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MAHATHIR-UN R'R'R 86

② Trip Overseas -

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 10.30 P.M. (MST) TODAY, SEPT 29)
FROM AHMAD REJAL ARBEE

NEW YORK, SEPT 29 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY MADE A STRONG PLEA FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS BY RESTORING LIFE AND MEANING TO THE WORLD BODY TO ARREST CURRENT MISGIVINGS OVER ITS RELEVANCY.

ADDRESSING THE 41ST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE WORLD BODY REMAINED RELEVANT AND AS SUCH IT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SUFFER A FATE SIMILAR TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS .

+A WORLD WITHOUT THE UNITED NATIONS IS UNTHINKABLE...IN THE UN LIES OUR HOPE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW, FOR JUSTICE, PEACE AND STABILITY AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL MANKIND,+ HE SAID.

HIS PRESENCE HERE IS SEEN AS A VERY STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF THE UN SYSTEM BY MALAYSIA.

HE SAID THAT FOR THE WORLD BODY TO REMAIN RELEVANT, ITS ROLE SHOULD BE ENHANCED AND NOT BE MADE SUBJECT TO THE INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUAL STATES OR BLOCS.

HE SAID DESPITE UNANIMOUS CONCERN THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE RENDERED USELESS, BOTH THE FEW WEALTHY AND POWERFUL NATIONS AS WELL AS THE SMALLER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE EQUALLY TO BLAME FOR THE CURRENT STATE THAT THE UN WAS IN. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-UN 2 NEW YORK (EMBARGO)

+IF THE ORGANISATION FALLS SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS, THE RESPONSIBILITY RESTS HEAVIER ON THE SHOULDERS OF THOSE SAME POWERFUL NATIONS WHO EXPECT THE UN TO BE A CREATURE IN THEIR OWN IMAGE, SERVING ONLY CERTAIN PERCEIVED ENDS, FOR CERTAIN PERCEIVED INTERESTS.+

SIMILARLY THE SMALLER NATIONS WHO BASED THEIR DECISIONS PURELY ON IDEOLOGICAL OR POLITICAL LINES WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO MEANINGFUL SOLUTIONS.

HE SAID THEY SHOULD NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE PROXIES FOR BLOC INTERESTS BUT SHOULD INSTEAD BASE THEIR DECISIONS ON THE MERITS OF A PARTICULAR ISSUE.

SOME ALSO DISREGARDED PRINCIPLES, VIOLATE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE WEAKER SMALLER STATES BY SEEKING RECOURSE THROUGH ARMS AND MILITARY POWER.

HE SAID THAT THE PRESENT FINANCIAL CRISIS FACING THE UN WAS THE RESULT OF WITHHOLDING OF REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS BY SOME MEMBERS AND AN OVERSTAFFED SECRETARIAT. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-UN 3 NEW YORK (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR COMMENDED EFFORTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF 18 TO RATIONALISE THE ORGANISATION'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY PROCEDURES AS WELL AS REDUCING ITS STAFF BUT CRITICISED THE UNITED STATES (WITHOUT NAMING IT) FOR WANTING TO WITHHOLD ITS OBLIGATORY CONTRIBUTIONS TO FORCE ACCEPTANCE OF CONDITIONS UNILATERALLY DECIDED BY THE US CONGRESS.

+RULES AND PROCEDURES BUILT AROUND BASIC CONCEPT OF EQUALITY OF STATES, MUST NOT BE TEMPERED WITH...WHATEVER OUR DISSATISFACTION MAY BE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANISATION REQUIRES US TO ACCEPT CERTAIN BASIC PRINCIPLES AND TO OPERATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREED GROUND RULES,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO WAS THE FIRST SPEAKER TO ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY THIS MORNING ALSO TOUCHED ON APARTHEID, PALESTINE, KAMPUCHEA, AFGHANISTAN, DISARMAMENT AND ANTARCTICA.

ON APARTHEID AND SOUTH AFRICA HE CRITICISED THE DOUBLE STANDARDS OF NATIONS WHO WHILE CONDEMNING APARTHEID REFUSED TO IMPOSE MANDATORY SANCTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA AND YET HAVE APPLIED NAVAL BLOCKADES TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS.

+THE WAY FOWARD IS TO EMBARK SERIOUSLY ON SANCTIONS,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO CALLED FOR SUPPORT OF THE WESTERN WORLD AND JAPAN FOR THE SOLIDARITY FUND FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA IF THE AID WAS TO HAVE SUBSTANCE OR EFFECT. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-UN 4 NEW YORK (EMBARGO)

HE SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S COUNTER-BLOCKADE OF THE FRONT LINE STATES MUST BE BROKEN IN THE SAME WAY AND DETERMINATION AS WAS DONE TO BREAK THE BERLIN BLOCKADE AFTER THE WAR.

