

MAHATHIR-SOVIET 'R'R'R'
BM

83
BANGI, APRIL 10 (BERNAMA)-- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DESCRIBED THE SOVIET UNION'S WARNING TO ASEAN COUNTRIES AS AN EXCUSE TO GAIN A Foothold IN THE REGION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SOVIET WARNING DID NOT TAKE MALAYSIA BY SURPRISE BECAUSE THAT COUNTRY HAD BEEN WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO GAIN A Foothold IN THIS REGION.

IN THE PAST THEY WERE UNABLE TO GAIN A Foothold IN THE ASEAN REGION BECAUSE OF ASEAN'S FIRM STANCE, HE TOLD REPORTERS HERE.

THE SOVIET'S DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, ENCIK MIKAIL KAPITSA WARNED THAT THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WOULD ERODE IF ASEAN CONTINUES ITS CONFRONTATION WITH VIETNAM AND ITS ALLIES.

HE GAVE THE WARNING AT THE END OF HIS THREE-DAY VISIT TO SINGAPORE LAST THURSDAY.

HE SAID SOVIET UNION HAD ALSO GIVEN A SIMILAR WARNING BEFORE ITS INVASION IN AFRICA AND AFGHANISTAN. -- MORE 1955/OM

MAHATHIR-SOVIET 2 BANGI

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY FORM OF INTERFERENCE BY A FOREIGN COUNTRY TOWARDS AN INDEPENDENT NATION WITH AN EXCUSE OF WANTING TO HELP SET UP A STRONG GOVERNMENT IN THAT COUNTRY.

+SUCH AN EXCUSE CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AT ALL,+ HE STRESSED.

ON THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT'S AID TO THE DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEAN GOVERNMENT LED BY PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK, HE SAID SO FAR IT HAD GIVEN MONETARY AID TO SUBSIDIZE FOOD FOR THE KAMPUCHEAN REFUGEES.

+MALAYSIA WOULD ALSO CONSIDER OTHER FORMS OF AID LIKE MEDICINE FOR THESE REFUGEES ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SUPPLY OF ARMS BY AMERICA TO THAILAND, THE PRINCE MINISTER SAID THIS WAS THE PURCHASE BY THAILAND TO HELP BEEF UP HER DEFENCES.

+THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT AMERICA IS INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THAILAND BECAUSE IT ONLY OBTAINED WHAT IT BOUGHT.+ --
BERNAMA 2135/OM