

MAHATHIR - POODLES

(EMBARGO: FOR AUTOMATIC RELEASE AT 10.30 P.M. TODAY; DEC. 12)

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KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 12 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THAT CERTAIN MALAYSIAN JOURNALISTS WORKING FOR THE FOREIGN MEDIA +TWIST+ NEWS ABOUT THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

THESE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE DISAPPOINTED ABOUT NOT GETTING ONE THING OR ANOTHER IN THE PAST, WERE NEVER TIRED OF DOING THIS SO THAT THEY WOULD BE +GIVEN A PAT IN THE BACK BY THEIR FOREIGN MASTERS,

+
HE SAID.

+WE WATCH THE ANTICS OF THESE PET POODLES WITH UTTER CONTEMPT AND DERISION.+ THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED AT THE PRESS NIGHT DINNER HERE.

HE SAID THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE OF THE MALAYSIAN MASS MEDIA.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE AMERICANS WERE BEGINNING TO REALISE THAT THE REPORTS THEY RECEIVED FROM THEIR CORRESPONDENTS WERE NOT ACCURATE OR FACTUAL AND, IN FACT, REFLECTED THE POLITICAL BELIEFS OF THE WRITERS CONCERNED. -- MORE 2024/MK

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HE READ OUT AN EXTRACT FROM AN ISSUE OF THE TIME MAGAZINE WHICH DEALT WITH FRAUDS COMMITTED BY SOME AMERICAN JOURNALISTS AND THE DAMAGE THEY HAD DONE TO THE CREDIBILITY OF PEOPLE IN THEIR PROFESSION.

HE SAID THAT IF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FRAUDS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY, IT WAS ONLY TO BE EXPECTED THAT THEY WOULD +NOT LIMIT THEIR LIES+ WHEN REPORTING ABOUT THIS NATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND MASS MEDIA MEANT THAT BOTH SIDES COULD COOPERATE FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

IT ALSO WAS PROOF THAT IN CARRYING OUT THEIR WORK, THE MASS MEDIA NEED NOT HAVE AN ATTITUDE OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +THE MASS MEDIA WHICH COOPERATE WITH THE AUTHORITIES WILL NOT LOSE THEIR CREDIBILITY.+ -- MORE 2205/MK

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MAHATHIR - POODLES 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HE SAID THAT HE WANTED TO STRESS THIS POINT BECAUSE THERE WERE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN THE WEST, WHO BELIEVED THAT THE MASS MEDIA WOULD/LOSE THEIR CREDIBILITY IF THEY COOPERATED WITH THE AUTHORITIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALWAYS TRIED TO HELP THE MASS MEDIA IN THEIR OPERATIONS AND IT HAD NO INTENTION OF MAKING THE WORK TOUGH FOR JOURNALISTS BY KEEPING SECRET ALL ITS BUSINESS.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT SUCH A SECRETIVE ATTITUDE WOULD ENCOURAGE THE SPREADING OF RUMOURS WHICH COULD ADVERSELY INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION, HE SAID.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT LOCAL JOURNALISTS WRITE FEATURES ON THE NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS, THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE AND OTHER SUCH TOPICS AND NOT DEPEND TOO MUCH ON FOREIGN AGENCIES.

HE SAID THAT LEADING NEWSPAPERS IN THE COUNTRY SHOULD SEND THEIR REPORTERS OVERSEAS TO AREAS WHICH WERE VERY MUCH IN THE NEW NOW. -- BERNAMA 2209/MK