

D365

B E668 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRESS
BM

86
EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 8.30 TONIGHT
KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 20 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
TONIGHT STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE PRESS TO BE CONTROLLED BY
RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE TO AVERT PUBLICATION OF REPORTS PREJUDICIAL TO
NATIONAL SECURITY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE EXTENSIVE INFLUENCE
OF THE PRESS, IT WAS CRUCIAL THAT PEOPLE WITH A SENSE OF
RESPONSIBILITY TO THE NATION REMAINED IN CONTROL OF IT.

+WHAT MORE WHEN THE PRESS, AS AN INFLUENTIAL MEDIUM, CAN CHOOSE
WHETHER TO STEER THE NATION TOWARDS PROGRESS OR BRING IT TO
DESTRUCTION,+ HE SAID AT THE AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR
OUTSTANDING JOURNALISTS AT THE MALAYSIAN PRESS NIGHT '86 ORGANISED
BY THE MALAYSIAN PRESS INSTITUTE (MPI) HERE.

PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASHAH ALI AND
FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK RAIS YATIM, WHO IS PATRON OF TONIGHT'S
FUNCTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PRESS COULD EXPOSE MALPRACTICES IN
THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION IN THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION BUT
REMINDED IT THAT THE VERACITY OF THE ALLEGED MALPRACTICES SHOULD BE
CHECKED FIRST. -- MORE
1815MST 20 08 86

B E675 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRESS 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CITED THE EXAMPLE OF A PRESS REPORT ON
THE POSSIBILITY OF HIM RETIRING ON AUG 28.

SAYING THAT THE NEWS ITEM WAS BASED ON RUMOURS, THE PRIME
MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT SUCH REPORTS CAUSED TENSION AND UNEASINESS
IN THE SOCIETY APART FROM ITS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE BUSINESS
CLIMATE.

+REPORTING RUMOURS LIKE THIS IS TANTAMOUNT TO SABOTAGING THE
ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY WHICH IS FACING THE ECONOMIC RECESSION,+ HE
ADDED.

+THIS IS AN IRRESPONSIBLE ACT. IT SHOWS THAT THE PEOPLE IN
CONTROL OF THE NEWSPAPER ARE NOT FIT TO BE GIVEN SUCH A POWER.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA HAD THE POTENTIAL OF BECOMING A
DEVELOPED COUNTRY OR A NATION HEADING FOR DESTRUCTION. -- MORE
1851MST 20 08 86

B E691 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRESS 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HE ALSO SAID WHETHER MALAYSIA WOULD GO THE WAY OF PROGRESS OR
RUIN WAS THE CHOICE OF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS CONFIDENT HOWEVER THAT NO MALAYSIAN
WANTED TO SEE THE COUNTRY DESTROYED BUT ADDED THAT WHILE THEY DID
NOT WISH THIS, THEY YET DID NOT CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR
ACTIONS.

IT WAS HERE THAT THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE PRESS AS AN INFLUENTIAL
MEDIUM HAD TO BE GIVEN THOUGHT.

THE PROGRESS OR ITS LACK IN A SOCIETY OR COUNTRY WAS NOT SOLELY
DEPENDENT ON THE RULING GOVERNMENT, AS ALL QUARTERS HAD A ROLE TO
PLAY IN THIS, INCLUDING THE PRESS WHICH MUST SURELY BE THE MAIN
INFLUENCING FACTOR, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA RECENTLY HAD ITS GENERAL
ELECTION AND AS WAS NORMAL, SOME SEATS WERE WON BY THE OPPOSITION.

-- MORE
1938MST 20 08 86

D420

B E702 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRESS 4 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HE SAID THAT NORMALLY, ALL KINDS OF VIEWS FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS WERE EXPRESSED THROUGH SPEECHES, STATEMENTS, MANIFESTOS AND OTHER FORUMS, AND NOT ALL OF THEM COULD POSSIBLY BE CARRIED BY THE PRESS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SOME NEWSPAPERS IN MALAYSIA CHOSE TO CRITICISE THE GOVERNMENT, THIS WAS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

THOSE INIMICAL TO THE COUNTRY PREFERRED TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF NEWS REPORTS SUPPORTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT, AS IF A PRESS THAT SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT A PRESS IN THE TRUE MEANING OF THE WORD.

THIS GROUP CLAIMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED THE PRESS IN MALAYSIA AND LOCAL WRITERS WANTING TO PANDER TO THIS GROUP ALSO JOINED THE CRITICISING OF THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT.

