

R E 317 AAE
COOPERATION
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TRIPOLI, 25 FEB (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA AND LIBYA HAVE CALLED ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ACTIVELY PURSUE SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN THE WAKE OF DETERIORATION OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND FAILURE OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED HERE AT THE END OF THE FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD STATES THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SOUTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IN THE FACE OF FAILURE TOWARDS ESTABLISHING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

THE COMMUNIQUE SAYS DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR GAVE A BRIEFING ON THE MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME OFFERED TO 33 COUNTRIES IN ASIA, PACIFIC AND AFRICA AS A MANIFESTATION OF MALAYSIA'S COMMITMENT TO SOUTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

THE TWO SIDES ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE DETERIORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AS REFLECTED IN THE TENDENCY OF SOME STATES, PARTICULARLY THE BIG POWERS, TO RESORT TO POLICIES OF INTERVENTION AND THE USE OF FORCE IN THE CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

THE 16-POINT COMMUNIQUE SAYS THAT THE TWO SIDES REVIEWED THE SITUATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, WEST ASIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA AND REAFFIRMED THEIR CALL FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGIONS, FREE FROM FOREIGN INTERVENTION, DOMINATION AND OCCUPATION.

THE COMMUNIQUE COVERS THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, APARTHEID AND THE NAHIBIAN ISSUE.

ON BILATERAL MATTERS, LIBYA NOTED THAT THE VISIT WAS AN IMPORTANT LANDMARK IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BROTHERLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER APDUSSALAM JALLOUD IN THEIR TALKS AGREED THAT LIBYA AND MALAYSIA SHOULD FURTHER STRENGTHEN THEIR TIES IN THE ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL FIELDS AND IN PARTICULAR TO PROMOTE DIRECT TRADE.

MALAYSIA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO LIBYA FOR SPONSORING THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY AND IN AGREEING TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE UNIVERSITY WHOSE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT WOULD BENEFIT MUSLIMS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC.

THE TWO SIDES EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT MATERIAL WELLBEING ALONE COULD NOT BRING PEACE AND HAPPINESS AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL UPLIFTMENT THROUGH ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR ISLAM.

MALAYSIA AND LIBYA AGREED TO FOSTER GREATER UNITY NOT ONLY AMONG ISLAMIC GOVERNMENTS BUT ALSO AMONG MUSLIMS EVERYWHERE.

THE TWO COUNTRIES ALSO AGREED TO WORK TOWARD MAKING THE MUSLIM UMMAH A DYNAMIC FORCE FOR PEACE AND SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL WELLBEING.

THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT MUAMMARGADDAFI, FOLLOWING WHICH THEY HAD A DIALOGUE COVERING DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE THIRD UNIVERSAL THEORY OF LIBYA AND THE PRINCIPLES IT ENSHRINED AIMING TO ERADICATE OPPRESSION, SUPPRESSION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, ANSWERING QUESTIONS AT A SHORT PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE GUEST HOUSE JUST BEFORE LEAVING, SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH UNITY AND SOLIDARITY AMONG THE ISLAMIC BROTHERHOOD BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES OF OPINION.

WHAT WAS IMPORTANT? HE SAID, WAS TO OVERCOME THE DIFFERENCES AND TRY TO BRING ABOUT GENERAL WELLBEING OF THE UMMAH AS A WHOLE.

THE MORE THE LEADERS OF THE MUSLIM WORLD WOULD MEET ONE ANOTHER, THE GREATER WAS THE CHANCE OF ESTABLISHING MUSLIM UNITY, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS LATER GIVEN A CEREMONIAL SEND-OFF AT THE TRIPOLI AIRPORT AND SEEN OFF BY ENCIK JALLOUD AND HIS WIFE -- BERNAMA