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MAHATHIR-NAM

FROM MUSA SCULLY 26

HARARE, SEPT 3 (BERNAMA)

*Trip overseas*  
-- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ANNOUNCED AT THE EIGHTH NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) SUMMIT HERE THE SETTING UP OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF THE SOUTH ON DEVELOPMENT ISSUES WITH AFRICAN LEADER DR JULIUS NYERERE AS ITS CHAIRMAN.

THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER, WHO HAD BEEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE FORMATION OF THE COMMISSION, CALLED ON COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH WHO HAD EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE COMMISSION TO GIVE WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT TO THE EFFORTS OF DR NYERERE AND THE COMMISSION.

DR NYERERE, PRESIDENT OF TANZANIA FOR TWO DECADES AND ALSO AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN IN AFRICA AS +MWALIMU+ (GURU IN SWAHILI), IS ONE OF THE FEW AFRICAN LEADERS WHO STEPPED DOWN FROM OFFICE TO CONCENTRATE ON PARTY WORK.

IN HIS LATE SIXTIES, HE IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE TANZANIAN CHAMA CHA MAPUNDIZI PARTY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO NAM CHAIRMAN PRIME MINISTER ROBERT MUGABE OF ZIMBABWE, ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA AND INDIAN PREMIER RAJIV GHANDHI AND MANY +FRONT RANK+ LEADERS OF NAM WHO HAD GIVEN SUPPORT TO THE IDEA OF THE COMMISSION. -- MORE  
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THE COMMISSION WOULD STUDY AND PROPOSE SOLUTIONS TO THE MULTIFARIOUS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH.

IN SETTING UP CONCRETE STEPS FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION, THE COMMISSION SHOULD COMPLEMENT AND POSSIBLY SUPPLEMENT THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE NAM AND GROUP 77 FRAMEWORK.

+ITS ONLY DISTINCTION IS THAT IT WILL BE INDEPENDENT, UNRELATED AND NOT ANSWERABLE TO ANY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE ORGANISATION OR INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION AND ITS MEMBERS WILL SERVE IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITIES,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

HE SAID THE SOUTH TRIED TO HAVE A DIALOGUE WITH THE NORTH WITH THE INTENTION OF CREATING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER BUT FAILED TO MAKE ANY HEADWAY.

FOR THIS REASON, MALAYSIA HOSTED THE SOUTH II CONFERENCE IN MAY DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF THE SOUTH AND +TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE ILLS THAT PLAGUE US,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
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HE SAID IT WAS NOT TRUE THE WORLD WAS GOING THROUGH AN ECONOMIC RECESSION +BUT IT IS ONLY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHICH RELY ON EXPORT OF COMMODITIES, HAVING A RECESSION.+

+THE RICH COUNTRIES ARE BETTER OFF NOW. NOT ONLY ARE THEY SELLING THEIR MANUFACTURED GOODS AT HIGHER PRICES BUT THEY HAVE SAVED IN 1985 SOME US\$100 BILLION BECAUSE OF THE FALL IN COMMODITY PRICES,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT POOR COUNTRIES HAD ALSO TO DEAL WITH WILDLY FLUCTUATING EXCHANGE RATES.

+WHEN EUROPE AND THE NORTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES DECIDED TO PUSH UP THE YEN IN ORDER TO BALANCE THEIR TRADE, MALAYSIA'S DEBTS INCREASED BY 50 PERCENT FROM THE YEN REVALUATION.

+BANKS WANTING TO MAKE MULTI-MILLION BUCKS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO PUSH THE CURRENCY OF POOR COUNTRIES DOWN,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
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ON TRADE, HE SAID THE PROPGONENTS OF FREE TRADE HAD RESORTED TO QUOTAS, RESTRICTIONS, COUNTERVAILING DUTIES, NON-TARIFF BARRIERS AND OTHERS +TO KILLS US.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE POOR SOUTH WAS +DIVIDED AND INCAPABLE OF DEPENDING ON OUR MEAGRE DOMESTIC MARKET AND WE DO NOTHING BUT BEMOAN OUR FATE.+

HE SAID THE TERMS OF TRADE HAD BECOME MUCH WORSE WITH PRODUCERS GETTING LESS THAN HALF THE MANUFACTURED GOODS THEY GOT IN 1960 FROM THE SAME AMOUNT OF COMMODITY EXPORTED.

+THE WORSE IS YET TO COME AS NEW TECHNOLOGY ELIMINATES THE NEED FOR NUMEROUS RAW MATERIALS OR REDUCES THE QUANTITIES REQUIRED.

+GLASS FIBRES HAVE RENDERED COPPER OBSOLETE, WHILE PAPER, GLASS, PLASTICS AND ALUMINIUM HAVE DISPLACED TIN AS PACKAGING MATERIAL.+ --  
BERNAMA

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