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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 10 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA VIEWS WITH GRAVE CONCERN ZIONIST ATTEMPTS TO MANIPULATE INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY TO RUN DOWN THE GOVERNMENT AND UNDERMINE THE ECONOMY THROUGH THE PLAYING UP OF CERTAIN ISSUES, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID SINCE MALAYSIA CAME OUT STRONGLY AGAINST ZIONIST AGGRESSION TOWARDS THE PALESTINIANS AND ARABS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD BECOME AWARE OF A ZIONIST HAND IN ATTEMPTS TO PLAY HAVOC WITH THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY.

+LIES AIMED AT CREATING DOUBTS AMONG INVESTORS OF OUR ECONOMIC STRENGTH, SUCH AS ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION AMONG GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING OUR POLITICAL STABILITY, HAVE BEEN MADE IN A PREMEDITATED MANNER AS TO CAUSE ANGUISH AMONG THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

+AND SOME INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS HAVE CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY BEEN MADE USE OF BY THE ZIONISTS,+ HE TOLD DR CHEN MAN HIN (DAP-SEREMBAN) IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

DR CHEN HAD ASKED WHETHER ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE TAKEOVER OF UNITED MALAYAN BANKING CORPORATION (UMBC) BY TWO COMPANIES OF FINANCE MINISTER DAIM ZAINUDDIN'S FAMILY LAST YEAR REPRESENTED A ZIONIST CONSPIRACY TO UNDERMINE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADERS. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, HOWEVER, DID NOT NAME THE PEOPLE, ORGANISATION OR COUNTRY INVOLVED, SAYING THEY HAD TO REMAIN UNIDENTIFIED SO AS NOT TO HAMPER GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO COUNTER THIS THREAT.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE STEPS TO THWART THE EVIL INTENTIONS OF THOSE TRYING TO POISON THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE AND INVESTORS.

HE ASKED MALAYSIANS TO BEWARE OF SUCH ELEMENTS AND NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BECOME THE TOOLS OF THOSE WANTING TO DESTROY THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THE ZIONISTS EMPLOYED VERY SUBTLE METHODS IN THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST ANY COUNTRY, ORGANISATION OR INDIVIDUAL THEY CONSIDERED SYMPATHETIC TO THE CAUSE OF THE PALESTINIANS OR ARABS IN WEST ASIA.

ONE OF THEIR FAVOURITE TACTICS WAS TO SPREAD LIES, ISSUE THREATS OR UNDERTAKE COVERT ACTIONS THROUGH THEIR CLANDESTINE AGENCIES, HE SAID. -- MORE

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+THEY ALSO FREQUENTLY RESORT TO USING OVERT MEANS SUCH AS THROUGH NEWSPAPERS AND BONA FIDE ORGANISATIONS TO CLOAK THEIR MISCHIEVOUS AIMS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID LIES WERE SPREAD THROUGH THE DISTORTION OF ISSUES RAISED BY CERTAIN QUARTERS IN A COUNTRY.

HE SAID MUCH HAD BEEN WRITTEN OPENLY AS WELL AS IN CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS ABOUT THE DIRTY TACTICS OF THE ZIONISTS AND OTHER CLANDESTINE GROUPS BY THOSE WHO HAD BECOME THEIR VICTIMS.

TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, FROM ENCIK ZUBIR EMBONG (BN-KUALA TERENGGANU), DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD USE ALL THE LEGAL MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO CHECK ZIONIST ACTIVITIES IF THESE JEOPARDISED THE ECONOMY AND THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION.

TO A QUESTION FROM DR TAN SENG GIAW (DAP-KEPONG), HE SAID THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A JEW AND A ZIONIST WAS THAT THE FORMER MERELY PRACTISED THE JEWISH RELIGION AND WAS NOT TOO CONCERNED ABOUT NATIONALISM. -- MORE

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A ZIONIST, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS +A LOVER OF ZION+ WHO WAS PREPARED TO DO ANYTHING ANYWHERE, INCLUDING PERPETRATING CRUELTY, WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE INTEREST OF ANOTHER COUNTRY SO LONG AS THE ZIONIST INTERESTS WERE PROTECTED.

ON THE PURCHASE OF UMBC SHARES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT ENCIK DAIM HAD PROVIDED IN A WRITTEN REPLY ON WEDNESDAY.

HE SAID HE ALSO AGREED THERE WAS NO NEED TO SET UP A ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY SINCE THERE WAS NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN THE UMBC SHARES TRANSACTION. -- BERNAMA

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