

MAHATHIR-DISCRIMINATION

84 P
KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 5 (BERNAMA) DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MUHAMMAD TODAY CRITICIZED SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THEIR REPRESSIVE EDUCATION POLICIES TOWARDS OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN THEIR INSTITUTIONS, CALLING IT AN +UNDECLARED ANTAGONISM+ AGAINST THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SENDING THE STUDENTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER, CONCERNED WITH THE VARIOUS RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON MALAYSIAN STUDENTS OVERSEAS PARTICULARLY, HIT OUT AT SOME GOVERNMENTS THAT +MADE DECISIONS WHICH CONSCIOUSLY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND UNDERMINED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.+

HE SAID IT WAS PARTICULARLY DISHEARTENING THAT THESE GOVERNMENTS MADE DECISIONS WITHIN A DOMESTIC FRAMEWORK AND SOMETIMES UNDER PRESSURE OF NATIONAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

+WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT SOME DEVELOPED MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE PRACTISING THIS UNDECLARED ANTAGONISM WHEN FORMULATING THEIR EDUCATION POLICIES .

*THE CHARGING OF HIGH TUITION FEES AND IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIVE QUOTAS FOR STUDENTS' FROM ABROAD ARE EXAMPLES OF THIS RATHER SHORT-SIGHTED TREND,+ HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE 30TH COLOMBO PLAN CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HERE.

ALTHOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT NAME THE GOVERNMENTS! CONCERNED9 IT IS BELIEVED HE WAS REFERRING TO BRITAIN AND AUSTRALIA, WHICH HAD OVER THE YEARS SLAPPED HIGH FEES AND QUOTAS ON MALAYSIAN STUDENTS PURSUING THEIR STUDIES THERE. --MORE
1252MST 05 11 84

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MAHATHIR-DISCRIMINATION 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED AFFLUENT COUNTRIES THAT THEIR SHORT-TERM GAIN IN TERMS OF FEES FOR EXAMPLE COULD NOT OFFSET THEIR LONG-TERM LOSS OF GOODWILL.

+I WOULD URGE DEVELOPED MEMBER COUNTRIES TO GIVE DUE ATTENTION TO THESE CONSIDERATIONS WHEN FORMULATING POLICIES ON TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE,+ HE TOLD THE 134 PARTICIPANTS FROM 25 MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COLOMBO PLAN.

PARTICIPANTS FROM 10 NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES AND 12 INTERNATIONAL BODIES SENT OBSERVERS TO THE MEETING WHICH WAS PRECEDED BY A TWO-DAY OFFICERS' LEVEL DISCUSSION WHICH ENDED LAST SATURDAY.

NOTING THAT THERE STILL EXISTED WIDE DISPARITIES IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE COLOMBO PLAN DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES, WITH SOME COUNTRIES HAVING PER CAPITA GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT (GNP) OF BELOW US\$100, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MORE REMAINED TO BE DONE AND ON A LARGER SCALE THAN IN THE PAST TO RECTIFY THIS INEQUALITY.

HE ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO THE SUBSTANTIAL GAP BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE VERY POOR DEVELOPING ONES. --MORE
1300MST 05 11 84

UE611 AAE
MAHATHIR-DISCRIMINATION 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE BELIEVED THAT AS LONG AS THERE WERE LARGE DISPARITIES IN THE LEVELS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN NATIONS, THE WORK OF THE COLOMBO PLAN COULD NOT BE DEEMED TO BE OVER.

+WHILE EACH MEMBER COUNTRY SETS ITS OWN PRIORITIES IN ACHIEVING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT? ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES, I AM SURE, RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR CLOSE COOPERATION AND SINCERE SHARING OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OF A MORE EQUITABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ORDER.+

HE CALLED ON DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO PUT A STOP TO THE FEAR AND CONSEQUENT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

ACCORDING TO HIM, THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD PREVENT EARLY METAMORPHOSIS AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND CONDEMN THEM TO PERMANENT POVERTY.

THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD UNDERGONE METAMORPHOSIS AND NOW HAD THE KNOW-HOW TO PROCESS SOME OF THEIR OWN RAW MATERIALS INTO VALUE-ADDED EXPORTS. --MORE
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UE612 AAE
MAHATHIR-DISCRIMINATION 4 KUALA LUMPUR,

CONTINUING IN A CYNICAL LINE, HE SAID: +UNFORTUNATELY THE GREAT ADVOCATES OF FREE TRADE AMONG THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE NOW DECIDED THAT FREE TRADE IS NOT SO GOOD AFTER ALL.

+NOT ONLY THAT, SOME HAVE GANGED UP INTO ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES WHOSE SOLE INTENTION IS TO DENY ACCESS TO GOODS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. AND ALL THE WHILE, THE TRADING IN PRIMARY COMMODITIES IS STILL CONTROLLED BY THEM THROUGH EXCLUSIVE MARKETING CLUBS.+

HE CAUTIONED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT THE MERE PRODUCTION OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES WOULD NEVER TRANSFORM THEM INTO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

THE METAMORPHOSIS COULD ONLY COME ABOUT IF THEY WENT INTO PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING.

THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE SAME TIME POINTED OUT THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD NEVER DISPLACE THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS THE MAJOR PRODUCERS OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, --MORE
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MAHATHIR-DISCRIMINATION 5 KUALA LUMPUR

THEY WERE GOING TO BE CONFINED TO THE LESS SOPHISTICATED, MAINLY LABOUR-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES AND AS SUCH WOULD COMPLEMENT THE INDUSTRIES OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

BUT HE WAS CONFIDENT OF THEM GETTING THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME RICHER AND +MOST CERTAINLY+ BETTER CUSTOMERS OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

+THEREFORE, THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT ONLY ACCEPT THE METAMORPHOSIS THAT IS GOING ON IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BUT SHOULD ACTUALLY ASSIST IN THE PROCESS.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED THE NEED FOR FORWARD AND BACKWARD INTEGRATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AS MANY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD ABUNDANT SUPPLIES OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

HOWEVER, THEIR EFFORTS COULD BE FRUSTRATED BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THROUGH IMPOSITION OF HIGHER TARIFF ON PROCESSED RAW MATERIALS, FOR EXAMPLE? PALM OIL, AND ALSO THROUGH THE CONTROL OF FREIGHT RATES, SHIPPING AND INSURANCE OR THROUGH QUOTA.

+DESPITE THESE UNFAIR TRADING PRACTICES, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST PERSIST AND REDUCE THEIR COST AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO COMPETE WITH THE PRODUCTS PROCESSED IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES,+ HE ADDED.--BERNAMA

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