 NEW YORK

ON WEST ASIA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PALESTINIANS WHO HAD BEEN EVICTED FROM THEIR HOMELAND HAD BEEN FORCED TO MOVE FROM ONE REFUGE TO ANOTHER AND THEIR RIGHTS AS A PEOPLE WERE STILL BEING DENIED.

THEY ARE NOT EVEN TREATED AS HUMANS AS THE BRUTAL MASSACRES IN LEBANON AMPLY DEMONSTRATE.

HE CALLED ON THE UNITED STATES WHICH IS THE MAIN SUPPLIER OF WEAPONS TO ISRAEL, TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION SINCE THE WEAPONS WERE USED FOR NOTHING LESS THAN MURDER.

HE SAID APART FROM THE SYSTEMATIC AND PREMEDITATED USE OF LETHAL AND SADISTIC WEAPONS ON OCCUPIED PALESTINE AND ARAB TERRITORIES, ISRAEL CONTINUED TO PROPAGATE THE MYTH OF THE NON-EXISTENCE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE THEREBY FRUSTRATING ALL EFFORTS TOWARDS A JUST AND ENDURING SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, WELCOMED THE INITIATIVE TAKEN BY ARAB LEADERS AT FEZ, MOROCCO RECENTLY TO PRESENT A FORMULA TO ENABLE THE PALESTINIANS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND FREELY EXERCISE THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHTS IN PALESTINE.

THE WORLD AND SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL HE STRESSED, MUST PREVAIL UPON THAT HABITUALLY INTRANSIGENT COUNTRY TO RETURN TO SANITY AND THE WAYS OF CIVILISATION.

-- MORE 1100/SZ

MAHATHIR-LAND 8 NEW YORK

HE ASKED HOW THE WORLD COULD ACCEPT ONLY THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL AS IMPORTANT WITHOUT REGARD TO THE RIGHT OF SECURITY OF ITS ARAB NEIGHBOURS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT AFGHANIZATION WAS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE BLATANT USE OF FORCE AND MALAYSIA SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL IN INITIATING DIRECT TALKS WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED TO FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION CONSISTENT WITH ITS RESOLUTIONS AND THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO TOUCHED ON THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR WHICH HE SAID, HAD GONE FOR FAR TOO LONG AND IMplored ON THEM TO ACCEPT MEDIATION AND RECONCILLATION FOR AN ENDURING SOLUTION.

ON THE DRUG PROBLEM, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CALLED ON THE UNITED NATIONS TO ACT POSITIVELY TO TACKLE IT AT SOURCE AS FAILURE TO ARREST THE SPREADING SCOURGE WOULD DESTROY WHOLE GENERATIONS TO COME. -- BERNAMA 1105/SZ