

MAHATHIR-WARNING  
FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

(P)

CANBERRA, AUG. 10 (BERNAMA)--DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SPOKE OF THE DANGER OF MAKING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA A +STRONG AND WELL-DEVELOPED+ POWER, ESPECIALLY TO COUNTRIES IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION.

HE SAID +A WELL-DEVELOPED CHINA WITH ITS ENORMOUS MILITARY MIGHT AND HUGE POPULATION COULD VERY WELL TEMPT ITS LEADERS TO VENTURE DOWNWARDS, ESPECIALLY TO SOUTHEAST ASIA.+

THE PRIME MINISTER MADE THIS OBSERVATION IN HIS RESPONSE TO A QUESTION PERTAINING TO MALAYSIA'S VIEW ON THE STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SUCH AS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA AND CHINA DURING A LUNCHEON GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR BY THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB HERE.

HE AND HIS WIFE ARE NOW ON A SIX-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIA.

THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT ALTHOUGH MALAYSIA WAS NO DOUBT WORRIED OVER THE POSSIBLE FURTHER EXPANSION OF VIETNAM AS A RESULT OF ITS INVASION OF KAMPUCHEA, THE REAL LONG-TERM THREAT TO HER SECURITY WOULD STILL BE COMMUNIST CHINA DUE TO BOTH POLITICAL AND HISTORICAL REASONS.--MORE  
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+THE REPEATED PRONOUNCEMENTS AGAINST HEGEMONY BY THE PRESENT CHINESE LEADERSHIP DO NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THEY HAVE GIVEN UP THE IDEA OF HEGEMONY,+ HE SAID.

+IF THE SAME LEADERSHIP CAN MAKE A 180 DEGREE TURN TO OFFER ITS HANDS OF FRIENDSHIP TO COUNTRIES IT ONCE REGARDED AS ENEMIES, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF THAT COUNTRY WILL NOT REVERSE THE POSITION,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHAT WAS MORE WORRYING WAS THE FACT THAT NO ONE KNEW WHAT THE FUTURE CHINESE LEADERSHIP WOULD BE.

AS IT WAS NOW, BEIJING "AD FAILED TO WITHDRAW ITS POLITICAL SUPPORT TO THE VARIOUS INSURGENT MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, INCLUDING THE MCP IN MALAYSIA WHOSE MEMBERSHIP WAS PREDOMINANTLY ETHNIC CHINESE.

THESE PEOPLE, HE SAID, THOUGH SMALL IN NUMBER WERE INTENSE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO OVERTHROW DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENTS BY FORCE.--MORE  
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FOR THAT SAME REASON, THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT ON ITS PART, HAD NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER TO REPEAL THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT (ISA) NOR DO AWAY WITH ITS CAPITAL PUNISHMENT WIDELY CRITICISED BY CERTAIN SECTORS.

+WE HAVE TO TAKE STRINGENT PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF THE INNOCENT-MAJORITY. WE ARE MAKING NO APOLOGY FOR THIS,+ HE DECLARED.

HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT MALAYSIA WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THE MOVES BY ANY COUNTRY TO STRENGTHEN ITS ECONOMIC TIES WITH CHINA.

THIS WAS PARTICULARLY SO AS CHINA WITH ITS HUGE POPULATION WAS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE AN ATTRACTIVE MARKET FOR EXPORTS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID GIVEN THE FACT, AS BE UNDERSTOOD, THAT AUSTRALIA'S INCREASED TIES WITH CHINA WERE MAINLY CENTRED ON TRADE, THERE WAS NO REASON FOR MALAYSIA TO BE CONCERNED.--MORE

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+IF IT IS NOT AUSTRALIA, SOME OTHER COUNTRIES WILL DO IT. EVEN MALAYSIA IS INTERESTED IN THE CHINESE MARKET?+ HE SAID.

+I AM TOLD THAT IF WE CAN PERSUADE EVERY CHINESE IN CHINA, TO TAKE ONE SPOON-FULL OF PALM OIL A DAY, IN NO TIME WE WILL BE A VERY PROSPEROUS COUNTRY,+ HE SAID.

ON VIETNAM, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THERE WOULD COME A TIME WHEN IT COULD NO LONGER SUPPORT ITS OCCUPATION FORCES IN KAMPUCHEA AND THEREBY SEE MERIT IN ASEAN'S POSITION ON THE ISSUE.

HE SAID MALAYSIA AS WELL AS ASEAN HAD NO SPECIFIC FORMULA TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT OTHER THAN THE GENERAL AND BROAD OUTLINE FOR THE NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AS SPELT OUT IN ITS JOINT APPEAL ON KAMPUCHEAN INDEPENDENCE ISSUED IN NEW YORK, IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR AND THE ASEAN STATEMENT OF JULY 9, 1984.

+I'M SURE WHEN THE TIME COMES, WE CAN TALK ABOUT SPECIFIC FORMULA,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DESCRIBED AS UNTIMELY AUSTRALIA'S OFFER TO SPONSOR TALKS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND LAOS AND ASEAN OVER KAMPUCHEA.

THE OFFER MADE DURING THE LAST ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN JAKARTA HAD ALREADY BEEN REJECTED. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON EDUCATION, ANTARTICA AND MALAYSIA-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS.

ON EDUCATION, HE SAID IT WAS MALAYSIA'S INTENTION TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN EDUCATION.

HOWEVER, SHE NEEDED TIME TO BUILD SUFFICIENT EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR HER YOUNG POPULATION WHOSE DEMAND FOR HIGHER EDUCATION WAS INCREASING AT A RATE BEYOND THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO COPE, HE SAID.

+BUILDING A UNIVERSITY IS NOT DIFFICULT, BUT PROVIDING ITS TEACHING STAFF AND OTHER FACILITIES IS SOMETHING FOR WHICH HE NEED TIME,+ H E S A I D

HE SAID 'UNTIL THIS WAS DONE, MALAYSIA WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR HER STUDENTS,.

AT PRESENT THE NUMBER OF MALAYSIAN STUDENTS STUDYING OVERSEAS INCLUDING IN AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS BRITAIN NUMBERED MORE THAN THOSE AT HOME UNIVERSITIES.

EARLIER, IN HIS SPEECH DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR OUTLINED THE CURRENT EMPHASIS OF MALAYSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY INCLUDING ITS THRUST FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION ITS CONCERN OVER BIG POWER RIVALRY AND ITS ON-GOING EFFORTS FOR THE REALISATION OF THE ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZOPFAN) IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER ASEAN PARTNERS. --BERNAMA