

ZCZC ND17 (F/S)
MAHATHIR - INTERVIEW
BM

15/07/1983

ON CULTURE

Q: OF LATE, THERE HAVE RE-EMERGED VOICES OF OPPOSITION TO THE NATIONAL CULTURE POLICY AMONG THE NON-MALAYS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE CONGRESS HELD IN PULAU PINANG RECENTLY WHERE THEY UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED THE NATIONAL CULTURE POLICY. WE ARE PERTURBED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE AFTER 26 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE, THE MATTER HAS STILL TO BE RESOLVED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE NON-MALAYS. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW ON THIS PROBLEM AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO PERSUADE THE NON-MALAYS TO ACCEPT THE POLICY THAT HAS BEEN LAID DOWN?

A: ISSUES SUCH AS THESE CANNOT BE RESOLVED THROUGH CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS OR OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN CONFERENCES BY ANY QUARTER. THE QUESTION CAN ONLY BE SETTLED BY DISCUSSING IT AT A PROPER FORUM. I FEEL THAT I NEED NOT COMMENT ON A DECISION MADE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS.

Q: IS THERE ANY SPECIFIC PROGRAMME THEN FOR BRINGING ABOUT A SOLUTION THROUGH THE MEANS WHICH YOU MENTIONED?

A: WE HAVE SPECIFIC BODIES THAT CAN RESOLVE THE MATTER. WE SHOULD LEAVE THE PROBLEM TO THEM TO HANDLE. - MORE 0829/BW

ZCZC ND18 (F/S)
MAHATHIR - INTERVIEW (CULTURE) 2 KUALA LUMPUR

Q: WHEN THE NATIONAL CULTURAL CONGRESS WAS HELD AT ONE TIME, THE CONGRESS WAS ORGANIZED BY A SIMILAR BODY, YET WHEN RESOLUTIONS WERE MADE, THESE WERE NOT ACCEPTED BY VARIOUS QUARTERS. IF WE JUST LET THE MATTER LIE, WE WILL EVENTUALLY COME TO A STAGE WHERE WE WILL NO LONGER KNOW WHAT THE NATIONAL CULTURE IS.

A: WE CAN DEFINE WHAT THE NATIONAL CULTURE IS, BUT THIS WILL STILL BE MEANINGLESS IF NO ONE ACCEPTS IT. - BERNAMA 0837/BW

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