

CHOGRM - POLITICS

FROM IDZAN ISMAIL

SUVA (FIJI), OCT. 14 (BERNAMA) -- <sup>82</sup> <sup>19</sup> DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS URGED COMMONWEALTH LEADERS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AT THEIR SUMMIT HERE TO COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER TO INCREASE THE GROUPING'S RESILIENCE.

CONFERENCE SOURCES SAID THE PRIME MINISTER EMPHASISED THAT THEY SHOULD ALL TRY TO MAINTAIN POLITICAL STABILITY, INTERNATIONALLY AND INTERNALLY.

"LET US HELP OURSELVES BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE WILL," THE SOURCES QUOTED THE PRIME MINISTER AS SAYING DURING THE DELIBERATIONS ON WORLD POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH CONCLUDED TODAY.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT SINGAPORE SHARED MALAYSIA'S VIEW WITH ITS PREMIER SAYING THAT "IF WE CAN'T HELP EACH OTHER, LET US NOT MAKE IT WORSE FOR EACH OTHER."

THE 17 LEADERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT REGIONAL MEETING REACHED A CONSENSUS ON THE NEED FOR COOPERATION AMONGTHEMSELVES AT THE END OF THE DELIBERATIONS ON WORLD POLITICAL ISSUES.

THE PRIME MINISTER LED THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION IN THE DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH THE SOLOMON ISLANDS, KIRIBATI, VANUATU, SINGAPORE, MALDIVES AND FIJI ALSO TOOK PART. THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE ISSUE WERE OPENED BY AUSTRALIAN PREMIER ENCIK MALCOLM FRASER.

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GIVING AN OVERVIEW OF THE DISCUSSIONS, THE SOURCES SAID IT ENCOMPASSED THE GLOBAL TRENDS AND SPECIFIC REGIONAL ISSUES INCLUDING DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND OTHER PARTS OF ASIA.

ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES, THE LEADERS AGREED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR STABILITY AS THERE WERE TWO THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL STABILITY - STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC.

THEY TOUCHED ON THE WHOLE QUESTION OF RUSSIAN POLICIES OF PURSUING POWER BY FORCE, THE BUILD-UP OF SOVIET FORCES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC AND THE QUESTION OF INTERVENTION IN KAMPUCHEA AND AFGHANISTAN.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES AS ABSOLUTELY IMPORTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL STABILITY, THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AGREED THAT THOSE WHO BENEFITED FROM THE STRENGTH OF THE US SHOULD GIVE SUPPORT TO OTHER NATIONS.

GREAT CONCERN ALSO WAS EXPRESSED ABOUT THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND IT WAS FELT THAT PROGRESS IN ARMS CONTROL WAS ESSENTIAL.

"THE TALKS WHICH HAVE NOW RESUMED BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIETS COULD SUCCEED IF A CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE COULD BE MAINTAINED," THE SOURCES SAID. -- MORE 1925/MB

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THE LEADERS FELT THAT GIVEN THE GRIM ECONOMIC SITUATION WITH LITTLE GROWTH AND STAGNANT TRADE, ONLY THE SOVIET UNION COULD BENEFIT FROM THIS PRESENT WORLD SITUATION.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS, THE SOURCES POINTED OUT THAT THE LEADERS' FEELING WAS THAT THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS CREATED BY THE POST-WAR GENERATION NEEDED TO BE REVIEWED.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE INSTITUTIONS HAD BEEN QUESTIONED, IN PARTICULAR THE ROLE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WHOSE AUTHORITY THE LEADERS FELT HAD BEEN BRUSHED ASIDE, IN THE FALKLANDS CRISIS FOR EXAMPLE.

ON THE INVASION OF LEBANON, THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FELT THAT WHILE THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION COULD NOT BE THE PRINCIPAL "SOLVERS" OF THE PROBLEMS FACING THE WORLD, THEY COULD CERTAINLY HELP IN PEACE-KEEPING ACTIVITIES AND RELIEF ASSISTANCE.

TURNING TO THE PACIFIC REGION IN PARTICULAR, THE CHOGRM WAS OF THE VIEW THAT THE ABSENCE OF SOVIET BASES CONTRIBUTED TO STABILITY AND THAT REDUCTION OF MAJOR RIVALRY IN THE AREA WOULD FURTHER REDUCE INSTABILITY.

THE PACIFIC COUNTRIES WERE WORRIED THAT TRADING WITH THE SOVIET BLOC MIGHT BE CONSIDERED A SELL-OUT ON THEIR PART BUT THEY ALSO FEARED THE TRADE POLICIES OF THE US DESPITE RECOGNISING THE NEED FOR A STRONG WESTERN ALLY, ESPECIALLY THE UNITED STATES. -- BERNAMA 1930/MB