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MAHATHIR-APARTHEID

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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 5 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER ~~DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID~~ TODAY THE PRETORIA REGIME IS AN INHUMAN ONE AND A +RACIST+ IN THE EXTREME.

HE SAID THE ONLY THING THAT IT WOULD RESPOND TO WAS FORCE. +IF WE MUST MEET TERROR WITH FORCE, THIS IS THE TIME,+ HE SAID, STRESSING THAT THE LIVES OF THE BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA WERE AS WORTHY AS THE LIVES OF ANYONE ELSE.

OPENING THE SECOND SOUTH-SOUTH SUMMIT HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS NOT REVENGE AND KILLING THAT WERE BEING SOUGHT NOW BUT MERELY SANCTIONS BY THOSE WHOSE ECONOMIC CLOUT HAD THE NECESSARY FORCE.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA WERE PREPARED TO ENDURE THE PAIN OF SANCTIONS. -- MORE  
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+THEY ASK FOR SANCTIONS. WHY DO WE GIVE THIS EXCUSE THAT WE WANT TO SAVE THEM FROM THAT WHICH THEY ARE WILLING TO ENDURE?+ HE SAID IN REFERENCE TO SOME WESTERN GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAD EXPRESSED SUCH SENTIMENTS ON SANCTIONS.

STATING THAT THE PRETORIA REGIME REMAINED THE MOST BLATANTLY RACIALIST REGIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT COULD EXIST IN THIS DAY AND AGE PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT IT GOT FROM SYMPATHISERS IN THE NORTH.

+PEOPLE WHO ARE PREPARED TO TAKE DIRECT MILITARY ACTION AGAINST A GOVERNMENT FOR ALLEGEDLY PROMOTING TERRORISM ADVOCATE GENTLE PERSUASION WHEN DEALING WITH THE OPEN TERRORISM PRACTISED BY THE PRETORIA REGIME.

+WE DO NOT EXPECT THE PRETORIA REGIME TO BE BOMBED OUT OF EXISTENCE, BECAUSE WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN SUCH A LINE OF ACTION. BUT WHEN WILL THOSE WITH THE ECONOMIC CLOUT APPLY SUCH SANCTION? OR IS IT THAT AFRICAN LIVES ARE CHEAP AND THAT INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE TOO PROFITABLE?+ ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER.

HE SAID THAT IN THE MID-60S, WHEN MALAYSIA CONDEMNED THE RACIALIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA AND DEMANDED THAT SOUTH AFRICA BE BOOTED OUT OF THE COMMONWEALTH IF IT CONTINUED WITH APARTHEID AND OPPRESSION OF BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS, IT WAS TOLD THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE BLACKS. -- MORE  
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HE SAID THE SAME ARGUMENT WAS APPLIED AT THE RECENT COMMONWEALTH MEETING IN NASSAU WHEN IT WAS DEMANDED THAT SANCTIONS BE APPLIED AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED, +DO WE REALLY THINK THAT BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS WILL BE BETTER OFF TODAY IF SOUTH AFRICA REMAINS IN THE COMMONWEALTH? ARE THEY BETTER OFF NOW BECAUSE WE DO NOT APPLY SANCTIONS? ARE THE SHOOTING, KILLING, JAILING AND TORTURE OF THE BLACKS TODAY EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE BETTER OFF BECAUSE SANCTIONS ARE NOT APPLIED? HAS NELSON MANDELA BEEN RELEASED BECAUSE NO SANCTIONS HAVE BEEN APPLIED? WOULD STEVE BIKO BE ALIVE TODAY?

+THE FACT IS THAT WE ARE DEALING NOT WITH AN INHUMAN REGIME BUT AN INHUMAN REGIME, A REGIME THAT IS RACIST IN THE EXTREME,+ HE SAID.  
-- BERNAMA  
1501MST 05 05 86