

PALESTINE-UNDERMINE

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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 3 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY CERTAIN QUARTERS HAD TRIED TO UNDERMINE MALAYSIA'S EFFORTS IN CONVENING THE UNITED NATIONS-SPONSORED ASIAN CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE WHICH OPENED HERE TODAY.

THESE QUARTERS HAD PERSUADED COUNTRIES NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE.

+THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE DONE SO VINDICATES THOSE WHO QUESTION THEIR SINCERITY AND SENSE OF JUSTICE. ISRAEL WILL NOW BE MORE INTRANSIGENT THAN EVER,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER WHO MADE THE DISCLOSURE AT THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE TOLD THE 300 DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THESE QUARTERS HAD TRIED TO UNDERMINE MALAYSIA'S EFFORTS IN THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE FOR THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE.

+IF THEY ARE INDEED COMMITTED TO JUSTICE AND PEACE IN WEST ASIA, THEY SHOULD APPRECIATE THAT WE ARE ONLY TRYING TO ACHIEVE THE SAME OBJECTIVE,+ HE STRESSED.

-- MORE 1255/AZ

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE IN THE PALESTINE QUESTION WAS THAT OF AN ENTIRE PEOPLE DRIVEN OUT OF THEIR HOMELAND, HUMILIATED AND ENDLESSLY HARASSED.

IN THIS REGARD, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD BEEN INEFFECTIVE FOR OVER THREE DECADES, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE INJUSTICE AND INDIGNITIES PERPETRATED ON THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY VOICED IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND COUNTLESS RESOLUTIONS HAD BEEN PASSED.

+BUT CRUELTY TOWARDS, AND PERSECUTION OF, THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE CONTINUE UNABATED,+ HE LAMENTED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TOLD THE DELEGATES THAT THE QUESTION BEFORE THEM OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS WAS WHETHER THE CONFERENCE WAS TO BE A PLATFORM FOR EMPTY RHETORIC AND RESOLUTIONS OR A FORUM THAT WOULD COME UP WITH CONCRETE PROPOSALS.

HE SAID THEY WERE NOT GATHERED TO PASS RESOLUTIONS FOR THE SAKE OF PASSING RESOLUTIONS AS THERE WERE ALREADY OVER 300 RESOLUTIONS ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE.

-- MORE 1258/AZ

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE OF THEIR OWN IN PALESTINE, HAD BEEN ACCEPTED UNEQUIVOCALLY BY AN OVERHELMING MAJORITY AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND THAT DECADES HAD PASSED, THE PALESTINIANS HAD STILL TO ENJOY THESE RIGHTS.

+OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE NOT ACTED VIGOROUSLY AND SINCERELY ENOUGH,+ HE SAID.

HE HOPED THE CONFERENCE WOULD COME UP WITH DEFINITE IDEAS ON HOW PEACE PLANS AND INITIATIVES ALREADY AFOOT COULD ENABLE THE PALESTINIANS TO RE-ENTER THEIR HISTORICAL HOMELAND AND REGAIN POSSESSION OF THEIR PLANTS AND PROPERTY. --BERNAMA 1310/MD