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PM-ISLAM

FROM RACHMANN NORDIN

NEW YORK, OCT. 10 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, ADDRESSING THE 39TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY, B-L-AMED-A--ZIONIST-INSPIRED WESTERN REACTION TO THE CURRENT ISLAMIC RESURGENCE.

THIS CONSPIRACY HAD FURTHER INCREASED THE SEPARATION AND ANTAGONISM BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE ISLAMIC WORLD, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CALLED ON THE ASSEMBLY TO +LET US BE RID OF HATRED, OF THE ANTI-ISLAM PROPAGANDA, OF BITTERNESS AND PREJUDICE THAT THE ZIONISTS CONTINUE TO SPEW+.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MANY MUSLIMS TODAY WERE DISILLUSIONED AND SHOCKED OVER WHAT THEY REGARD AS *CONTEMPORARY ABBERATIONS IN THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS+.

THIS HAD RESULTED IN THE RESURGENCE OF ISLAMIC ORTHODOXY AND EXTREMISM, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE ASSEMBLY THAT' + I APPEAL THEREFORE FOR UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN JEWS, CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS+.

HE SAID IT WAS TIME THAT EVERYONE PUT A STOP TO THE ZIONIST-INSPIRED WESTERN REACTION T# THE ISLAMIC RESURGENCE AS WELL AS ITS ABERRATIONS? OF INTOLERANCE AND SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE CONTEMPORARY ABERRATIONS IN THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN TRADITION AND LIKEWISE THOSE WITHIN THE ISLAMIC TRADITION IN A FEW INSTANCES, MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO OBSCURE THEIR FUNDAMENTAL VALUES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID,+LET US STUDY EACH OTHER'S TRUE TEACHINGS AND LET US BE TRUE TO THOSE TEACHINGS+.

HE SAID THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS WOULD GENERATE WOULD HELP JEWS AND CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS ALIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO, FIRST OF ALL, PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. --MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED THAT THE SAME UNDERSTANDING WOULD, AT THE VERY LEAST, STOP THE MACHINATIONS OF THOSE WITH SELFISH AND NARROW RACISTS ENDS, SEEKING TO EXPLOIT IGNORANCE, SUSPICION AND PREJUDICE.

HE SAID,+ IT WOULD BE A DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE CURRENT REVOLUTION IN ISLAM DESERVED TO BE JUDGED FAIRLY AND OBJECTIVELY

IF ALL THE MONEY, TIME AND ENERGY SPENT OR; DISTORTING WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD WERE SPENT INSTEAD ON A CAREFUL AND OBJECTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD, THE WORLD WOULD BE VERY MUCH BETTER, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT VIOLENCE AND INJUSTICE HAD BEEN PERPETRATED IN THE NAME OF ISLAM.

HOWEVER, HE ARGUED THAT THE CONCENTRATION ON THESE ASPECTS WHICH WERE TYPICAL ABERRATIONS IN ANY HISTORICAL MOVEMENT AND EXCLUDING ALL OTHERS WHICH WERE TRUE AND GOOD WOULD DO HARM TO THE WORLD.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS A RESURGENCE OF FAITH IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD AS WELL AS AMONG OTHER RELIGIONS .

HE CALLED ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOT TO ALLOW ITSELF TO BE MANIPULATED TO FEAR THIS RESURGENCE.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE ASSEMBLY THAT IT SHOULD NOT FEAR EVEN THE WORD +FUNDAMENTALIST+ WHICH HAD TRIGGERED SO MANY ANCIENT SUSPICIONS AND PREJUDICES. ;

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID:+YES, WE ARE THE ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM - IN PEACE, TOLERANCE AND JUSTICE+. -- BERNAMA.

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