+IT IS TIME THAT COUNTRIES WHICH PROFESS LOFTY PRINCIPLES AND ARE EVER READY TO CONDEMN AND EVEN SUBVERT THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES FOR ALLEGED SUPPRESSION OF FREEDOM TRANSLATE INTO ACTION WHAT THEY PREACH.+

ON PALESTINE HE SAID THE PROBLEM BEGAN WITH THE CREATION OF ISRAEL AT THE EXPENSE OF DISPOSSESSING THE PALESTININAS.

+SINCE ISRAEL OWES ITS EXISTENCE THROUGH A DECISION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1948, AND THAT DECISION WAS HONOURED AND UPHELD BY THE BIG POWERS, IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THESE SAME POWERS, IF NOT ISRAEL, TO HONOUR AND UPHOLD SUBSEQUENT UN RESOLUTIONS ON THE SAME ISSUE.+

HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT RIGHT THAT THE PALESTINIANS WERE CONDEMNED FOR TERRORISM WHEN THE FACT THAT ISRAEL ITSELF WAS A PRODUCT OF TERRORISM AND WAS CONTINUING A POLICY OF UNCEASING INTIMIDATION, HARASSMENT AND VICTIMISATION OF THE ARABS WAS IGNORED:

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U E863 AAE
MAHATHIR-UN 5 NEW YORK (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT MALAYSIA JOINED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN CONDEMNING TERRORISM BUT SUCH CONDEMNATION SHOULD ALSO COVER ACTS OF TERRORISM BY GOVERNMENTS.

ON AFGHANISTAN, HE SAID IT SERVED AS AN EXAMPLE OF VIOLATION OF AN INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN STATE BY ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD AND A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, SOVIET UNION.

SIMILARLY VIETNAM, WHICH INVADED KAMPUCHEA, PERSISTED IN REJECTING ALL EFFORTS FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, INCLUDING THE EIGHT-POINT PROPOSAL WHICH CONTAINS A CONSTRUCTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS THAT COULD LEAD TO A COMPREHENSIVE AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION AS IT IS PREMISED ON A POLICY OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION TO INCLUDE ALL PARTIES.

HE SAID THAT THE SUPER POWERS AND THEIR PROXIES WERE ALSO ACTIVE IN TRYING TO SHAPE GOVERNMENTS AND COUNTRIES IN THEIR OWN IMAGES THROUGH SUBVERSIONS AND THROUGH PROVOKING AND DIRECTING REBELLIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

+IS THE MAJORITY IN THIS ORGANISATION WRONG WHEN IT CONDEMNS SUCH ACTS? IF THERE IS AN AUTOMATIC MAJORITY, ISN'T THERE ALSO A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF THE BIG POWERS TO AUTOMATICALLY USE THEIR BRUTE STRENGTH WHEN THEY DISLIKE THE STAND OF THE MAJORITY?+ -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-UN 6 NEW YORK (EMBARGO)

ON DISARMAMENT HE SAID IT WAS HORRIFYING THAT THE SURVIVAL OF MANKIND SHOULD NOW BE DEPENDENT ON A +BALANCE OF TERROR.+

+MALAYSIANS ARE CALLED 'BARBARIANS' BECAUSE WE HANG CONVICTED WHITE CRIMINALS FOR DRUG OFFENCES, AS WE HANG OTHERS FOR THE SAME CRIME. WHAT DO WE CALL PEOPLE WHO THREATEN TO WIPE OUT THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE IN FULFILLMENT OF THEIR WAR STRATEGY?.+

ON ANTARCTICA, HE SAID MALAYSIA ENCOURAGED BY UN'S POSITIVE COMMITMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE ITS OBJECTIVE OF AN ANTARCTICA FOR ALL MANKIND INSTEAD OF FOR AN EXCLUSIVE FEW.

HE SAID MALAYSIA WOULD NOT YIELD TO PRESSURE MOUNTED BY CERTAIN QUARTERS TO RELENT AND RENEGE ON ITS COMMITMENT TO WORK TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE FOR ALL INTERESTED PARTIES INCLUDING THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES OF THE ANTARCTICA TREATY.

HE SAID MALAYSIA DID NOT SEEK CONFRONTATION NOR TO DESTROY THE FRAMEWORK ALREADY BUILT BY THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES BUT MERELY TO SEEK MORE INFORMATION.

+WHAT WE WANT IS AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT OVER ANTARCTICA THAT CATERS FOR THE INTEREST OF MANKIND,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA
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