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MAHATHIR-RELIGION 85  
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KUALA KRAI, JULY 12 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY NOT TO BE NARROW-MINDED ABOUT RELIGIOUS INTERPRETATIONS TO THE EXTENT OF CAUSING DISUNITY AMONG THE UMMAH.

SPEAKING TO SETTLERS OF THE KELANTAN SELATAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (KESEDAR) SCHEME AT MENGKEBANG, 12 KM FROM HERE, HE SAID THAT WHILE INTERPRETATIONS DIFFERED AMONG MUSLIMS OF DIFFERENT SECTS, THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT ISLAM WAS NOT SUITABLE FOR ALL MANKIND.

THE KILLING OF FOLLOWERS OF ONE SECT BY ANOTHER IN SABRA AND SHATILA CAMPS IN LEBANON AND THE WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ WERE DUE TO EXTREME INTERPRETATIONS OF RELIGION BY THE DIFFERENT SECTS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT VARIOUS EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO THE WARRING FACTIONS HAD REACHED A DEADLOCK BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT SINCERE IN WANTING TO END THE STRIFE.

+DO WE WANT SUCH A SITUATION TO HAPPEN HERE?+ HE ASKED. -- MORE  
1854MST 12 07 85

#### MAHATHIR-RELIGION 2 KUALA KRAI

HE SAID THAT EXTREME FORMS OF INTERPRETATION OF THE QURAN SHOULD BE AVOIDED IN ORDER TO MAKE MALAYSIA A RESPECTED MUSLIM NATION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MUSLIMS IN MALAYSIA SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE BENEFITS THEY WERE ENJOYING AND SHOULD USE THE NATION'S RESOURCES TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY.

IN THE WAR-TORN MUSLIM NATIONS, MUSLIMS WERE UNABLE TO SAY THEIR PRAYERS IN PEACE, HE ADDED.

+WE CAN SETTLE OUR PROBLEMS WITHOUT GOING TO WAR OR EMPLOYING METHODS WHICH WILL CAUSE OUR OWN DESTRUCTION.+

+IF WE FORGET AND DO SOMETHING WHICH IS AGAINST ISLAM, THEN THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY WILL SUFFER,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- MORE  
1859MST 12 07 85

#### MAHATHIR-RELIGION 3 KUALA KRAI

THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH SHOULD BE USED FOR SEEKING KNOWLEDGE AND TO PURCHASE ARMS TO DEFEND THE NATION AND NOT FOR GOING TO WAR AGAINST EACH OTHER AS WAS HAPPENING IN CERTAIN MUSLIM COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ATTENDED FRIDAY PRAYERS AT THE MOSQUE IN THE LAND SCHEME. -- BERNAMA  
1908MST 12 07 85