

MAHATHIR-VIETNAM

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AT 2000 HRS HERE TODAY

FROM OSMAN TAIB

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8 (BERNAMA) ⁸³ --VIETNAM CAME UNDER
FIRE IN THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT HERE TODAY FOR ITS INVASION
OF KAMPUCHEA AND REFUSAL TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM THAT COUNTRY.

THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED
WHO LAUNCHED THE ATTACK SAID THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA NOT ONLY
THREATENED REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY BUT ALSO ENCOURAGED BIG POWER
INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

IT ALSO IMPEDED EFFORTS TO HASTEN THE REALISATION OF A ZONE OF
PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN THE REGION AND INHIBITED THE
DEVELOPMENT OF BENEFICIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF
ASEAN AND INDOCHINA.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SITUATION PREVALIED
DESPITE THE CALLS BY THE PAST FOUR SESSIONS OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE INTERNAL CONFERENCE ON
KAMPECHEA FOR A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SOLUTION ON THE BASIS OF
THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM KAMPUCHEA AND THE
EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINTION BY THE KAMPUCHEAN
PEOPLE.

"THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT TOO HAD, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN OVER THIS BLATANT INTERFERENCE AND WARNED OF THE DANGER OF THE KAMPUCHEAN CONFLICT ESCALATING OVER A WIDER AREA.

"UNFORTUNATELY, ALL THESE CALLS HAVE BEEN IGNORED BY THE PERPETRATORS AND THEIR POWERFUL MENTORS AND ALSO BY SOME MEMBERS OF THIS MOVEMENT FOR REASONS WHICH CANNOT WITHSTAND EXAMINATIONS," HE SAID.-- /MORE 1625/NB

MAHATHIR-VIETNAM 2 NEW DELHI (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID KAMPUCHEA WAS BEING OCCUPIED BY SOME 200,000 FOREIGN TROOPS AND THE EXPLANATIONS AS TO WHY THEY DID SO WAS IRRELIEVENT.

THE FACT WAS THAT THE VIETNAMESE FORCES IN IRRESISTABLE STRENGTH MARCHED INTO KAMPUCHEA AND INSTALLED A PUPPET REGIME AND HAVING DONE SO THEY STAYED ON THE PROP UP THE REGIME.

OBVIOUSLY, HE SAID THE PEOPLE OF KAMPUCHEA DID NOT SUPPORT THE REGIME OR ELSE IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE AN OCCUPATION FORCE.

THAT A LOT OF KAMPUCHEAN HAD LEFT THEIR OWN COUNTRY WAS FURTHER TESTIMONY THAT THEY DID NOT SUPPORT THAT REGIME OR THE OCCUPATION TROOPS.

THE FACT THAT THE KAMPUCHEAN REFUGEES WERE VILLING TO JOIN UP WITH THE COALITION GOVERNMENT LED BY PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK PROVED BEYOND ANY REASONABLE DOUBT THAT THEY DID NOT WANT THE HENG SAMRIN REGIME OR HIS VIETNAMESE BACKERS.

"YET VIETNAM AND SOME COUNTRIES HAVE PREFERRED TO IGNORE THAT KAMPUCHEAN INDEPENDENCE IS BEING VIOLATED, AND SO ARE ALL THE PRINCIPLES THAT HAVE BEEN ESPOUSED BY THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT," HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE INFORCED ABSENCE OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA (DK) FROM THE SUMMIT.

HE HIT OUT AT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE CONTROVERSIAL DECISION BY A FEW COUNTRIES TO DEPRIVE DK OF ITS RIGHTFUL SEAT IN BLATANT DISREGARD FOR THE VIEWS OF THE MAJORITY.

"WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS TREND TO CONTINUE MERELY BECAUSE SOME MEMBERS AND THEIR POWERFUL FRIENDS ARE BENT ON HAVING THEIR WAY REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES."--MORE 1637/NB

ZCZC N066

MAHATHIR-VIETNAM 3 NEW DELHI (EMBARGO)

HE SAID THAT THE LEGITIMACY OF THE DK TO REPRESENT KAMPUCHEA IN THE MOVEMENT AND ELSEWHERE SHOULD NOT BE DISPUTED SINCE THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD REPEATEDLY, AND WITH INCREASING MAJORITY, AFFIRMED AND RECOGNISED THE LEGITIMACY OF DK.

THE CONTINUED DENIAL OF DK'S PARTICIPATION IN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE WAS INDEED UNJUST AND NEEDED TO BE REMEDIED "TO ENSURE THAT WE STAND STEADFASTLY IN FAVOUR OF NON-ALIGNMENT."

IN THIS CONTEXT, THE PRIME MINISTER WELCOMED THE MOVE TO EXAMINE FURTHER THE QUESTION OF KAMPUCHEAN REPRESENTATION IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

HE DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE TO MALAYSIA'S SUGGESTION THAT THERE SHOULD BE CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES TO SUSPEND OR EXPEL A MEMBER AND SAID THAT THIS WAS A MATTER OF VITAL IMPORTANCE WHICH SHOULD BE ACTED UPON.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CONFLICT IN KAMPUCHEA BE POLITICALLY RESOLVED SO THAT PEACE AND STABILITY COULD BE RESTORED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.--BERNAMA 1642/NB