

PM hits out at rich nations

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has criticised developed countries which draw up discriminatory education policies against developing nations.

The Prime Minister said today high tuition fees and the imposition of restrictive quotas for foreign students were examples of this short-sighted trend.

He urged them to stop their "undeclared antagonism" against Third World nations, when opening the 30th Colombo Plan Consultative Committee meeting here.

"They must realise that their short-term gain in terms of fees cannot offset their long-term loss of goodwill," he said.

From 6/11/84
Dr Mahathir urged developed countries to give due attention to these considerations when formulating policies on training and education exchange.

"It is disheartening to see that sometimes, under pressure of national, social, economic or political conditions, some Governments make decisions which consciously discriminate against developing countries and undermine international co-operation," he said.

He also drew the attention of the consultative committee to the world's economic situation and the economic metamorphosis that was going on in the developing countries.

Mr Mahathir said developing countries, which

have for centuries been the producers of raw materials, have the knowhow now to process some of their own raw materials.

"Unfortunately the great advocates of free trade among the developed countries have now decided that free trade is not so good after all.

"Some of them have ganged up into economic communities whose sole intention is to deny access to goods from developing countries," he added.

Dr Mahathir said that the economic metamorphosis in developing countries could only come about if they go into processing and manufacturing.

He said the measures taken by developed countries would, however, prevent an

early metamorphosis' and condemn developing countries to permanent poverty.

The Prime Minister said that developing countries would never displace the role of developing countries as the major producers of manufactured goods.

He said developing countries are going to be confined to the less sophisticated, mainly labour-intensive industries and as such would complement the industries of developed countries.

"Therefore, developed countries should not only accept the metamorphosis that is going on in developing countries but should actually assist in the process," he said.