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KUALA BESUT, AUG 15 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT IF THE EFFORTS OF CERTAIN QUARTERS TO DIVIDE THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY WERE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE UNCHECKED, THE MALAYS WOULD SURELY LOSE THEIR POLITICAL STRENGTH.

ADDRESSING A GATHERING OF 12,000 PEOPLE AT KAMPUNG AIR TAWAR NEAR HERE, HE SAID WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN WEST ASIA COULD OCCUR IN THE COUNTRY IF THOSE EFFORTS WERE SUCCESSFUL.

HE SAID UMNO'S STRENGTH AND INTEGRITY, GAINED THROUGH ITS UNITY, WOULD DISAPPEAR, AND URGED PARTY MEMBERS TO TAKE IMMEDIATE REMEDIAL ACTION OR ELSE LIVE TO REGRET IT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ISLAMIC COUNTRIES IN WEST ASIA HAD BECOME WEAK BECAUSE THEY WERE DISUNITED, AND ADDED THAT IF ONE OF THEM TOOK A STRONG STAND AGAINST ISRAEL, THE OTHERS WOULD START TO CREATE PROBLEMS.

CONSEQUENTLY, ISRAEL, WITH ONLY THREE MILLION PEOPLE, HAD GROWN ARROGANT BECAUSE THE 90 MILLION MUSLIMS IN WEST ASIA COULD NOT STAND UP TO IT. -- MORE  
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HE ALSO SAID THAT DESPITE THERE BEING AN ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, THE MEMBERS HAD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO REACH A CONSENSUS BECAUSE THEY WERE MORE INTENT ON FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES THAN ATTAINING SOLIDARITY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS SAD THAT THE EVENTS IN WEST ASIA WERE NOT SEEN AS LESSONS THAT OUGHT TO BE LEARNT IN MALAYSIA AND THAT CERTAIN GROUPS WERE STILL HEADING ALONG THE PATH TO CAUSING DISUNITY.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD RECALL THE STRENGTH OF THE MALAYS WHO HAD THWARTED THE COLONIALISTS FROM SETTING UP A MALAYAN UNION.

DESPITE THEIR GENERAL LACK OF EDUCATION, BEING POOR AND WITHOUT WEAPONS, THEY HAD PRESSURED WHITE HALL INTO ABANDONING ITS PLANS, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE ONLY WEAPONS THE MALAYS HAD AT THAT TIME WERE THEIR +CONSCIOUSNESS AND THEIR UNITY+ AND THEY HAD SUCCESSFULLY USED THESE TO DEFEAT THE INTENTIONS OF THE BRITISH WHO HE SAID HELD THE POLITICAL POWER AND HAD EMERGED VICTORIOUS FROM A WAR. -- MORE  
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