

D949

U E383 AAE  
MAHATHIR-NON-ALIGNED 82

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 27 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAYS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT EFFECT OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT HAS BEEN TO RELIEVE MOST NATIONS OF THE NEED TO TAKE SIDES AND COLLECTIVELY ENABLE THEM TO HAVE A STRONG INFLUENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS.

+WE CAN REMAIN NEUTRAL WITHOUT LOSING FRIENDS,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN A RECENT INTERVIEW IN A YUGOSLAVIAN NEWSPAPER, +OSLOBODJENJE.+ THE TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW WAS MADE AVAILABLE HERE TODAY.

HE SAID THAT SINCE THE MOVEMENT WAS SPAWNED AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE 25 YEARS AGO, IT HAD PROVIDED A THIRD CHOICE FOR MOST COUNTRIES THAT DID NOT WISH TO BE INVOLVED IN THE EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR FELT THAT WHILE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS MIGHT BE ECONOMICALLY UNABLE TO DIRECTLY AFFECT THE STRUGGLES OF THE PEOPLES OF SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA AND PALESTINE, THEY HAD A STRONG MORAL STAND.

IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT THE SUPPORT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WAS VERY MUCH SOUGHT AFTER BY BOTH SIDES, +AND THIS GIVES US A STRONG BALANCING POSITION AND WE HAVE MORAL INFLUENCE ON MANY ISSUES OF WORLD IMPORTANCE.+ -- MORE

1757MST 02 06 86

D953

U E385 AAE  
MAHATHIR-NJUN ILNED 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE NEXT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT, IN HARARE, ZIMBABWE, IN SEPTEMBER, SHOULD FOCUS ON THE STRUGGLE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE BY REACHING A CONSENSUS ON HOW TO APPROACH THOSE WHO HAVE LEVERAGE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME.

+WE SHOULD BE UNITED IN USING WHATEVER INFLUENCE WE HAVE WITH THESE PEOPLE -- THE AMERICANS AND THE EUROPEANS WHO TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND HAVE STRONG INFLUENCE OVER SOUTH AFRICA,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REITERATED HIS STANCE THAT COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES -- ESPECIALLY BY HAVING DIRECT TRADE -- CAN SUCCEED IN BREAKING THE HOLD THE DEVELOPED NATIONS HAVE OVER THEIR ECONOMIES.

ON THE EAST-WEST ARMS RACE, HE SAID THIS COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS THE BUSINESS OF THE BIG POWERS ONLY AS OTHER NATIONS WERE ALSO AFFECTED, NOT ONLY BY THE OUTBREAK OF CONFLICTS BUT ALSO BY BEING DRAWN INTO THE WASTEFUL EXERCISE OF HAVING TO BE BETTER ARMED THAN THE ADVERSARY.

ON GLOBAL EFFORTS TO ERADICATE DADAH, THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE ACTION WOULD BE TO HELP THOSE COUNTRIES CONCERNED TO DESTROY POPPY FIELDS AND FACILITIES FOR PRODUCING DRUGS. -- MORE

1805MST 02 06 86

D956

U E387 AAE  
MAHATHIR-NON-ALIGNED 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE ARGUMENT THAT PRODUCERS OF DRUGS WERE POOR PEOPLE, THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO THEM UNLESS THEY WERE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF INCOME, DID NOT HOLD WATER.

+THERE ARE A LOT OF POOR PEOPLE IN MALAYSIA BUT THEY DO NOT GROW POPPY,+ HE ADDED. +WHEN YOU GROW POPPY YOU ARE KILLING AND DESTROYING A LOT OF PEOPLE, BRINGING A LOT OF UNHAPPINESS TO THE WORLD.+

ON THE WORLD MEDIA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT AS THESE WERE VERY MUCH CONTROLLED BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE INDUSTRIALISED ONES, NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES COULD HELP THEMSELVES BY LINKING UP THEIR NEWS AGENCIES SO THAT +WE GET THE REAL NEWS FROM EACH OTHER.+

QUESTIONED ON MALAYSIA'S SUCCESS AS A MULTI-RELIGIOUS AND MULTI-RACIAL NATION, HE SAID THIS WAS DUE TO A STRONG GOVERNMENT THAT REPRESENTED ALL RACES AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS.

ON MALAYSIAN-YUGOSLAV TIES, HE SYN BEING THE DISTRIBUTION CENTRE FOR THE OTHER'S PRODUCTS. -- BERNAMA

1810MST 02 06 86