

# Delegates impressed by Dr M's speech

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By M.

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**FORTHRIGHT, inspiring, motivating, practical.**

These were some of the reactions of foreign delegates to the Prime Minister's opening address at the second South-South summit.

Most were impressed with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion for an independent commission on South-South co-operation to forge closer links between Third World countries.

They commended Dr Mahathir's keen perception of economic, political and social problems confronting nations of the South.

Here are some of the comments:

Mr R. Figueredo, adviser to the President of Venezuela: "I think it is a unanimous sentiment that the Prime Minister has suggested initiatives at a time of crisis on how to approach South-South problems.

"His views were extremely forthright and interesting and at the same time inspiring and specific. His views on the establishment of an independent commission on South-South co-operation were amply discussed in the afternoon session, where it obtained the unanimous support of delegates.

"There should be greater bilateral co-operation. You have to do more among countries in your region. It is not the ideal but the reality."

Associate Prof. Gao Xian of the Institute of Latin American Studies, China: "I think it is an important speech, especially at the present time and against the present international situation.

"I think the holding of this conference in Malaysia is very important in itself and is recognition of Malaysia's active role in the Third World."

Mr Dragoslav Avramovic, economic adviser to the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Washington D.C.: "The speech was a most useful introduction to the conference, which provided us with excellent guidelines for future work.

"It promises that the outcome of this conference will be quite outstanding. It touched on the reformulation of the platform of developing countries and proposals for the future.

"It showed an attempt to rebuild the unity of developing countries to face the challenges ahead."

## Problems

Ambassador Layashi Yaker, Algeria: "The Prime Minister's opening speech was inspiring and it made an objective assessment of the problems faced by Third World countries. It put forward very positive proposals of strategic importance to strengthen South-South co-operation.

"The idea of creating a South Commission of independent personalities from the different parts of the Third World to reassess the problems facing the developing countries and find the best way to solve them in the interest of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America was very positive."

Mr Humayun Gauhar, managing director, *South* magazine: "It was the most motivating thing that has happened to those in the Third World working towards South-South co-operation.

"It is extremely heartening at a time when there is so much gloom and despondency when Dr Mahathir Mohamad shows us the way and endorses efforts to establish a South Commission.

"And, with his blessings, the efforts to establish the South Commission has been dramatically lifted to a new dimension."