

MAHATHIR-KAMPUCHEA

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AT MIDNIGHT MALAYSIAN TIME)

FROM MUSA SCULLY

83
DHAKA, APRIL 18 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT REITERATED HIS CALL FOR THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED QUICKLY.

HE SAID THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON KAMPUCHEA AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS THAT HAD BEEN ENDORSED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

SPEAKING AT A BANQUET HELD HERE IN HIS HONOUR BY BANGLADESH CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR LT-GEN M.M. ERSHAD, HE REITERATED THAT MALAYSIA COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT ACCEPT FOREIGN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN KAMPUCHEA OR ELSEWHERE TO SETTLE DISPUTES.

HE THANKED BANGLADESH FOR ITS STRONG SUPPORT IN THIS REGARD AND FOR THE CONCEPT OF A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZOPFAN) IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

HE SAID: "THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM IS A SERIOUS THREAT TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION AND THE CONTINUED VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF THE COUNTRY IS A SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO ZOPFAN."

-- MORE 1840/LK

ZCZC N112: (F/S)

MAHATHIR-KAMPUCHEA 2 DHAKA (EMBARGO)

IN A STRONGLY-WORDED SPEECH, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DEPLORED THE ONGOING VIETNAMESE ATTACKS AGAINST FORCES OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA AND THE HELPLESS KHMER CIVILIAN POPULATION.

HE CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO DEMAND THAT THE VIETNAMESE IMMEDIATELY CEASE THEIR HOSTILITIES ALONG THE BORDER AND WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES FROM KAMPUCHEA.

HE SAID: "WE STRONGLY CONDEMN VIETNAMESE TRANSGRESSION OF THAI TERRITORY AND CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THAI FORCES AND CIVILIANS".

VIETNAMESE MILITARY ACTIONS ALONG THE THAI-KAMPUCHEAN BORDER THREATENED A SPILLOVER OF FIGHTING INTO THAILAND AND RAISED A SPECTRE OF WAR IN THE REGION AND INVITED BIG POWER INVOLVEMENT, HE SAID.

ON AFGHANISTAN, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT LIKE KAMPUCHEA THE COUNTRY WAS VICTIM OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND OCCUPATION.

-- MORE 1842/LK

ICZC N113: (F/S)

MAHATHIR-KAMPUCHEA 3 DHAKA (EMBARGO)

IN DEPLORING THE SITUATION, HE GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC), THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND THE UN FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF AFGHANISTAN AND ITS ISLAMIC AND NON-ALIGNED CHARACTER.

ON THE ISRAELI RAPE OF LEBANON, HE SAID "IT WAS ABOUT TIME" THAT THE UNITED STATES, THE SUPPLIER OF ARMS TO ISRAEL AND ON WHOSE ECONOMIC SUPPORT ISRAEL DEPENDS, APPLIED THE NECESSARY PRESSURE TO EFFECT IMMEDIATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON.

ON BILATERAL CO-OPERATION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID BANGLADESH COULD AVAIL ITSELF TO THE NOW FULLY DEVELOPED MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME (MTCP) SET UP IN 1980 FOR THE BENEFIT OF NEWLY INDEPENDENT AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

"AT THE SAME TIME WE WELCOME ANY ASSISTANCE," HE SAID IN EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF BANGLADESH DOCTORS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS IN MALAYSIA AND USE OF BANGLADESH'S ACADEMIC AND TRAINING FACILITIES.

CONFRONTED WITH AN ECONOMIC PREDICAMENT, HE SAID, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST EXPLORE WITH UTMOST URGENCY NEW PATTERNS OF CO-OPERATION IN THE SPIRIT OF SOUTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND STRENGTHEN THEIR BARGAINING POSITION THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATIONS, SUCH AS THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED TIN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION.

-- MORE 1853/LK

MAHATHIR-KAMPUCHEA 4 DHAKA (EMBARGO)

"WE MUST PLACE CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON SELF-RELIANCE AND ONLY BY HELPING EACH OTHER IN THE SPIRIT OF SOUTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION AND GROWING ECONOMICALLY STRONG CAN WE EXPECT TO GAIN THE RESPECT AND HAVE EQUITABLE RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPED WORLD," HE SAID.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, WAS WILLING TO SHARE ITS "ACCUMULATED WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE" WITH OTHER COUNTRIES DESIRIOUS OF SIMILAR DEVELOPMENT.

ON ISLAMIC COOPERATION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR AN "EARLY, JUST AND DURABLE" SOLUTION OF THE IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT IN THE HIGHER INTEREST OF ISLAM AND FOR STABILITY AND PROGRESS OF THE ISLAMIC UMAH.

MALAYSIA AND BANGLADESH ARE MEMBERS OF THE NIN-MEMBER OIC PEACE COMMITTEE ON THE IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO BROTHERLY COUNTRIES NOT ONLY ENDANGERED PEACE AND STABILITY BUT ALSO UNDERMINED THE SOLIDARITY OF THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, "PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF THE JUST STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THE LIBERATION OF JERUSALEM AND THE VALIANT STRUGGLE OF THE AFGHAN MUSLIMS AGAINST SOVIET INTERVENTION AND OCCUPATION".

-- BERNAMA 1859/LK