

MAHATHIR - ISSUES

FROM EFFENDI ARIFFIN

WASHINGTON, JAN. 28 (BERNAMA) -- THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN URGED TO PAY GREATER ATTENTION TO THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD AND TO HELP IN THE REALIZATION OF THOSE ASPIRATIONS.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID HERE YESTERDAY THAT IN DOING SO THE UNITED STATES WOULD FIND NO INCOMPATIBILITY OF INTEREST BETWEEN ITS OWN SECURITY AND THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.

IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION AND THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO MADE KNOWN THE FRUSTRATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TOWARDS THE U.S. FOR ITS+ALL TOO OFTEN STAND ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE AGAINST THE SMALL COUNTRIES.+

OVER SUCH ISSUES LIKE THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, THE LAW OF THE SEA TREATY, ANTARCTICA, MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND MORE RECENTLY, UNESCO, THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN AT ODDS WITH THE THIRD WORLD.

+I SAY THIS IS UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE TO MY MIND THE UNITED STATES HAS ALWAYS HAD A HISTORIC ROLE AND THE CAPACITY TO TRULY CHAMPION THE INTEREST OF THE THIRD WORLD,+ HE TOLD A PACKED AUDIENCE.

- MORE 1200/BW

ZCZC NO24

MAHATHIR - ISSUES 2 WASHINGTON

THE FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION IS THE OLDEST NATIONALLY-BASED GRASSROOT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES. AS A PRIVATE AND NOW-PROFIT AND NON-PARTISAN ORGANIZATION, ITS OBJECTIVE IS TO DEVELOP AND INFORMED, THOUGHTFUL AND ARTICULATE PUBLIC OPINION ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WASHINGTON D.C. IS ALSO A COMMUNITY-BASED INSTITUTION OFFERING EVERY AREA CITIZEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AND BECOME INVOLVED IN TODAY'S INTERNATIONAL POLICY ISSUES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE HEIRS TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION OUGHT TO BE THE PRECURSOR OF CHANGE WORLD-WIDE +INSTEAD IT SEEMS THAT THE UNITED STATES OFTEN SUPPORTS VESTED INTERESTS AND OPPOSES MUCH NEEDED INTERNATIONAL REFORMS THAT WOULD BRING RELIEF TO MANY SMALL THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES.+

HE ALSO CONSIDERED THAT THE UNITED STATES, IN ITS QUEST FOR NATIONAL SECURITY, HAD PLACED MUCH EMPHASIS ON KEEPING U.S. ADVERSARIES AT BAY THROUGH PURELY MILITARY MEANS AND +TOO LITTLE EMPHASIS ON THE LEGITIMATE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD WHERE YOUR RIVALRY UNFOLDS.+

THE PRIME MINISTER BELIEVED THAT THE UNITED STATES' SECURITY WOULD BE ENHANCED BY THE PROGRESSIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT OF THE THIRD WORLD.

ON THE PROBLEMS AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT ISSUES-CONFRONTING THE SMALL COUNTRIES WERE INTER RELATED WITH ALL OTHER MAJOR WORLD ISSUES -- DETENTE, ARMS LIMITATIONS TALKS -- AND THERE WAS A PRESSING NEED BY THE SUPER POWERS TO FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION THERE AS WELL, - MORE 1205/BW

MAHATHIR - ISSUES 3 WASHINGTON

+AS LEADERS OF OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS, WE IN THE THIRD WORLD HAVE A DUTY TO SECURE FOR OUR PEOPLES THE BEST POSSIBLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STANDARDS IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF PEACE AND STABILITY,+ HE SAID.

'WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES NOT FAVOURING THE POLITICS OF RADICALISM IN RESOLVING THOSE PROBLEMS, ALL THOSE WHO CHERISHED PEACE AND PROGRESS MUST ENCOURAGE AND MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON FAIR GIVE-AND-TAKE.

+THE BIG-POWERS, THE INDUSTRIALISED ECONOMIES, SHOULD NOT LOOK UPON THIS PROCESS WITH TREPIDATION.

+IT IS NOT MEANT TO DEPRIVE THEM OF THEIR LEGITIMATE GAINS, BUT RATHER IT WOULD HELP PROTECT THOSE GAINS FROM PRECISELY THE SORT OF RADICALISM THAT PROLONGED DEPRIVATIONS AND EXPLOITATION, WHETHER POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC, ULTIMATELY GENERATES,+ HE SAID.

ON ASSISTANCE BY THE INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES TO THE THIRD WORLD, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID CHARITY WAS NOT THE OBJECTIVE THOUGH SOMETIMES THE SHEER MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEMS BESETTING SOME OF THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES MIGHT MAKE SUCH ASSISTANCE INEVITABLE.  
- MORE 1215/BW

ZCZC NO26

MAHATHIR - ISSUES 4 WASHINGTON

+WHAT WE SEEK RATHER IS A FAIR AND EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND PRINCIPLED POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR,+ SAID.

