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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 24<sup>th</sup> (BERNAMA) -- UNITED NATIONS DAY WAS CELEBRATED TODAY AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE HERE WITH THE SYMBOLIC FREEING OF 159 DOVES -- THE BIRDS OF PEACE -- FROM THEIR CAGES.

BUT THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE CELEBRATIONS WAS THE SPONTANEITY OF THE MULTI-NATIONAL AUDIENCE, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, IN RAISING THEIR VOICES IN HARMONY FOR THE SONG +WE ARE THE WORLD+.

IN THAT ONE SONG, THEY CAPTURED THE SPIRIT OF UNIVERSALITY AND BROTHERHOOD THAT EMBODIED THE SOUL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

IT WAS A STIRRING SONG BEFITTING THE OCCASION -- THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE CELEBRATIONS HERE WERE ORGANISED BY THE UNITED NATIONS MALAYSIA ASSOCIATION (UNMA).

IT BEGAN AS A FORMAL AFFAIR WITH SPEECHES BY THE UN REPRESENTATIVE IN MALAYSIA, ENCIK BJORN CARLSSON, FOLLOWED BY UNMA DEPUTY PRESIDENT TUN HAJI OMAR YOKE LIN ONG AND THE PRIME MINISTER.  
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#### UN-DOVES 2 KUALA LUMPUR

CHILDREN DRESSED IN TRADITIONAL COSTUMES FROM COUNTRIES WITH DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES IN MALAYSIA TROOPED IN FOLLOWED BY MORE THAN 200 STUDENTS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE CITY.

THE NORMALLY-STAIID ATMOSPHERE OF THE PARLIAMENT THEN RANG WITH THE STRAINS OF +WE ARE THE WORLD+.

SO STIRRING WAS THE SONG THAT IT MOVED THE AUDIENCE, COMPRISING CABINET MINISTERS, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND UN STAFF, INTO LENDING THEIR VOICES.

THE GATHERING THEN ADJOURNED TO THE COURTYARD WHERE A MINANGKABAU-STYLE BIRDCAGE HELD THE 159 DOVES, REPRESENTING THE 159 MEMBER NATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH PULLED THE STRING TO RELEASE THE DOVES.

HOWEVER, THE BIRDS REFUSED TO LEAVE THE CAGE FOR THEIR NEW-FOUND FREEDOM AND IT WAS ONLY AFTER MUCH PERSUASION THAT THEY FLEW OFF.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WERE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO SERVED UNDER THE UN FLAG IN CONGO IN 1960. -- BERNAMA  
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