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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 24 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY EXPRESSED REGRET THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ARE NOT PREPARED TO UPHOLD ITS CHARTER AND ACCEPT ITS DECISIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS ALSO SAID TO NOTE THAT A TREND HAD EMERGED WHICH INDIRECTLY DIVIDED THE MEMBER NATIONS LIKE THE RICH FROM THE POOR, WEAK FROM STRONG AND DEVELOPED FROM BACKWARD.

SPEAKING AT A FUNCTION TO MARK THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN, ORGANISED BY THE UNITED NATIONS MALAYSIAN ASSOCIATION (UNMA) HERE, HE SAID SUCH UNHEALTHY TRENDS MUST BE CHECKED AND THE MEMBER NATIONS SHOULD UNITE FOR THE GOOD OF MANKIND.

+THE MEMBER NATIONS OF THE UN HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE WORLD BODY CONTINUES TO FUNCTION IN THE FUTURE AND WE MUST WORK TO ENSURE THAT IT IS NOT CRIPPLED.

+CONTINUED SUPPORT IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT FOR THE WORLD BODY TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS.

+I FEEL THAT IF THE WORLD BODY FAILS IN ALL ITS EFFORTS TO SECURE PEACE AND HARMONY IN THE WORLD, WE SHOULD FAULT THE MEMBER NATIONS WHICH ARE NOT PREPARED TO UPHOLD ITS CHARTER AND WHICH DO NOT WANT TO ACCEPT ITS DECISIONS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

#### MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE DIVISION OR DIFFERENCES THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD HAD BEEN UNABLE TO AVOID TENSION AND DISPUTES AMONG THEMSELVES AND HAD FAILED TO OVERCOME POVERTY AND STARVATION WHICH WERE STILL RAMPANT IN SEVERAL MEMBER COUNTRIES.

HE REMINDED THAT THE UN CHARTER SPELT OUT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE PRINCIPLES ON ENSURING PEACE, FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND UPHOLDING OF THE LAW AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS, HOWEVER, PLEASED BECAUSE DESPITE THE DISPUTES THE UN HAD SUCCEEDED IN PREVENTING A SPLIT AMONG THE MEMBERS AND A MAJOR WAR LIKE THE FIRST AND SECOND WORLD WARS.

HE PLEDGED MALAYSIA'S SUPPORT FOR ALL UN EFFORTS WHICH WOULD BRING ABOUT MUTUAL BENEFIT AND EXPRESSED THE COUNTRY'S APPRECIATION TO SEVERAL AGENCIES OF THE WORLD BODY THAT HAD HELPED IT AND OTHER MEMBER NATIONS IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FIELD.

AMONG THE AGENCIES HE NAMED WERE THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) WHICH HAD GIVEN MALAYSIA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ITS AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES PROJECTS.

HE ALSO THANKED UNICEF, WHO AND UNESCO WHICH HAD PROVIDED MALAYSIA ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, MEDICINE AND RESEARCH. -- MORE

MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) FOR RESETTLING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THIRD COUNTRIES AND THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL WHICH HAD GIVEN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DRUG MENACE MALAYSIA.

HE ALSO RECORDED HIS APPRECIATION TO UN SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR AND STAFF OF THE WORLD BODY FOR THEIR DEDICATION IN SHOULDERING THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY OF ENSURING PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN THE WORLD.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DECLARATION OF 1986 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE BY THE UN WAS MOST APPROPRIATE AND HOPED THAT THE WORLD WOULD BE A MORE PEACEFUL PLACE IN THE YEARS TO COME.

ON MALAYSIA GIVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO OTHER SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, HE HOPED THAT THIS GESTURE WOULD FURTHER STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES. -- BERNAMA  
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