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MAHATHIR-DISARMAMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 5 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE SOUTH TO STOP THEIR OWN MINI ARMS RACES.

OPENING THE SECOND SOUTH-SOUTH SUMMIT HERE, HE SAID THE SOUTH OFTEN TALKED OF THE NEED FOR DISARMAMENT BY THE BIG POWERS BUT ITS OWN RECORD WAS JUST AS ALARMING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN 1964 THE THIRD WORLD BOUGHT US\$1.4 BILLION OF WEAPONS FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND BY 1984 THAT FIGURE HAD GROWN TO US\$29.4 BILLION.

+ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE TALK ABOUT ARMS LIMITATION AMONG OURSELVES?+ HE ASKED.

NO ONE DISPUTED THE NEED FOR DEFENCE CAPABILITY, HE SAID, BUT +DO WE NEED TO HAVE MINI ARMS RACES WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS?+

+THIS GUNS BEFORE BUTTER POLICY IS KILLING US. WE HAVE TO STOP THIS NONSENSE AND, INCIDENTALLY, WE WILL ALSO STOP ENRICHING THE ALREADY RICH,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH SHOULD ALSO LOOK INTO OTHER AREAS WHERE THEY COULD COOPERATE FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

CITING THE CULTURAL FIELD AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THERE WAS A GREAT NEED FOR THEM TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF MISINFORMATION ORIGINATING FROM THE NEWS MEDIA OVER WHICH THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH HAD NO CONTROL.

+IT IS TIME THAT OUR THIRD WORLD NEWS AGENCIES INTENSIFY THEIR COOPERATION AND PROVIDE TRUE AND MORE SYMPATHETIC NEWS ABOUT OURSELVES,+ HE SAID.

+THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL SAY IT IS PROPAGANDA BUT ARE NOT THEIR SLANTED NEWS NORTHERN PROPAGANDA?+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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