

# MAHATHIR

- FULL TEXT OF SPEECH: 20 & 21
- PRAISE FOR PM'S SPEECH: 4
- RAJIV CALLS FOR SANCTIONS: 14

# LASHES OUT

**NASSAU, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called for stringent economic sanctions against South Africa and lashed out at the Commonwealth for what he described as a failure to live up to its promises to former British colonies.**

The Prime Minister said the Commonwealth countries should at least agree on what could be done about South Africa, it should help positively to restore the economy of the world and attempt to remove all kinds of discrimination.

"If the Commonwealth refuses to do something definite, then the club should cease to pretend," he said.

"It should admit that it really cannot contribute towards solving the

problems faced by its members, if not the world.

"Then we can relax and enjoy our get-together," he told Presidents and Prime Ministers attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting which opened at luxurious Cable Beach Hotel here today.

Dr Mahathir was one of five Prime Ministers given the honour to respond to the opening speech by Bahamian Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling. The others were Mr Brian Mulroney of Canada, Mr Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Mr Rajiv Gandhi of India and Mr Bob Hawke of Australia.

He said that if the Commonwealth were to be perpetuated, it must achieve tangible respect and meaningful results for its members.

"It must give substance to the term Commonwealth, particularly for the poorer nations."

Dr Mahathir said there was no government like the regime in South Africa.

"It is a total pariah. It legalises

the morally illegal. Minority is majority. Slavery is freedom. Ghettos are nations. Like Israel, they respect no international norms."

He said the white racist regime survived in this day and age because the people who were fond of criticising alleged racism in developing countries were not prepared to do anything about the most blatantly racist regime in the world.

"Restrictions on imports from poor countries, restrictions which cause real human sufferings in these small States are all right. But not sanctions against South Africa. The blacks would suffer. That is the excuse."

Dr Mahathir said the fact was that the blacks were already suffering.

"If sanctions can help destroy a despicable policy like apartheid, then sanctions must be applied and they must be applied by those who can hurt most, by the countries with the biggest clout."

Failure to do this, he said, would mean hypocrisy.

On Namibia, Dr Mahathir said that as if it was not already bad enough for South Africa to remain trustee of the unfortunate country, the Namibians were now being punished for an alleged crime committed by another country.

"Why should Namibia remain subjugated simply because Cuban troops are in Angola?"

Dr Mahathir said the concept of justice and fair play had changed considerably with the most important determinant of international behaviour now being strength.

The economies of the poor countries, he said, were being destroyed by the economic policies of the rich and the powerful.

The influential countries were exerting pressure on their client states to reject legitimate claims such as that on Antarctica.

"And of course we see powerful nations physically occupying neighbouring countries, claiming they were doing it to protect themselves." — Bernama.