

CHOGRM-MAHATHIR

FROM IDZAN ISMAIL

82
SUVA, FIJI, OCT. 15 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA TODAY STRONGLY
CRITICISED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THEIR EXPLOITATIVE ACTIVITIES
UNDER THE GUISE OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

PRIME MINISTER, (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD YID THAT
BECAUSE OF THE WORD "FREE" SOME INDUSTRIALY DEVELOPED NATIONS
REALLY FELT FREE TO SCOUR AND DEVOUR DEVELOPING NATIONS
BY THEIR EXPLOITATIVE METHODS AND PRACTICES.

LEADING THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE ISSUE OF "REGIONAL ECONOMIC
AND FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION" COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT MEETINGS (CHOGRM) HERE, HE REGRETTED THAT THE COUNTRIES
CONCERNED SEEMED INCAPABLE OF REALISING THAT SUCH LIBERTINE
ACTIVITIES WOULD ONLY LEAD TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FREE
ENTERPRISE SYSTEM ITSELF.

COMMENTING ON THE WORLD ECONOMIC CHAOS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID:
"I FEEL THERE STILL EXISTS A LINGERING MENTALITY WITHIN THE FREE
ENTERPRISE SYSTEM THAT BECAUSE OF THE EMPHASIS ON THE WORD
FREE, SOME SOME INDUSTRIALLY DEVELOPED NATIONS REALLY FEEL FREE TO
SCOUR AND DEVOUR THE DEVELOPING NATIONS BY THEIR EXPLOITATIVE METHODS
AND PRACTICES."

-- MORE 1114/LK

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IN HIS USUAL HARD-LINE STANCE AGAINST THE WESTERN COUNTRIES AND DEVOID OF DIPLOMATIC NICETIES, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADDED: "OUR ADVICE TO THESE COUNTRIES SHOULD BE THAT THEY TALK LESS OF THEIR GENEROSITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR NATION AND INSTEAD UNDERTAKE A THOROUGH SOUL-SEARCHING EXAMINATION WITH A VIEW TO INCREASING THEIR OWN PRODUCTIVITY WITHOUT THEIR EXPLOITATIVE TENDENCIES."

HE BELIEVED THAT ONLY THEN COULD THEY BEGIN TO SINCERELY APPRECIATE THE PROBLEMS OF THE POOR NATIONS AND THE NEED TO RESOLVE THEM URGENTLY.

HE CALLED ON CHOGRM TO SEND "THIS VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE" TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FIRSTLY WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH AND SECONDLY OUTSIDE IT.

HE SAID CHOGRM WHICH NOW CONSISTED OF COUNTRIES BORN AS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF "DUMBERTON OAKS" AND THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) DECOLONISATION PROGRAMME, SHOULD BRING HOME THE POINT TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THAT THEIR EXPLOITATIVE ACTIVITIES UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM WERE SELF-DESTRUCTIVE.

THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT UNTIL LATELY, THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES COULD BE SUSTAINED EVEN WITH LABOUR PROBLEMS AND STRIKES SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY HAD THEIR COLONIES TO LEAN ON.

-- MORE 1120/LK

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"BUT NOW, WITHOUT THEIR COLONIES AND THEIR AREAS OF INFLUENCE IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE FOR THESE COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN THEIR ONCE-ENVIABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH".

ACCORDING TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR THIS WAS ESPECIALLY SO WHEN WORKERS WERE NOT PREPARED TO WORK FOR SO MANY HOURS A DAY AND FOR SO MANY DAYS A WEEK.

HE SAID IT WAS NOT UNCOMMON NOW TO FIND SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES REGISTERING ZERO OR EVEN MINUS ZERO GROWTH RATE.

TURNING TO THE COMMONWEALTH HE SAID "WE WOULD BE INDULGING IN SELF-COMFORT IF WE DO NOT AT THE SAME TIME ADMIT THAT IN RECENT YEARS THE CLOUT OF THE COMMONWEALTH HAS SOMEWHAT DIMINISHED".

"IT IS INDEED UNFORTUNATE THAT THIS SITUATION HAS COME ABOUT IRONICALLY AS A RESULT OF THE ACTIONS OR INACTIONS OF THE PRIME MOVERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH THEMSELVES".

"AS A MATTER OF FACT THE COMMONWEALTH IS NOW ON TEST". HE ADDED. HE PROPOSED THAT ONE WAY TO REVITALISE THE COMMONWEALTH IS THROUGH REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION.

"IF THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES IN OUR REGION CANNOT ACTUALISE ECONOMIC AND FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION, THE PRESTIGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH ITSELF WILL GO DOWN AND THE EFFECTIVENESS AND VALUE OF THE COMMONWEALTH WILL BE QUESTIONED.

-- BERNAMA 1240/LK