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UMNO-DEVILS

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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 29 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SPOKE OF ATTEMPTS BY WHAT HE CALLED +DEVILS+ TO CONFUSE UMNO MEMBERS OVER A SPEECH HE MADE IN THE LAST DEWAN RAKYAT SITTING REGARDING THE SPECIAL RIGHTS OF THE MALAYS.

+THESE DEVILS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS DISTORTING THE SPEECH AT THIS (UMNO) GENERAL ASSEMBLY,+ HE SAID.

WINDING UP THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR HIS POLICY ADDRESS OPENING THE ASSEMBLY ON FRIDAY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS, HOWEVER, NEITHER CONCERNED NOR SURPRISED BECAUSE +IF THESE DEVILS CAN DISTORT QURANIC VERSES AND THE HADIS (TRADITIONS OF PROPHET MOHAMMAD), WHAT IS A PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH TO THEM?+

HE SAID THE SPECIAL RIGHTS WERE ACCORDED THE MALAYS TO PROTECT THEM IN AREAS IN WHICH THEY WERE STILL WEAK, AND ADDED THAT ONCE THEY HAD ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION IN ALL FIELDS, INCLUDING POLITICS, ADMINISTRATION AND THE ECONOMY, THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF THEIR PRIVILEGES BEING CALLED INTO QUESTION OR OF THE NEED TO PRESERVE SUCH RIGHTS BEING NO LONGER REQUIRED.

HOWEVER, AT PRESENT, THE MALAYS WERE STILL WEAK IN MANY AREAS, HE SAID, AND AS SUCH THOSE RIGHTS MUST BE SAFEGUARDED. -- MORE
1449MST 29 09 85

UMNO-DEVILS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE OTHER HAND, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, PAS WANTED THESE PRIVILEGES TO BE ABOLISHED SHOULD THE PARTY COME TO POWER. +IS THERE ANY GUARANTEE THAT MALAYSIA AND ISLAM WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST IF THESE RIGHTS ARE DONE AWAY WITH?+

HE SAID THAT IF THE MALAYS DID NOT HAVE THESE SPECIAL RIGHTS, +WE MAY NOT BE SITTING IN THIS UMNO COMPLEX TODAY.+ -- BERNAMA
1449MST 29 09 85