

PM - DINNER

FROM HASHIM MAKARUDDIN

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 3 A.M. MALAYSIAN TIME THURSDAY,
MAY 12)

BELGRADE, MAY 11 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) EXPRESSED THE HOPE TONIGHT THAT THE FORTHCOMING UNCTAD CONFERENCE HERE WILL NOTE THE PLIGHT OF THE COMMODITY EXPORTERS AND SUPPORT THE MOVE TO ESTABLISH PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATIONS TO OBTAIN FAIR PRICES FOR EXPORT COMMODITIES.

HE SAID THE OLD PRACTICE OF TRADING THROUGH EXCLUSIVE CONSUMER-CONTROLLED COMMODITY EXCHANGES SHOULD BE REPLACED BY NEW MARKETING MECHANISMS WHICH WERE MORE FAIR TO PRODUCERS WHILE PROTECTING THE CONSUMERS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ON A THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA, SAID THIS AT A DINNER GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR BY YUGOSLAV PRIME MINISTER MADAM MILKA PLANINC.

NOTING THAT THE SIXTH UNCTAD CONFERENCE IN JUNE WOULD BE HELD AT A TIME WHEN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CONTINUED TO SUFFER FROM ECONOMIC RECESSION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THE SITUATION WAS MADE WORSE BY A SERIES OF PROTECTIONIST MEASURES ADOPTED BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

THE RECENT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI HAD CALLED ON THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO ELIMINATE PROTECTIONIST, RESTRICTIVE AND DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES AGAINST THE EXPORT PRODUCTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, HE ADDED. -- MORE 1816/MK

ZCZC N126 (F/S)

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THE SUMMIT ALSO RECOMMENDED THE ADOPTION OF MEASURES TO BRING ABOUT A MORE EQUITABLE AND ADEQUATE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

+WE HOPE THE SIXTH UNCTAD IN BELGRADE WILL NOTE AND SUPPORT THE STAND OF THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO TOUCHED ON THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT OF WHICH YUGOSLAVIA IS A FOUNDER MEMBER, KAMPUCHEA, PALESTINE, THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, THE OIL SLICK PROBLEM IN THE GULF AND ANTARTICA.

HE HOPED THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW AND PLAY ITS ROLE IN THE INTEREST OF WORLD PEACE AND FREEDOM OF THE SMALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

HE SAID THAT WHILE THE MOVEMENT WAS A GOOD FORUM FOR GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND PUTTING VIEWS ACROSS IN A GENERAL WAY, BILATERAL CONTRACTS WERE STILL ESSENTIAL TO CONCRETISE SOME OF THE IDEAS EXPENDED BY THE MOVEMENT. -- MORE 1820/MK

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IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT VISITS AND BILATERAL TALKS HAD TO BE HELD, HE ADDED.

HE WAS HAPPY THAT SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN 1967, MALAYSIA AND YUGOSLAVIA HAD MEANINGFUL CO-OPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

HE SAID MALAYSIA LIKE YUGOSLAVIA, HAD FOLLOWED A CONSISTENT POLICY OF ESTABLISHING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS, BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF RESPECT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF NATIONS, NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES.

ON KAMPUCHEA, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REITERATED MALAYSIA'S STAND THAT THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE MUST BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY AND SPEEDILY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON KAMPUCHEA AND OTHER RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS.

ON PALESTINE, HE SAID MALAYSIA REMAINED CONVINCED THAT THERE COULD BE NO SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IN WEST ASIA FOR AS LONG AS THE CORE OF THE CRISIS, THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, REMAINED UNRESOLVED. -- MORE 1825/MK

ZCZC N128 (F/S)

PM - DINNER 4 BELGRADE (EMBARGO)

ON AFGHANISTAN, HE SAID THE COUNTRY CONTINUED TO BE A VICTIM OF FOREIGN MILITARY INTERVENTION AND OCCUPATION AND REITERATED MALAYSIA'S SUPPORT IN CALLING FOR THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM THAT COUNTRY.

ON THE IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR URGED THAT MEDIATION EFFORTS BY THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT BE REACTIVATED AND A STRONG PUSH FOR PEACE BE MADE IN VIEW OF THE UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS SO FAR TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT.

TOUCHING ON THE OIL SLICK PROBLEM IN THE GULF, HE CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HELP AVERT A THREAT TO THE WORLD'S ENVIRONMENT.

SPILLAGE OF IRANIAN OIL INTO THE SEA, IF UNCHECKED, WOULD SOON EXTEND BEYOND THE GULF AREA TO NEIGHBOURING SEAS, BRINGING IN ITS WAKE DISASTERS AND DAMAGE TO MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY, HE SAID.

THE OIL SLICK ISSUE, THEREFORE, TRANSCENDED THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR AND SHOULD BECOME THE CONCERN AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, HE ADDED. -- MORE 1829/MK

ZCZC N129 (F/S)

PM - DINNER 5 BELGRADE (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR YUGOSLAVIA'S CONCERN OVER THE INCREASED ARMAMENT IN EUROPE AND FOR THE EFFORTS BY THE GROUP OF NON-ALIGNED AND NEUTRAL COUNTRIES OF EUROPE TO BRING THE MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

HE ALSO SUPPORTED YUGOSLAVIA'S EFFORTS TO TRANSFORM THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION INTO A ZONE OF PEACE AND CO-OPERATION. -- BERNAMA 1831/MK