

PALESTINE - MAHATHIR

83
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 3 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL, TO EFFECTIVELY APPLY PRESSURE ON THE TEL AVIV REGIME TO CEASE ITS INTRANSIGENCE AND BELLIGERANCY RESOLVING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL WHO CLAIMED TO BE THE CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS MUST NOW FORSAKE HYPOCRISY AND DOUBLE STANDARDS IN DEALING WITH THE ISSUE.

+THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH. IF WE HAVE CONSCIENCE WE MUST ENDEAVOUR TO FIND A SOLUTION TO END THIS INJUSTICE INFLICTED ON THEM, NOT BECAUSE THEY DID WRONG BUT BECAUSE OTHERS WISH TO ABSUAGE THEIR CONSCIENCE,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS OPENING THE UNITED NATIONS-SPONSORED ASIAN CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE HERE.

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ABOUT 300 DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS FROM 40 COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE ATTENDING THE FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DESCRIBED THE PALESTINE QUESTION AS HAVING NO PARALLEL IN HISTORY WHERE A POLITICAL ENTITY HAD BEEN CREATED TO SUPPLANT AN EXISTING RIGHTFUL STATE.

WHAT WAS WORSE WAS THAT THE NEW ENTITY WAS BEING SUPPLIED WITH THE MOST LETHAL WEAPONS TO PERPETUATE AGGRESSION AGAINSTS THE PEOPLE IT HAD DISPLACED, HE ADDED. -- MORE 1140/II

ZCZC NO13 (F/S)

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HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY MUST STAND FIRM IN UPHOLDING THE BASIC PRINCIPLE THAT AGGRESSION WAS NO LONGER THE SOLUTION TO RACIAL OR NATIONAL CONFLICTS.

"WE MUST PUT A STOP TO AGGRESSION. WE MUST MEKT IT CLEAR TO ISRAEL BY OUR ACTION THAT THEY CANNOT CONTINUE WITH THEIR BELLIGERANCY.

"SIMILARLY, WE MUST MAKE IT CLEAR TO OTHERS WHO HAVE VIOLATED THIS PRINCIPLE THAT THEY SHOULD CEASE AND DESIST FROM SUCH ACTS" HE STRESSED.

DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PALESTINIANS WERE A PEOPLE AND A DISTINCT ENTITY. THEY DESERVED THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN THEIR HOMETLAND AND TO EXIST AS A MEMBER OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WITH SOVEREIGNTY AND DIGNITY.

"UNLESS THIS IS RECOGNIZED THERE CAN BE NO LASTING PEACE IN THAT REGION. IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ISRAEL TOO THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM BE RESOLVED," HE ADDED. -- MORE 1200/II

PALESTINE - MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT EVEN ISRAEL'S MENTOR MUST APPRECIATE THIS, ADDING THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WAS BOTH A PROBLEM OF JUSTICE AS WELL AS OF WORLD-WIDE SECURITY AND THAT IT WAS IN THE INTEREST OF HUMAKITY THAT THE QUESTION BE RESOLVED.

HE SAID IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE THAT IN AN AGE WHEN COLONIZED TERRITORIES HAD GAINED OR WERE GAINING INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY, THE PALESTINIANS WERE NOT ONLY DENIED INDEPENDENCE BUT WERE ACTUALLY HOUNDED FROM THEIR OWN HOMETLAND.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY, IF IT WAS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM AND SELF-GOVERNMENT, MUST SEE TO IT THAT THE PALESTINIANS REGAINED THEIR RIGHTS TO AN INDEPENDENT STATE OF THEIR WON.

"IT IS IMMORAL FOR A HANDFUL OF NATIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS TO ASK THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE OR ITS EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE, THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, TO ACQUIESCE TO PRE-CONDITIONS THAT AMOUNT TO SURRENDER," HE ADDED.

"IT IS MORE WRONG TO REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO BECAUSE OF SOME ACTS OF TERROR BY PEOPLE WHO CLAIM TO BE ITS MEMBERS, MORE SO WHEN THE CHIEF OF THE ISRAELI TERRORISTS IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS THE PRIME MINISTER ISRAEL," HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS THIS DOUBLE STANDARD THAT HAD LED TO THE MASSACRES AT SABRA AND SHATILA. -- MORE 1205/II

PALESTINE - MAHATHIR'S KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR URGED THE CONFERENCE TO PROVIDE CONCRETE INPUTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN PARIS IN AUGUST.

HE STRESSED HOWEVER THAT ANY NEGOTIATION SHOULD INCLUDE THE PLO.

THIS WAS CRUCIAL IF CURRENT APPROACHES BASED ON THE FEZ PLAN OR OTHER INITIATIVES WERE TO SUCCEED, HE POINTED OUT.

"WE HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT THE PLO REPRESENTS ALL PALESTINIANS AND THAT IT MUST BE INCLUDED IN ALL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE WEST ASIAN SETTLEMENT AS THE SOLE VOICE OF PALESTINIAN ASPIRATIONS,"

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT ANOTHER IMPORTANT ELEMENT WHICH SHOULD BE ACCEPTED WAS THAT ANY TALK MUST HAVE AS ITS OBJECTIVE THE RE-INSTITUTION OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE OF PALESTINE.

HE URGED BIG POWERS, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES, TO PROVE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THE WORLD THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING AND ABLE TO USE THEIR TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE ON ISRAEL TO BRING ABOUT A WORKABLE AND DURABLE SETTLEMENT IN WEST ASIA.

AT THE CORE OF THIS MUST BE THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND RIGHT TO THEIR OWN HOMELAND IN PALESTINE, HE ADDED. -- MORE 1 7733

PALESTINE - MAHATHIR 6 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REMINDED THE DELEGATES THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM HAD EXISTED FOR FAR TOO LONG AND THAT THEY MUST APPROACH THE PROBLEM WITH A GREATER SENSE OF URGENCY AND COMMITMENT.

"LET US HOPE THAT THE SERIES OF CONFERENCES ON THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WOULD BRING US CLOSER TO A WORKABLE SOLUTION," HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO TOLD THEM THAT THEY WERE AT THE CONFERENCE NOT BECAUSE THEY WERE ALLIED TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE OR BECAUSE OF RACE OF RELIGION BUT BECAUSE "WE BELIEVE IN JUSTICE FOR ALL HUMANITY."

"WE OWE IT TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO RESTORE TO THEM THEIR RIGHTS AND DIGNITY. NO ONE, BUT NO ONE, DESERVES TO BE HOUNDED FROM THEIR HOME, PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY% TIME AND TIME AGAIN AS ARE THE PALESTINIANS."

"SURELY THE WORLD WHICH HAS SUCH A GUILTY CONSCIENCE OVER THE PAST ILL-TREATMENT OF JEWS BY THE BAZIS MUST HAVE SOME CONSCIENCE OVER THE INJUSTICE AND OPPRESSION BEING SUFFERED BY THE PALESTINIANS RIGHT IN OUR TIMES," HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA 1233/II