+IT IS A DOWNRIGHT DISGRACE THAT THERE ARE STILL MALAYSIANS SUFFERING FROM AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX AND BELIEVING THAT THE WESTERNERS ARE ALWAYS RIGHT AND THAT THEIR OWN PEOPLE SHOULD WIN RECOGNITION FROM THEM (THE WESTERNERS) -- MORE
2024MST 20 08 86

B E708 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRESS 5 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN REALITY, ALL MEDIA ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING MOST OF THE WELL-KNOWN INTERNATIONAL ONES, WERE CONTROLLED BY SPECIFIC QUARTERS.

THE WELL-KNOWN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ORGANISATIONS WERE CONTROLLED BY THE JEWS, EITHER AS OWNERS OR AS HOLDERS OF KEY POSTS INCLUDING EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS, WHO WERE MOSTLY CITIZENS OF MANY WESTERN COUNTRIES.

AS A RESULT, THE MEDIA ORGANISATIONS WERE NO LONGER INDEPENDENT BUT FORCED TO BOW DOWN TO ZIONIST INTERESTS.

+IT IS CLEAR THE FOREIGN PRESS IS MORE UNDER THE DOMINATION OF ZIONIST POWER THAN THE MALAYSIAN PRESS WHICH IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PRESS HAD NEVER BEEN INDEPENDENT, EVEN IN THE UNITED STATES FROM WHERE CAME MANY JOURNALISTS CRITICAL OF THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH THEY CLAIMED CONTROLLED THE PRESS. -- MORE
2104MST 20 08 86

B E709 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRESS 6 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT WHAT WAS ESSENTIAL WAS NOT WHETHER THE PRESS WAS FREE BUT WHETHER SUCH AN EFFECTIVE MEDIUM WAS BEING USED FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

IF GOOD COULD BE ATTAINED BY TOPPLING THE GOVERNMENT, THEN THE PRESS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THIS OBJECTIVE, HE SAID.

BUT BEFORE SETTING ABOUT THE GOAL OF TOPPLING THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT, THE QUESTION THAT MUST BE ANSWERED WAS WHETHER THE NEXT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE A BETTER ONE.

+IF WE ARE NOT YET CONFIDENT THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO REPLACE THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT IS A BETTER ONE, IT IS BETTER THAT WE REFRAIN FROM DELIBERATELY DICREDITING OR HAMPERING THE EFFORTS OF THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PRESS WITH ITS INFLUENCE COULD MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISMS AND MANY BENEFITS WOULD ACCRUE FROM THIS EFFORT THAN TO BE PURPOSELY CYNICAL AND CRITICAL SOLELY FOR THE SAKE OF CRITICISING. -- MORE
2111MST 20 08 86

B E716 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRESS 7 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

+NOW THAT THE GENERAL ELECTION IS OVER, THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO DEVOTE ITS EFFORT, THOUGHT AND LIMITED FUNDS TO OVERCOMING VARIOUS MAJOR PROBLEMS.

+IF EVERY EFFORT MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT IS HAMPERED BY CRITICISM THAT IS NOT CONSTRUCTIVE OR BY INTENTIONAL MISINTERPRETATION, WE WILL NOT ATTAIN SUCESS. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE PEOPLE AND COUNTRY WILL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WAS NOT AN APPEAL OR A THREAT BUT HIS PERSONAL OPINION ARISING FROM HIS SADNESS TO FIND THAT SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS IN THE COUNTRY WERE CARRIED AWAY BY THE WESTERN TREND ON PRESS FREEDOM TO THE EXTENT OF BEING UNCARING ABOUT THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THEIR ACTION TO THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A SECTION OF SOCIETY HAD URGED THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS RESTRICTING FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLE

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT IN TRUTH DID NOT WISH TO REGULATE THE ACTIVITIES OF SOCIETY. AS THE GREATER THE REGULATION, THE HEAVIER THE BURDEN ON THE GOVERNMENT. -- MORE
2144MST 20 08 86

B E717 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRESS 8 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

UNFORTUNATELY, MANY OF THE PEOPLE OF WHOM HONESTY AND A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY WERE EXPECTED WERE FOUND TO BE DISHONEST AND IRRESPONSIBLE. THEY MISUSED WHATEVER POWERS THEY HAD AT THEIR DISPOSAL.

+THIS WAS WHY FUNDS IN THE BANKS AND COOPERATIVES, SHARES OF COMPANIES, BUSINESS PERMITS AND OTHER THINGS WERE MISUSED WITH EASE AND FREQUENCY. BECAUSE OF SUCH PERSONS, OTHER PEOPLE SUFFERED.

+I BELIEVE THAT IF WE PRACTISE DEREGULATION EXTENSIVELY IN THE COUNTRY, CHAOS WILL RESULT.

+THEREFORE, IF THERE ARE A FEW REGULATIONS, INCLUDING IN THE PRESS, IT IS BETTER IF WE JUST ACCEPT AND ADAPT OURSELVES TO THEM,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA
2149MST 20 08 86