

WE MUST HOLD FAST TO OUR IDEALS: DR M

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DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad urged the non-aligned movement to hold fast to its ideals of preserving peace and stability in the world.

He said the movement was all the more necessary now when the big powers were involved in the game of a balance of terror.

"Some countries have been made theatres of war for the practical testing of increasingly lethal weapons," he said.

The Prime Minister added that without the movement more countries would have been fighting one another as pawns of proxies of the "committed powers."

He said that the movement must therefore continue to uphold the principles of non-intervention and non-interference.

"It must also be effective to free the world of domination by the strong over the weak."

AGGRESSORS

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also referred to the "occupation and rape" of several nations like Kampuchea, Afghanistan and Lebanon.

"Their territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence have been blatantly violated and trampled upon, in utter contempt for the principles of the non-aligned movement."

He urged the movement — "whether we are friendly or otherwise with these unprincipled countries" — to condemn the aggressors.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir urged the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan and let the people there determine for themselves their own future.

"Afghanistan, under whatever regime, is 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.

Referring to West Asia, he said the situation was explosive because of the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

He added that the massacres at Sabra and Shatila

(in Lebanon) had proved that there was no basic difference between the Nazis and the Israelis.

"If the Israelis had ruled Germany and the Nazis were a minority, the camps of Dachau, Belsen and others would have been filled with different people," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

He added that the key to the solution in the Middle East lay with Israel.

They must withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the Palestinian people must be returned to their homeland, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also condemned South Africa for its policy of apartheid, and he also called for self-determination and independence for Namibia.