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MAHATHIR

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 6/85 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY STRESSED THE NEED FOR AN EFFECTIVE DEFENCE AND SECURITY SYSTEM FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID LACK OF SUCH A SYSTEM WOULD BRING ABOUT DEFEAT, SUFFERING AND DESTRUCTION AS HAD OCCURRED IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND KAMPUCHEA.

+WE, THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA, WILL SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS THE THOUSANDS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES LANDING ON OUR SHORES IF WE ARE NEGLIGENT AND DO NOT HAVE A STRONG DEFENCE SYSTEM,+ THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ALSO DEFENCE MINISTER, SAID AT THE PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS OF THE ARMED FORCES STAFF COLLEGE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE NATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY SYSTEM MUST BE ABLE TO WARD OFF ANY KIND OF THREAT WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

+THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GUARANTEE PEACE IN OUR COUNTRY,+ HE ADDED.

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IN THIS RESPECT, THE NATIONAL DEFENCE SYSTEM MUST BE PREPARED TO UPHOLD A COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY CONCEPT THAT COVERED ALL ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC STRENGTH, POLITICAL STABILITY, FIRMNESS OF THE ADMINISTRATION MACHINERY, PSYCHOLOGICAL RESILIENCE AND UNITY OF THE PEOPLE, HE SAID.

+IF VIEWED FROM THE ANGLE OF NATIONAL INTEREST, THIS STRATEGY IS BASED ON A DESIRE TO STOP ANY WAR AND INSTEAD TO ENSURE PEACEFUL AND HARMONIOUS LIVING, FREE AND NEUTRAL WITH FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND FILLED WITH RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN DEVELOPING A MODERN SYSTEM WHICH REQUIRED A LARGE INVESTMENT, THE COUNTRY MUST BASE ITS CHOICE ON ARMS AND EQUIPMENT THAT WERE +SUITABLE FOR OUR NEEDS AND THEN INCREASE THEIR COMBAT CAPABILITY THROUGH UPGRADING OF HANDLING AND TECHNIQUES+.

AS A DEVELOPING NATION, HE SAID, MALAYSIA COULD NOT AFFORD +STATE OF THE ART+ ARMS AND EQUIPMENT NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE HIGH PRICE BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE REGULARITY WITH WHICH THEY WERE REPLACED BY MORE SOPHISTICATED MODELS.

A TOTAL OF 101 GRADUANDS WHO HAD COMPLETED THE 11-MONTH COURSE RECEIVED THEIR DIPLOMAS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE CEREMONY WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH AND DEPUTY DEFENCE MINISTER DATUK ABANG ABU BAKAR DATU MUSTAPHA. -- MORE
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THE GRADUANDS INCLUDED 19 OFFICERS FROM THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, BANGLADESH, THE PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA, JAPAN, KUWAIT, NEW ZEALAND, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SAUDI ARABIA, SINGAPORE, THAILAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PARTICIPATION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICERS WAS A MARK OF RESPECT AND STATUS FOR THE MILITARY TRAINING SYSTEM OF MALAYSIA.

+THIS WILL INDIRECTLY RAISE THE TEACHING QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE OF THE COLLEGE TO A LEVEL ON PAR WITH THE STAFF COLLEGES OF THE MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID.

HE WAS ALSO CONFIDENT THAT THE UNDERSTANDING AND EXCHANGE OF IDEAS BETWEEN THE LOCAL AND FOREIGN OFFICERS WOULD FOSTER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO URGED THE FOREIGN OFFICERS WHO ATTENDED THE COURSE NOT TO BELIEVE THE WORDS OF CERTAIN QUARTERS WHO +ARE ALWAYS DISSATISFIED+ WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS. -- MORE
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+YOU ONLY NEED TO LOOK AROUND YOU TO KNOW WHETHER WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE OR NOT,+ HE ADDED.

LT KOL (U) YECH KIAT BOON WAS THE BEST STUDENT AMONG THE GRADUANDS FROM THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN AIR FORCE. HE ALSO RECEIVED THE ARMED FORCES CHIEF TROPHY FOR HIS ESSAY ON +MALAYSIAN AEROSPACE INDUSTRY - PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS+.

LT KOMANDAR ADRI JUHANN ABDULLAH WAS THE BEST STUDENT IN THE ROYAL MALAYSIA NAVY SECTION AND MEJ YUSOFF IZZUDIN ZAINOL IZZUDIN THE BEST STUDENT IN THE ARMY SECTION.

MAJOR TARIQ MAJID OF PAKISTAN WAS THE BEST STUDENT AMONG THE FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS. -- BERNAMA
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