

D316

B E120 AAE

MAHATHIR-BALING R'R'R'

BM

ALOR SETAR, DEC 13 (BERNAMA) -- THE NOV 19 INCIDENT IN KAMPUNG MEMALI, BALING, IN WHICH 18 PEOPLE WERE KILLED WAS CAUSED BY TEACHINGS CONTRARY TO ISLAM, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

+IBRAHIM MAHMOOD OR IBRAHIM LIBYA COULD HAVE BEEN A HIGHLY EDUCATED PERSON BUT HIS TEACHINGS AROUSED THE EMOTIONS OF HIS FOLLOWERS WHO CONSIDERED THE POLICE AND THE GOVERNMENT AS INFIDELS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS OPENING THE 14TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WEST MALAYSIA NATIONAL UNION OF RELIGIOUS TEACHERS HERE.

THE PEOPLE WHO ATTACKED THE POLICE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ORDINARY KAMPUNG FOLKS BUT BECAUSE OF THE TEACHINGS OF THEIR GURU THEY CONSIDERED THE POLICE AND THE GOVERNMENT AS INFIDELS AND THIS WAS WHAT LED TO THE INCIDENT, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE TEACHING OF IBRAHIM LIBYA TO THE EFFECT THAT HIS FOLLOWERS HAD SUPERNATURAL POWERS (ILMU KEBAL) WAS CONTRARY TO ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

HE HOPED THE BATU PAHAT INCIDENT IN WHICH THE POLICE STATION WAS ATTACKED AND THE BALING INCIDENT WOULD SERVE AS A LESSON TO MUSLIMS. -- MORE

1530MST 13 12 85

D323

B E122 AAE

MAHATHIR-BALING 2 ALOR SETAR

HOW COULD THEY HAVE IMAGINED THAT WITH SWORDS (IN THE BATU PAHAT INCIDENT) THEY COULD OPPOSE THE POLICE WHO WERE ARMED WITH GUNS, HE ASKED.

BUT, BY THE BELIEF INSTILLED IN THEM BY THEIR SO-CALLED GURU, THE MUSLIMS WERE TAKEN IN, HE SAID.

THOUGH THE TEACHINGS DID NOT SEEM LOGICAL, THEY NEVERTHELESS BELIEVED IN THE TEACHINGS, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE POLICE TO KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE.

BUT WHEN THE POLICE ATTEMPTED TO ENTER THE HOUSE OF IBRAHIM LIBYA, THE PEOPLE WITHIN OPENED FIRE ON THEM WITH SHOTGUNS AND KILLED SEVERAL OF THEM.

+THE BALING INCIDENT OCCURRED BECAUSE OF THOSE WHO GAVE WRONG TEACHINGS AND WAS NOT THE FAULT OF OTHERS,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

WHEN THE POLICE WERE ABOUT TO ENTER THE COMPOUND OF THE HOUSE, NO WARNING SHOTS WERE FIRED BY THOSE WITHIN, HE SAID. -- MORE

1542MST 13 12 85

MAHATHIR-BALING 3 ALOR SETAR

+IF IT WAS THE INTENTION OF THE PEOPLE WITHIN NOT TO KILL, SURELY THEY WOULD HAVE FIRED WARNING SHOTS,+ HE SAID.
+WITHOUT GIVING WARNING, IT WAS CLEAR THEY INTENDED TO KILL THE POLICEMEN,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID TEACHERS WERE NOT SIMPLY THOSE WHO TAUGHT THEIR PUPILS HOW TO READ BUT WERE LOOKED UPON AS LEADERS. A TEACHER WAS NOT VALUED BECAUSE OF HIS LEARNINGS AND KNOWLEDGE BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF HIS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.

+IN THE PAST, THERE WERE MANY INTELLIGENT PEOPLE AMONG THE JEWS, BUT WHAT WAS THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS ISLAM?+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE DUTIES OF RELIGIOUS TEACHERS WERE HEAVIER THAN THOSE OF ORDINARY TEACHERS BECAUSE RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS WOULD HAVE A GREATER BEARING ON CHILDREN WHEN THEY REACHED ADULTHOOD. -- MORE
1555MST 13 12 85

D344

U E130 AAE
MAHATHIR-BALING 4 ALOR SETAR

+A BELIEF ONCE EMBEDDED IN THE CONSCIENCE OF AN INDIVIDUAL WILL BE DIFFICULT TO GET RID OF,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

+BECAUSE OF THIS, THERE ARE PEOPLE WORSHIPPING THE STONE, THE SUN AND SOME OF THEM HAVE BECOME ATHEISTS.+

ALTHOUGH MUSLIMS LOOKED UPON ISLAM AS THE BEST AND NOBLEST RELIGION, THERE WERE PEOPLE STILL HOLDING FAST TO THE TEACHINGS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GURUS.

RELIGIOUS TEACHERS HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN INSTILLING IN SOCIETY GOOD VALUES THROUGH CORRECT RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS.

DATUK SERI MAHATHIR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH RELIGIOUS TEACHERS COULD BE FACING PROBLEMS SUCH AS THOSE CONNECTED WITH SALARIES, EQUAL ATTENTION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO OTHER MATTERS.

SINCE THE COUNTRY ATTAINED INDEPENDENCE, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN VARIOUS MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD THE POSITION OF ISLAM, HE SAID. -- MORE

1621MST 13 12 85

D369

U E140 AAE
MAHATHIR-BALING 5 ALOR SETAR

HE STRESSED THAT THOUGH MALAYSIA WAS A COSMOPOLITAN COUNTRY, NO ONE COULD DENY THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD SUCCEEDED IN ENHANCING THE POSITION OF ISLAM IN THE NATION.

THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT ALSO COULD NOT BE BLAMED FOR THE ARRIVAL OF FOREIGNERS TO THIS COUNTRY.

+THEY CAME TO THIS COUNTRY DURING THE BRITISH COLONIAL PERIOD BECAUSE AT THAT TIME WE (MALAYS) WERE TOO CHOOSY ABOUT JOBS,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

+TO REVIVE THE POSITION OF MUSLIMS, WE MUST BE PREPARED TO DO ALL KINDS OF WORK AND REMAIN UNITED AS A GROUP AND CHERISH NOBLE VALUES.+

+WE MUST NOT JUST PAY LIP SERVICE TO ISLAMIC VALUES BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE SHOULD PRACTISE THEM,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA