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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 26 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY STRESSED THE NEED FOR A BALANCED MODERATE APPROACH TO ISLAM FOR MUSLIM CIVILISATION TO ACHIEVE ITS DESTINY AND A SECOND UPTURN.

+A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SELF-CRITICISM IS A PREREQUISITE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN OPENING THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ISLAMIC THOUGHT AT THE ASIA-PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (APDC) HERE,

+WE MUSLIMS MUST LEARN TO BE HONEST WITH OURSELVES. WE NEED TO HAVE A BALANCED APPROACH TO THIS WORLD AND HEREAFTER, HE SAID,

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IN VIEW OF THE CHANGES IN RECENT DECADES, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO RECREATE THE WORLD OF THE EARLY YEARS OF ISLAM.

I +WE SHOULD REORGANISE OUR POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE IN A WAY THAT FULLY INCORPORATES THE INJUNCTIONS OF ISLAM TO ENSURE THAT A SOCIALLY HEALTHY, POLITICALLY COHERENT AND ECONOMICALLY EFFICIENT AND VIGOROUS UMMAH WOULD EMERGE, ABLE TO FACE ALL CHALLENGES, HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR - ISLAM

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LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ISLAMIC INJUNCTIONS MUST BE GIVEN PRACTICAL CONTENT, AND THE IMPLICATIONS EXPLAINED IN CONCRETE TERMS, BEFORE THEY COULD BECOME OPERATIONAL IN ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS OF MUSLIM COUNTRIES.

HE SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR A GIGANTIC INTELLECTUAL AND IMAGINATIVE EFFORT INVOLVING DEEP INSIGHT INTO THE OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THESE INJUNCTIONS AND POINTED OUT THAT +TO RETREAT AND WITHDRAW FROM MODERN SOCIETY IS TO DENY THAT ISLAM IS FOR ALL TIMES.

HE SAID IF MUSLIMS FAILED TO OPERATIONALISE INJUNCTIONS WITH REFERENCE TO CONTEMPORARY REALITY, THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PLAN EFFECTIVELY FOR THE FUTURE.

+THIS IS THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE PRESENT PREDICAMENT OF MUSLIMS, HE SAID AND ADDED THAT MUSLIMS HAD NOT ONLY FAILED TO LIVE UP TO ISLAM BUT ALSO TO A LARGE EXTENT, FAILED TO APPRECIATE ITS UNIVERSALITY.

+WE, THE MUSLIM UMMAH, HAVE TO MAKE A CONSCIOUS DECISION WHETHER TO REMAIN IN A CONSTANT STATE OF TENSION, BETWEEN LIVING IN THE PAST AND ONLY SUPERFICIALLY COMING TO TERMS WITH THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD, OR WHETHER WE WILL OPT FOR AN ISLAMIC FUTURE, THEREBY REDIRECTING OURSELVES TO THE ORIGINAL PATH OF ISLAM, HE SAID. --MORE

MAHATHIR - ISLAM 3 KUALA LUMPUR

REMEMBER ALWAYS THAT ISLAM, WHEN IT CAME, WAS A MODERNISING FORCE THAT BROUGHT GREATNESS TO THE EARLY FOLLOWERS OF THE FAITH - GREATNESS IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMY, INDUSTRY, THE SCIENCES, THE ARTS AND MILITARY PROWESS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MUSLIMS WERE NOW IN ACUTE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL AGONY, YET MANY OF THEM HAD ADOPTED STRANGELY A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY -- READING THE QURAN WILL BRING THEM +TAWAB+(BLESSINGS) EVEN IF THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND OR PRACTISE IT, GOING OUT ON TABLIGH (PROPAGATION) WILL SECURE A PEACE OF PARADISE? WRITING PAMPHLETS OR PROPAGANDA SHEETS WILL WIN SUPPORT FOR ISLAM.

WE MUST ENSURE THAT ISLAM IS RESPONSIVE TO THE IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS AND CONCERNS OF MODERN MAN, HE SAID.

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM DID NOT ONLY MEAN THE CAPABILITY TO EXPLAIN A HADITH, OR OUTLINE THE MECHANICS OF CERTAIN RITUALS OR RECITE THE VERSES OF THE QURAN BUT ALSO THE CAPACITY TO EXPLAIN AND PUT INTO PRACTICE ITS DYNAMIC AND VIBRANT CONCEPTS IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY, HE ADDED.

HE SAID TWO GREAT CHALLENGES FACING MUSLIMS WERE TO RECREATE A LIVING CIVILISATION OF ISLAM THAT WAS ONCE DYNAMIC AND THRIVING, AND TO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE PREDICAMENT FACING MANKIND.

--MORE

1307MST 26 07 84

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MAHATHIR - ISLAM 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE CURRENT TRENDS INDICATED THAT MUSLIM SOCIETY WAS HEADING TOWARDS AN AIMLESS FUTURE. UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE NOW, THIS TREND IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE, PUTTING MUSLIMS IN GRAVE DANGER OF BEING SEPARATED FROM THEIR FAITH, HE SAID.

THE MUSLIM UMMAH COULD NOT CONTINUE LYING INACTIVE LIKE A STAGNANT LAKE

---+ FULL OF POTENTIAL RESOURCES YET POLLUTED, HE SAID.

STRESSING THAT THERE WAS NO-ESCAPE FROM PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE? DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID A PRACTICAL BLUEPRINT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ISLAMIC SYSTEM NEEDED TO BE WORKED OUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE POLITICAL REALITIES OF TODAY'S WORLD.

HOWEVER, PLANNING IN THE MUSLIM COUNTRIES MUST BE MORE THAN A PROJECTION INTO THE FUTURE OF TODAY'S DOMINANT TRENDS. WE NEED TO MAKE A CAREFUL CROSS-IMPACT ANALYSIS BETWEEN VARIOUS PRIORITIES, POLICIES AND PLANNING AND VARIOUS PARAMETERS OF MUSLIM THOUGHTS AND CRITERIA, HE SAID.

HE URGED THE SEMINAR TO PLAN FOR REFORMING AND MOVING ISLAMIC THOUGHT FORWARD IN SPECIFIC AREAS WITH A PROPER SCALE OF PRIORITIES AS A STEP TOWARDS ACHIEVING THIS PLANNED FUTURE.---MORE

1339MST 26 07 84

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U E049 AAE
MAHATHIR - ISLAM 5 KUALA LUMPUR (LAST)

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IN DEVELOPING A FRESH UNDERSTANDING OF ISLAM, IN ADJUSTING TO CHANGE, THE MUSLIMS UMMAH NEEDED A NUMBER OF INTELLECTUAL TOOLS INCLUDING SCHOLARSHIPS AND UNIVERSITY TEXTBOOKS IN EACH DISCIPLINE WHICH WOULD ALLOW YOUNG MUSLIM INTELLECTUALS TO QUESTION THE PRESENT APPROACHES.

HE SAID THE AIM OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT TO PRODUCE TEXTBOOKS IN ALL THE DISCIPLINES SHOULD BE SUPPORTED.

ABOUT 90 PARTICIPANTS FROM 14 COUNTRIES -- FRANCE, UNITED STATES, IRAN, INDIA, PAKISTAN, SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN, EGYPT, CANADA, THE PHILIPPINES, SYRIA, KUWAIT, BRUNEI AND MALAYSIA ARE ATTENDING THE SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE MALAYSIAN MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS.

A TOTAL OF 23 WORKING PAPERS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE SIX-DAY SEMINAR. --BERNAMA.