

MAHATHIR-ISRAEL

(EMBARGO FOR RELEASE AT 2000 HRS TODAY)

FROM OSMAN TAIB

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NEW DELHI, MARCH 8 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY HITS OUT AT THE ISRAELIS FOR REJECTING OUTRIGHT THE FEZ FORMULA WHICH HE SAID COULD HAVE PROVIDED THE NECESSARY IMPETUS FOR FINDING A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE WEST ASIA PROBLEM.

SPEAKING IN THE SEVENTH NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE ATTITUDE OF THE ISRAELIS REFLECTED ONCE AGAIN +THEIR INTRANSIGENCE AND TOTAL DISRESPECT FOR JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS.+

THE SITUATION IN WEST ASIA REMAINED +EXPLOSIVE+ BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUED ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORIES AND HITS PREMEDITATED VIOLATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER.

THE ISRAELI INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON AND BEIRUT AND THE FORCED EVACUATION OF THE PALESTINIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS FROM THERE WAS BUT ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE, HE SAID.

CONDEMNING THE ISRAELIS FOR THE SABRA AND SHATILA MASSACRES, HE SAID THE BRUTAL ACT WOULD BE REMEMBERED IN HISTORY ALONGSIDE THE HORRORS OF AUSCHWITZ, DACAU, BELSEN AND OTHER NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

THE INCIDENTS, HE SAID, PROVED THAT THERE WAS NO BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NAZIS AND THE ISRAELIS.-- MORE 1535/MD
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MAHATHIR-ISRAEL 2 NEW DELHI (EMBARGO)

IF THE ISRAELIS HAD RULED GERMANY AND THE NAZIS WERE A MINORITY, THE CAMPS OF DACAU, BELSEN AND OTHER WOULD HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

AS IT IS, THE PALESTINIANS WHO HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE NAZIS OR BELSEN HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE AGAIN AND AGAIN, EACH TIME MORE BLOODY THAN BEFORE, HE ADDED.

RENEWING MALAYSIA'S PLEDGE OF FULL SUPPORT FOR THE JUST STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE COULD BE NO PEACE IN WEST ASIA UNTIL A FREE AND SOVEREIGN PALESTINIAN STATE WAS CREATED AND THE ISRAELIS WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING JERUSALEM.

THE PLO COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO COMPROMISE ON BASIC RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF THE PEOPLE IT RIGHTLY REPRESENTED NOR BE EXCLUDED FROM ANY PEACE PROCESS.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO TOUCHED ON THE IRAN/IRAQ CONFLICT AND URGED THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT TO REACTIVATE ITS MEDIATION EFFORTS FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

HE SAID IT WAS +DISCONCERTING TO MALAYSIA+ THAT THE WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ, TWO MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT, WITH WHOM SHE ENJOYED CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONS, CONTINUED UNABATED. --
MORE 1545/MD

MAHATHIR-ISRAEL 3 NEW DELHI (EMBARGO)

ON THE AFGHAN ISSUE, HE URGED THE MOVEMENT TO CONDEMN THE SOVIET UNION FOR ITS DISHONOURABLE ACT+ IN UNLEASHING ITS MILITARY MIGHT ON A PUNY NEIGHBOUR TO PROP UP AN UNPOPULAR REGIME.

AFGHANISTAN, HE SAID, UNDER WHATEVER REGIME WAS NO THREAT TO THE SOVIET UNION.

+IF THE SOVIET UNION CAN LIVE WITH CHINA AS A SWORN ENEMY, SURELY IT CAN LIVE WITH ALL ITS CENTRAL ASIAN NEIGHBOURS WITHOUT RESORTING TO MILITARY OCCUPATION,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR APPEALED TO THE SOVIET UNION TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM THIS DISHONOURABLE ACT, SAYING THAT THE WORLD WOULD HONOUR AND RESPECT THEM IF THEY WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN AND ALLOW THE AFGHANS TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FATE.

THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, HE SAID, SHOULD CALL A HALT TO SOVIET OCCUPATION SO THAT THE AFGHANS COULD HAVE THEIR INDEPENDENCE ONCE AGAIN.

+SINCE THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR MANY OF US HAVE GAINED INDEPENDENCE.

BUT FOR HOW LONG WILL WE REMAIN INDEPENDENT IF WE CONDONE THE PIECEMEAL SNUFFING OUT OF LITTLE STATES BY BIG NEIGHBOURS?+ HE ASKED.

AMONG OTHER POLITICAL ISSUES TOUCHED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN HIS 15-PAGE SPEECH WERE THE APARTHEID POLICY PRACTISED IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE PRESENT IMPASSE IN NAMIBIA.- BERNAMA
1558/MD