

MAHATHIR - SYMPOSIUM
FROM EFFENDI ARIFFIN

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DAVOS (SWITZERLAND), JAN. 28 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI D R. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) TODAY SPOKE OF THE THREE OPTIONS OPENED TO DEVELOPING THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE.

THEY HAD EITHER TO JOIN GROUPINGS, BECOME A CLIENTELE OF SOME SUPERPOWERS OR BUILD UP A SUFFICIENTLY STRONG ARMY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, HE SAID.

ADDRESSING A PLENARY SESSION OF AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM HERE, HE SAID THAT TO MAINTAIN THEIR ARMED FORCES THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRY WOULD HAVE TO SPEND A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND THEREBY CAUSING A STRAIN TO THEIR ECONOMY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, IN SOME CASES SOME OF THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES HAD TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THEY HAD TO DEVELOP AND THEREFORE HAD TO ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH SOME OTHER COUNTRIES OR GROUPINGS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRY BECAME A CLIENTELE TO SOME BIG POWER, THEY WOULD RETURN TO THEIR FORMER STATUS. -- MORE 0045/MB

ZCZC N154 (F/S)

MAHATHIR - SYMPOSIUM 2 DAVOS (SWITZERLAND)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT MOST OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE FORMER COLONIAL TERRITORIES + BUT NOW IN ORDER TO STAY INDEPENDENT THEY HAD TO RELY UPON SOME BIG POWERS AND WHEN YOU DEPEND ON SOMEBODY ELSE YOU ARE NO LONGER INDEPENDENT.

A NEW FORM OF COLONIALISM WOULD TAKE SHAPE, HE SAID, WHEREBY THE POLICIES OF THOSE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE POWERS THAT PROTECTED THEM BECAUSE IF THEY WENT AGAINST THEM THEY WOULD LOSE THEIR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE, HE ADDED.

+ WE HAVE SEEN SEVERAL COUNTRIES WHICH CHANGED THEIR PATRONS A NUMBER OF TIMES, + HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT FOR THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES THE PROBLEMS OF INTERVENTION AND SECURITY HAD SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT MEANING FROM THAT OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

ON MALAYSIA, HE SAID THAT IT HAD A STRONG GOVERNMENT AND WAS A PEACEFUL COUNTRY BUT THERE WERE THREATS IN THE AREA WITH THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN FORCES IN SOME OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE BECOMING AN ARENA OF THE EAST-WEST CONFLICT AND A TESTING GROUND FOR NEW WEAPONS.

DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE GAVE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR A STANDING OVATION AFTER DELIVERING HIS SPEECH.

MOST OF THE DELEGATES WELCOMED THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAYING THAT HE WAS THE FIRST LEADER OF THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WHO HAD CLEARLY AND FRANKLY BROUGHT UP THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

BRITISH INDUSTRIALIST MARTIN K. LANG SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S CANDIDNESS AND + HIS REALISTIC SPEECH +.

OTHERS SAID THAT DR. MAHATHIR HAD THE ADVANTAGE IN THAT HE COULD STAND IN THE MIDDLE AND LOOK BOTH WAYS WITHOUT TAKING A WHITE OR BLACK VIEW.

THE DAVOS SYMPOSIUM 1984 IS ORGANISED BY THE EUROPEAN MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION (EMF) AND HAD ATTRACTED BOTH WORLD LEADERS AND LEADING CORPORATE BUSINESSMEN TO THIS RESORT TOWN, ABOUT 200 KM FROM BERNE, THE CAPITAL. -- BERNAMA 0057/MB