

U E733 AAE

PM-HALACCA

FROM RACHMANN NORDIN

NEW YORK, OCT. 10 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA IS SEEKING THE

COOPERATION OF MARITIME NATIONS AND SHIPPING FIRMS TO HELP MAINTAIN THE FACILITIES FOR KEEPING THE MALACCA STRAITS CLEAN, PRIME MINISTER DATUM SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD THE 39TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY **HERE TODAY**

HE TOLD THE ASSEMBLY THAT HE HAD NO SPECIFIC FORMULA IN MIND BUT WAS CONVINCED THAT INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES CONCERNED SHOULD EXAMINE AND MAKE NECESSARY PROVISIONS FOR MAKING THE WATERS CLEAN.

HE SAID MALAYSIA NOW HAD TO ACTIVELY CONSIDER SWEEPING THE SEA OF THE WASTES AND RUBBISH THROWN OR FLUSHED OUT OF SHIPS.

HE SAID THE EQUIPMENT AND BOATS WHICH MALAYSIA MAINTAINED TO CLEAN OIL SPILLAGE AT CONSIDERABLE COSTS TO THE COUNTRY WERE NO LONGER ADEQUATE.

THIS WAS BECAUSE THE MALACCA STRAITS HAD BECOME VERY FILTHY WITH PATCHES OF OIL, PIECES OF PAPER, PLASTIC AND OTHER RUBBISH WHICH EVENTUALLY LANDED ON MALAYSIAN SHORES AND MAKING THEM EQUALLY FILTHY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD THE ASSEMBLY THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FACING THE STRAITS SHOULD NOT BE FURTHER BURDENED WITH HAVING TO EQUIP AND MAINTAIN COSTLY FACILITIES FOR DEALING WITH OIL SPILLS.

THE COUNTRIES TOO SHOULD NOT HAVE THEIR BEACHES, FROM WHICH THEY EARN A FEW TOURIST DOLLARS AT RESORTS, BE CLEANED ENTIRELY AT THEIR OWN EXPENSES

HE TOLD THE ASSEMBLY THAT THE SHIPS GENERALLY BELONG TO THE RICH AND THEY MUST DEFRAY THE COSTS, AT LEAST PARTIALLY.

THE MALACCA STRAITS, REGARDED AS INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING ROUTES, WERE BEING USED BY HUNDREDS OF BEHEMOTHS FILLED WITH ALL KINDS OF GOODS INCLUDING DANGEROUS CHEMICALS AND PETROLEUM, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHILE TANKERS NO LONGER CLEAN THEIR HOLDS IN THE NARROW STRAITS, OTHER SHIPS STILL DO.

EVERY NOW AND THEN THEY COLLIDED WITH EACH OTHER SPILLING THEIR CONTENTS AND CLOGGING THE STRAITS, HE SAID.

HE TOLD THE ASSEMBLY THAT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE ARE RIGHT TO ASK MARITIME NATIONS AND SHIPPING FIRMS WHICH OBVIOUSLY BENEFIT FROM USING THE STRAITS TO HELP MAINTAIN THE FACILITIES TO KEEP IT CLEAN. --- BERNAHA.

0235MST 11 10 84

0063