IN URGING THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THE PRESERVATION AND DEFENSE OF THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING THAT THE U.S. POLICED THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES \*OR FOR THAT MATTER DEPUTISE OTHER STATES TO PLAY THE ROLE OF REGIONAL GENDARME.+

THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID, COULD HOWEVER TAKE THE LEAD IN WORKING OUT WITH THE OTHER BIG-POWERS AN ACCEPTABLE CODE OF CONDUCT IN DEALING WITH THE THIRD WORLD..

+SUCH A CODE OF CONDUCT MUST INCORPORATE STRICT RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT DETENTE IN EUROPE WAS INSEPARABLE FROM DETENTE IN THE THIRD WORLD.

ON SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE OF THE OCCUPATION OF KAMPUCHEA AND THE ATTENDANT BIG-POWER INVOLVEMENT AND INTERFERENCE IN INDOCHINA THEREBY TURNING THE REGION ONCE AGAIN INTO AN AREA OF TENSION AND RIVALRY. - MORE 1219/BW

ZCZC NO27

MAHATHIR - ISSUES 5 WASHINGTON

THE VIETNAMESE INVASION OF KAMPUCHEA HAD REPRESENTED A SEVERE SET-BACK TO THE HOPES OF FORGING A NEW ERA OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AND COOPERATION IN THE REGION.

HOWEVER, MALAYSIA AND ITS ASEAN PARTNERS WERE UNDAUNTED BY THOSE SETBACKS AND HAD SOUGHT TO FIND WAYS TO BRING THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

WHILE ASEAN HAD A PROGRAMME FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM, WHAT WAS LACKING WAS THE POLITICAL WILL,, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE BIG-POWERS, TO IMPLEMENT IT.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO CALLED ON THE UNITED STATES TO WE-EXAMINE ITS STAND ON THE ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZOPFAN) CONCEPT WHICH THE ASEAN COUNTRIES STRONGLY BELIEVED HELD OUT THE BEST HOPE FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.

+THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE NOT COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF ZOPFAN IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN TO US IN ASEAN,+ HE SAID. - MORE 1227/BW

MAHATHIR - ISSUES 6 WASHINGTON

ON PEACE IN WEST ASIA, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID UNLESS AND UNTIL THE BASIC AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINE PEOPLE WERE RESTORED TO THEM NO AMOUNT OF PEACE-KEEPING FORCE COULD BRING PEACE THERE.

ON MALAYSIA'S OWN FOREIGN POLICY, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS DRIVEN BY SEVERAL DIVERSE IMPULSES, ALL OF WHICH NEEDED TO BE RECONCILED AND GIVEN EXPRESS SON.

BEING A PREDOMINANTLY ISLAMIC COUNTRY, MALAYSIA HAD ALWAYS TAKEN GREAT INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRIES.

AS A MEMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, MALAYSIA FULLY SHARED ITS ABHORRENCE OF BIG-POWER POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SULLYING AND MANIPULATION AND AS A SMALL THIRD WORLD COUNTRY +WE ARE UNITED WITH OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AS VICTIMS OF AN UNJUST AND INEQUITABLE ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT SEEKS TO DENY US THE LEGITIMATE REWARDS OF OUR LABOUR AND NATURAL REOURCES.+

MALAYSIA ALSO ENJOYED LONG STANDING CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WEST WITH WHICH IT SHARED A COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. - MORE 1230/BW

ZCZC NO29

MAHATHIR - ISSUES 7 WASHINGTON

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT BEING A SMALL COUNTRY TOO, -MALAYSIA, DID NOT EXPECT AND HAD NO ILLUSION ABOUT EXERTING A DECISIVE INFLUENCE ON THE GLOBAL EQUATION BUT +WE ARE NONETHELESS CONSCIOUS OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PLAY OUR ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS,+ +SMALL THOUGH WE MAY BE, WE INTEND TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE COMITY OF NATIONS IN AN INDEPENDENT MANNER,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SPOKE OF HOW ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WERE COMPOUNDED BY POLICIES PURSUED BY DEVELOPED NATIONS.

HE ILLUSTRATED HOW THE AMERICAN GSA RELEASE OF TIN FROM THE U.S. STRATEGIC RESERVES WITHOUT PROPER CONSULTATION WITH MALAYSIA, THE LARGEST TIN PRODUCER, HAD HAD AN ENORMOUS AND SUBSTANTIALLY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON MALAYSIA'S ECONOMY. WHILE ITS EXPORT EARNINGS AND GOVERNMENT REVENUE WERE ADVERSELY AFFECTED, A NUMBER OF TIN MINES IN MALAYSIA WERE FORCED TO CLOSE AND HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE IN THE TIN INDUSTRY WERE RETRENCHED. -BERNAMA 1233/BW