

R E472 DEE
MAHATHIR-QURAN
FROM RACHMAN NORDIN

184 P
PHILADELPHIA? OCT 9 (BERNAMA)--DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
HAS INVITED THE AMERICAN MUSLIM COMMUNITY TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO
THE INTERNATIONAL QURAN READING COMPETITION WHICH MALAYSIA HOSTS
ANNUALLY IN KUALA LUMPUR DURING THE FASTING MONTH..

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING MUSLIM
AMERICANS NOT ONLY TAKING PART BUT ALSO USING THE OPPORTUNITY TO
EXPRESS FEELINGS OF BROTHERHOOD WITH MUSLIMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
DURING THE MUSAEQAQAH.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXTENDED THE INVITATION WHEN ADDRESSING
MORE THAN 500 PARENTS, STUDENTS AND OFFICIALS OF THE SISTER CLARA
MOHAMAD SCHOOL FOR MUSLIM CHILDREN HERE YESTERDAY. THE SISTER CLARA
MOHAMAD SCHOOL IS THE ONLY NON-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTION OF ITS KIND
--IN THE UNITED STATES CATERING FOR MUSLIM CHILDREN FROM KINDERGARTEN
TO THE 12TH GRADE AGE GROUPS (BETWEEN SIX AND 17 YEARS OLD).

THE VISIT TO THE SCHOOL GAVE HIM THE FIRST REAL OPPORTUNITY TO
MEET AMERICAN MUSLIMS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.--MORE
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MAHATHIR-QURAN 2 PHILADELPHIA

HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY- THE STUDENTS' ABILITY NOT ONLY TO
RECITE THE QURAN BUT ALSO UNDERSTANDING ITS MEANING, EASED ON THEIR
PRESENTATIONS-TO HIM, HE SAID.

HE HOPED THE SCHOOL WOULD CONTINUE TO INSTILL THE HIGHEST VALUES
IN THE STUDENTS SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT ONLY BE RESPECTED IN THEIR OWN
COMMUNITY BUT ALSO THEIR PRESENCE IN IT BECOMING A BLESSING.

HE TOLD THE PARENTS AND STUDENTS THAT BEING MUSLIMS THEY SHOULD
NOT CUT THEMSELVES AWAY FROM RELATIVES AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE NOT
EMBRACED THE FAITH.

ISLAM ALSO DID NOT PREVENT THEM FROM MAKING PROGRESS OR
NEGLECTING THE WORLD AS MUSLIMS HAD THEIR PORTIONS TO DO IN THIS
LIFE AND THE NEXT LIFE.

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED MUSLIM AMERICANS TO STRIVE TO GIVE
DIGNITY TO THE FOLLOWERS OF THE FAITH AND, SHOW THE WORLD THAT ISLAM
MEANT NO HARM.--MORE

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MAHATHIR-QURAN 3 PHILADELPHIA

HE SAID THE WARS AND OTHER PERVERSIONS THAT INVOLVED MUSLIMS NOW
WERE NOT RELATED TO TEACHINGS OF ISLAM BUT BECAUSE OF
MISINTERPRETATION BY MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS ALIKE.

THE STUDENTS FROM VARIOUS GRADES READ THE QURAN AND RECITED HOLY
VERSES BEFORE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR
SITI HASMAH.

THE VIPS, STUDENTS AND GUESTS INCLUDING SECURITY PERSONNEL TOOK
OFF THEIR SHOES WHEN IN THE SCHOOL HALL. ON THE WALLS WERE BOLD GREEN
INSCRIPTIONS OF ALLAHU-AKBAR.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI
HASMAH, THE MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, DATUK LEW SIP
HON AND HIS WIFE SAT ON THE FLOOR, THE MEN SEPERATELY FROM THE
WOMEN. TO MARK THE VISIT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS PRESENTED WITH A
SCHOOL PLAQUE WHILE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH RECEIVED A
BOUQUET. --BERNAMA

1217MST 09 10 84