

PM - LOOK EAST 'R' 'R' 'R

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AT 10.30 P.M. TODAY, MAY 8.)

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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 8 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT SPOKE OF A CONCERTED ATTEMPT BY CERTAIN QUARTERS TO DISCREDIT MALAYSIA'S LOOK-EAST POLICY.

+NOT ONLY IS ANTAGONISM OF FOREIGNERS BEING AROUSED, BUT MALAYSIANS THEMSELVES ARE BEING URGED TO REJECT THE POLICY, + THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AT A DINNER HELD IN HONOUR OF HIS JAPANESE COUNTERPART, ENCIK YASUHIRO NAKASONE.

HE SAID WORDS WERE PUT INTO THE MOUTH OF MALAYSIANS, OR WERE TWISTED, SO AS TO GIVE A PICTURE OF THEIR DISTASTE OF THE POLICY AND BY EXTENSION, OF JAPAN.

DEFINITE RACIAL OVERTONES HAD ALSO BEEN INJECTED INTO THIS CAMPAIGN, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE EVEN ATTEMPTS TO PLAY MEMBERS OF THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT AGAINST EACH OTHER, AND LATELY THE ATTACKS HAD TURNED PERSONAL WITH ALL KINDS OF +INNUENDES AND INSINUATIONS. +

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT AT THE TIME WHEN THE POLICY WAS LAUNCHED THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WHICH WERE TRADING PARTNERS OF JAPAN, HAD BECOME BITTERLY HOSTILE TOWARDS TOKYO. --MORE 1945/MD

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CONSEQUENTLY THE LOOK-EAST POLICY HAD ATTRACTED RESENTMENT AMONG WESTERN NATIONS +WHICH THINK THAT THE POLICY WILL BENEFIT JAPAN, + HE SAID.

+THEY ALSO THINK OF THE REMOTE DANGER OF MALAYSIA ACTUALLY SUCCEEDING IN BEING MORE COMPETITIVE THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF SOME OF THE METHODS AND DISCIPLINE OF JAPAN, + HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER REGRETTED THE SPILL -- OVER OF ANTI-JAPANESE FEELINGS INTO MALAYSIA.

+BUT WE ARE MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THAT THE LOOK-EAST POLICY IS THE RIGHT POLICY FOR US AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE CLOSE AND CO-OPERATIVE WITH JAPAN, + HE STRESSED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA DID NOT EXPECT EXTRA AID FROM JAPAN WHEN IT LAUNCHED THE POLICY. IT WAS ONLY THINKING OF EASTERN NATIONS, PARTICULARLY JAPAN AND JAPANESE MODELS.

HE THANKED THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS READINESS TO EXTEND CO-OPERATION TO MALAYSIA TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, WAS SEEKING FURTHER ASSISTANCE FROM JAPAN TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS UNDER THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN. --MORE 1950/MD

ZCZC N101 (F/S)

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID JAPANESE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF LIVELIHOOD OF MALAYSIANS AND THE PEOPLE OF ASEAN WOULD NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WELL-BEING BUT ALSO TO THEIR SECURITY.

+SINCE A LARGE PORTION OF YOUR SUPPLIES EITHER COME FROM OR PASSES THROUGH SOUTHEAST ASIA, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THIS REGION IS NO DOUBT OF VITAL INTEREST TO YOUR COUNTRY,+ HE TOLD ENCIK NAKASONE.

THROUGH CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, MALAYSIA AND OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES, INDIVIDUALLY OR AS A GROUP, WERE CONTRIBUTING NOT ONLY TO THE STABILITY, PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE REGION BUT ALSO TO THAT OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES INCLUDING JAPAN, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD BENEFIT IF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA AND ITS ASEAN PARTNERS SUCCEEDED IN THEIR PROGRAMME TO INDUSTRIALISE.

+THERE IS NO CALL, THEREFORE, FOR DISPARAGING AND UNDERMINING THE SO-CALLED NICS OR NEWLY INDUSTRIALISING COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID. --MORE 2003/MD

ZCZC N102 (F/S)

PM - LOOK EAST 4 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SPOKE ON THE KAMPUCHEAN CONFLICT WHICH HE SAID HAD GENERATED BIG-POWER INVOLVEMENT IN THE REGION AND POSED SERIOUS THREAT TO REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AS WELL AS AN OBSTACLE TO THE CREATION OF A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZOPFAN) IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

VIETNAM'S INTRANSIGENT ATTITUDE ON THIS QUESTION WAS UNACCEPTABLE AND ITS RECENT ATTACKS ON KAMPUCHEAN CIVILIANS AND ON THAI TERRITORY WERE NOTHING LESS THAN ACTS OF UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION, HE SAID.

+WE DEMAND THAT VIETNAM SHOULD CEASE ALL SUCH HOSTILITIES AND WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM KAMPUCHEA,+ HE SAID.

HE WAS GRATEFUL THAT JAPAN FULLY SUPPORTED ASEAN EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE AND HOPED THAT TOKYO WOULD CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE KAMPUCHEAN COALITION GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESIDENT PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK.

ON BILATERAL RELATION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA AND JAPAN ENJOYED FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS, BOTH AT GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR LEVELS.

HE WELCOMED THE PROPOSAL BY ENCIK NAKASONE TO PROMOTE GREATER EXCHANGES OF INTELLECTUALS, SCHOLARS AND TEACHERS FOR CO-OPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SO THAT MALAYSIA WOULD NOT FALL BEHIND IN SUCH FIELDS. --BERNAMA 2012/MD