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FROM RACHMANN NORDIN

NEW YORK, OCT. 10 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR

MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY TOOK THE AJAJOR POWERS TO TASK FOR CONTINUING MORE AND MORE TO IGNORE THE UNITED NATIONS AND ESTABLISHED A NETWORK OF RELATIONSHIP OUTSIDE THE WORLD BODY TO RESOLVE WORLD PROBLEMS.

ADDRESSING THE 39TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THEY HAD FORMED THEIR OWN EXCLUSIVE CLUBS TO WHICH FROM TIME TO TIME THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE PERMITTED TO MAKE THEIR SUPPLICATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE CLUBS, LIKE ALL EXCLUSIVE CLUBS, ESSENTIALLY LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF ITS MEMBERS.

IN THE MEAN TIME, IN THE ECONOMIC AS WELL AS THE POLITXCAL FIELD, THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONTLNUD TO BEIGNORED, HE ADDED.

INDEED, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, THE MEMBER NATIONS WITNESSED SOMETHING MORE NEGATIVE? NAMELY THE THREAT TO WITHDRAW FROM CERTAIN U.N. AGENCIES.-

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THESE AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE THREATS BY THE MAJOR POWERS WERE SOMETIMES MADE UNDER THE GUISES OF MANAGEMENT OR BUDGETARY CONCERNS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR POINTED OUT THAT THE SMALLER AND POORER NATIONS ALSO PAY.

HE SAID, + WHAT WE CONTRIBUTE MAY NOT BE MUCH BUT IN TERMS OF OUR OWN BUDGETS THEY ARE SUBSTANTIAL - INDEED SOMETIMS EVEN MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE BIG NATIONS+.

+WE DO NOT LIKE TO SEE ANYONE SQUANDERING OUR MONEY ANY MORE THAN THE RICH DO,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT WHAT THE SMALLER NATIONS WOULD LIKE TO SEE WAS NOT SAVINGS THROUGH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE AGENCIS.

HE SAID,+ WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS A THOROUGH OVERHAUL OF THE SYSTEM TO ENSURE IT IS COST EFFECTIVE AND SERVES THE AGREED OBJECTIVES+.-

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID UNDERMINING THE AGENCIES WAS DEFINITELY NOT THE WAY TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM AND CALLED FOR AN END TO TO THIS SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS.

THE PRIME MINISTER CALLED ON THE ASSEMBLY + TO PLEDGE OURSELVES ONCE MORE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND TO A PRACTICAL AND REALITISTIC APPRAISAL OF WHERE WE CAN GO FROM HERE+.

THE FACT WAS THAT THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEPENDED FIRST AND FOREMOST ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE MAJOR POWERS! HE ADDED.

HE SAID +IT IS THEY MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE WHO ARE IN THE POSITION TO DECIDE THE FUTURE OF THIS ORGANISATION+.

+THIS IS BECAUSE THE MAJOR POWERS CANNOT BE IGNORED.+

+THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CAN BE IGNORED, THE WEAK DEVELOPING NATIONS CAN BE IGNORED AS THEY HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ASKED THE ASSEMBLY:+ DO THE MAJOR POWERS WANT.. THE UNITED NATIONS TO BECOME WHAT IT CAN BECOME?+.

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE UNITED NATIONS COULD BECOME A CENTRE FOR RESOLVING CONFLICTING INTERESTS AND A CATALYSTS FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE.

THE PRIME MINISTER AGAIN ASKED THE ASSEMBLY: + WILL THE MAJOR POWERS **ABANDON** THE **UNITED NATIONS** BECAUSE THEY CAN NO LONGER MANIPULATE IT?+.

HE SAID THE SMALLER NATIONS WERE DISILLUSIONED AT THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH HAD **BEEN PARALYSED ON SO** MANY ISSUES BECAUSE THE MAJOR POWERS **HAD PREVENTED EFFECTIVE ACTION.**

BUT DATUK SERI **DR MAHATHIR** SAID MALAYSIA HAD **ALWAYS BELIEVED** THAT JUST AS THE MAJOR POWERS MUST AVOID ALIENATING SMALLER COUNTRIES **BY** THEIR, OBSTRUCTIVE **POLICIES,** THE SMALLER COUNTRIES MUST ALSO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE **U.N.'S** INEFFECTIVENESS.

HE SAID SMALLER COUNTRIES MUST PREVENT THE ALIENATION OF THE MAJOR POWERS FROM THE UN THROUGH THE WHOLESALE IMPOSITION OF DECISIONS BY MAJORITY VOTE.

THE PRIME MINISTER **SAID,** + SPEAKING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRY I AM VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE **FACT THAT A** UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION **WHICH** IS OBTAINED **BY** MAJORITY VOTING **ALONG** GROUP, POLITICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL LINES WILL NOT IN ITSELF SOLVE ANY PROBLEMS+.

HE SAID THE UNITED NATIONS? IF IT **WAS** TO MEAN ANYTHING AT **ALL,** MUST STAND FIRM ON PRINCIPLES AND THERE WOULD BE A NEED FOR READJUSTMENTS AND COMPROMISE ON THE MEANS, THE PROCESSES **AND THE** **M O D A L I T I E S .**

DATUK **SERI DR MAHATHIR** CAUTIONED **THE ASSEMBLY** THAT THERE COULD BE **NO** COMPROMISE ON **PRINCIPLES** **AND** THE SMALLER COUNTRIES COULD NOT BE BLAMED IF THEY INSISTED ON THAT.

HE TOLD THE ASSEMBLY THAT **+IT** IS HYPOCRISY TO ACCUSE US OF BEING EMOTIONAL AND UNREALISTIC, IRRESPONSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT **ONLY** BECAUSE THOSE PRINCIPLES ARE NOW INCONVENIENT TO THE MAJOR POWERS+.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS THE THIRD SPEAKER **TODAY.** **HIS SPEECH ALSO** COVERED A BROAD SPECTRUM OF TOPICS INCLUDING **ANTARTICA, ISLAMIC RESURGENCE,** KAMPUCHEA AND THE STRAITS OF MALACCA. -- BERNAMA.

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