

1983

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 12 (BERNAMA)--(DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD DOES NOT WANT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO BECOME A DUMPING GROUND FOR OBSOLETE TECHNOLOGY FROM SOME ADVANCED COUNTRIES.

CITING AN OLD PROVERB - +BEWARE OF GREEKS BEARING GIFTS+ -- THE PRIME MINISTER CAUTIONED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NOT TO ACQUIRE OBSOLETE TECHNOLOGY WHICH SOME ADVANCED COUNTRIES MIGHT WISHED TO DUMP ON THEM. [MAHATHIR - DUMP]

HE SAID IN FINDING A FAIR AND REASONABLE PRICE FOR PURCHASED TECHNOLOGY, A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY HAD TO CONSIDER NOT ONLY WHAT IT MUST PAY THE SUPPLIER, BUT ALSO THE REAL COSTS INVOLVED IN ADOPTING THE TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING LOCAL MANPOWER TO OPERATE IT.

+NO TECHNOLOGY IS TOO DEAR IF THE RESULTING OUTFLOW OF ECONOMIC BENEFITS EXCEEDS ITS AGGREGATE TOTAL COST. ON THE OTHER HAND, NO TECHNOLOGY IS TOO CHEAP IF IT INVOLVES A SEEMINGLY UNENDING ENTANGLEMENT WITH BERVICING COSTS AND INVENTORIES THAT ULTIMATELY WOULD ENHANCE THE RECIPIENT AND RENDER IT MORE DEPENDENT,+ HE ADDED.

OPENING THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TECHNOLOGY, CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPMENT WAS NOT A +ONE-OFF AFFAIR+ BUT A FLOW WITH EXPONENTIAL RATE --MORE 1652/MD

MAHATHIR-DUMP 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ANY COUNTRY WHICH HOPED TO BE A SUBSTANTIAL RECIPIENT OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES DEVELOPED BY ADVANCED COUNTRIES MUST HAVE AN EXPANDING CAPACITY TO ABSORB MORE OF SUCH TECHNOLOGIES.

ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R AND D), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN A WORLD DOMINATED BY NATIONAL SELF-INTEREST, IT WOULD BE NAIVE TO EXPECT ANY COUNTRY TO CONDUCT R AND D FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

+WE MUST CARRY OUT OUR OWN R AND D TO MEET OUR OWN NEEDS. ANY WORK DONE BY OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A BONUS WHICH MAY NOT BE DEPENDED UPON AS A RELIABLE SOURCE,+ HE ADDED.

HE ALSO URGED THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO BE SELECTIVE IN RESEARCH AND SAID THAT THEY MIGHT PERHAPS BE FORCED TO LIMIT THEMSELVES TO RESEARCHES IN APPLICATION BEFORE VENTURING INTO PURE RESEARCH.

+IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT WITH SUCH A WIDE FIELD OPEN TO RESEARCH, THERE IS NO WAY FOR ANY COUNTRY TO COVER EVERY ASPECT OF IT.

+SOMENHERE ALONG THE LINE, IT WILL HAVE TO BUY THE RESULTS OF THE WORK OF OTHERS, NO MATTER HOW ADVANCED AND RICH THAT COUNTRY IS.+

--MORE 1658/MD

ZCZC NOBT (F/S)

MAHATHIR-DUMP 3 KUALA LUMPUR

AS SUCH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE PRIMARY PROBLEM OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS TO IDENTIFY AREAS IN WHICH THEY WISHED TO DISBURSE THEIR LIMITED RESEARCH FUNDS.

HE SAID RESEARCH RESULTS WERE THE TASKS OF SCIENTISTS AND PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING WERE THE BUSINESS OF THE POLICY MAKERS.

HARMONY BETWEEN THESE TWO PARTIES WOULD OPTIMISE PROGRESS, HE ADDED. --BERNAMA 1700/MD