

MAHATHIR-CONFERENCE

(EMBARGO FOR RELEASE AT 2000 HRS TODAY MALAYSIAN TIME)

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FROM OSMAN TAIB

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NEW DELHI, MARCH 8 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DESCRIBED THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AS A VEHICLE FOR PEACE AND STABILITY AND URGED THE MOVEMENT TO TRANSLATE ITS IDEALS INTO EFFECTIVE ACTION TO FREE THE WORLD FROM DOMINATION BY THE STRONG OVER THE WEAK IN ALL FIELDS.

THIS WAS MORE NECESSARY NOW WHEN THE BIG POWERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE GAME OF A BALANCE OF TERROR, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN HIS MAIDEN ADDRESS TO THE MOVEMENT IN THE SEVENTH SUMMIT HERE.

HE SAID THAT SOME COUNTRIES HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE THEATRES OF WAR FOR THE PRACTICAL TESTING OF INCREASINGLY LETHAL WEAPON SYSTEMS.

+WITHOUT THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, MORE OF US WILL BE FIGHTING EACH OTHER AS PAWNS OR PROXIES OF THE COMMITTED POWERS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED MEMBERS TO HELP SUSTAIN THE MOVEMENT AND TO UPHOLD ITS IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES, IN PARTICULAR, THE PRINCIPLES

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OF NON-INTERVENTION AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF STATES.

OTHER PRINCIPLES SINGLED OUT BY THE PRIME MINISTER ARE:

- + RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS,
- + PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE, AND
- + NON-USE OF FORCE IN RESOLVING INTER-STATE DISPUTES. --MORE 1500/MD

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HE SAID THE OBSERVATION AND RESPECT FOR THESE CARDINAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WERE INDISPENSIBLE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WORLD PEACE AND STABILITY; THE PROMOTION OF GREATER COOPERATION, COHESION AND TRUST AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES AND FOR THE OVERALL CREDIBILITY OF THE MOVEMENT.

+ THE OCCUPATION AND RAPE OF SEVERAL NATIONS THAT WE ARE WITNESSING

TODAY STEM, IN THE MAIN, FROM THE FLAGRANT DISREGARD, INDEED TOTAL DISRESPECT, FOR THESE VITAL PRINCIPLES WHICH EVERYONE CLAIM TO CHERISH,+ HE ADDED.

HE CITED THE OCCUPATION OF KAMPUCHEA, AFGHANISTAN AND LEBANON BY FOREIGN FORCES AS A FEW EXAMPLES OF SUCH BLATANT VIOLATIONS WHICH HE SAID WERE IN UTTER CONTEMPT FOR THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES WHICH CONSTITUTED THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

NON-ALIGNED NATIONS, BEING COMMITTED TO THESE IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES, COULD NOT ACCEPT, MUCH LESS ENDORSE, THESE HIGH-HANDED ACTIONS, HE SAID.

+WHETHER WE ARE FRIENDLY OR OTHERWISE WITH THESE UNPRINCIPLED COUNTRIES, WE MUST CONDEMN THEM FOR THEIR MISDEEDS AND WE MUST DO ALL WITHIN OUR MEANS TO UNDO THE DAMAGE.+ HE SAID.

+WHILE VIOLEANCE IS NOT PART OF OUR CREED, THERE ARE OTHER WEAPONS THAT WILL SERVE US JUST AS WELL.+ --MORE 1510/MD

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT TO BE MORE VIGILANT AND INTROSPECTIVE IN VIEW OF THE VARIOUS EXTERNAL PRESSURES FACING IT.

HE SAID THAT TO STRENGTHEN THE MOVEMENT AND TO RESTORE ITS CREDIBILITY, UNITY AND SOLIDARITY, THE MEMBERS HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ADHERE TO THE IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES TO WHICH THEY HAD GIVEN THE COMMITMENTS.

+THE CHOICE BEFORE US IS CLEAR, HE SAID.

+EITHER WE MAINTAIN A POSTURE OF GENUINE INDEPENDENCE AND WORK FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF OUR MOVEMENT OR PURSUE THE ROLE PRESCRIBED FOR US BY THE SUPER-POWERS WHICH WOULD TEAR US APART AND MAKE A MOCKERY OF THE IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES THAT OUR MOVEMENT STANDS FOR. --BERNAMA 1518/MD