

MAHATHIR-AIPO

83
KUALA LUMPUR, APR 6 (BERNAMA)--PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAYS, THE ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANISATION (AIPO) SHOULD DEAL WITH THE ISSUES OF WIDER CONCERN TO THE PEOPLE WITHIN THE REGION PARTICULARLY AT PRESERVING ANTARCTICA +AS A REGION OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL MANKIND+.

+IT SHOULD ALSO CONCERN ITSELF AT MAINTAINING INDEPENDENCE AND PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD,+ HE SAID IN A STATEMENT ISSUED HERE TODAY.

THE MESSAGE WAS READ BY THE YANG DIPERTUA DEWAN RAKYAT DATUK MOHAMED ZAHIR ISMAIL AT AIPO'S FIVE-DAY FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MANILA YESTERDAY.

HOWEVER, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT AIPO'S DELIBERATIONS IN MANILA WOULD EMPHASISE THE URGENCY OF THE ISSUES OF CONTINUING IMPORTANCE TO ASEAN.

+I LOOK FORWARD PARTICULARLY TO THE PROGRESS OF AIPO'S DELIBERATIONS ON MATTERS SUCH AS THAT OF OUR WAR AGAINST NARCOTIC DRUGS, OUR DESIRE TO ENHANCE TRADE AND INVESTMENTS WITHIN ASEAN AND OUR CONTINUING CONCERN TO WIN FOR THE PEOPLE OF KAMPUCHEA A PEACE AND FREEDOM WHICH WE SO MUCH CHERISH WITHIN OUR COUNTRIES,+ HE ADDED. --MORE 2328/MD

ZCZC N186 (F/S)

MAHATHIR-AIPO 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, AIPO HAD NOW BECOME PART AND PARCEL OF THE ASEAN STRUCTURE.

ITS FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MANILA REPRESENTED A FULL CIRCLE OF MEETING OF AIPO, AS IT WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE DECLARATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AT MANILA IN 1976, HE SAID.

ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONCERNS OF ASEAN, HE SAID IT HAD TAKEN A +MAGNITUDE WHICH ONLY UNDERLINES THE NEED FOR THE COUNTRIES OF ASEAN TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER IN THE PURSUIT OF CO-OPERATIVE ENDEAVOURS TO CREATE THE SPIRIT OF SELF-RELIANCE AND RESILIENCE WITHIN ASEAN.+

THE BANGKOK DECLARATION OF 1967, ESTABLISHING ASEAN, AND THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION ENUCIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZOPFAN), HAD RECENTLY TAKEN ON AN INCREASINGLY MEANINGFUL ROLE AND IMPORTANCE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

ASEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS +SPEAKING FOR THE PARLIAMENTS AND PEOPLE OF ASEAN+ WOULD THEREFORE HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED. --BERNAMA 2335/MD