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MAHATHIR-FOREIGN
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MELAKA, JULY 17 (BERNAMA) -- ~~DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD~~
TODAY TOLD MALAYSIANS THE THREAT POSED BY FOREIGN INFLUENCE IS MORE
DANGEROUS THAN WHAT THE MELAKA SULTANATE HAD FACED IN THE PAST.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MANY FOREIGN POWERS HAD THEIR EYE ON THE
COUNTRY WITH A VIEW TO COLONISING IT, OR AT THE LEAST FOR MALAYSIA
TO DO THEIR BIDDING.

BECAUSE OF THIS, MALAYSIA NEEDED A STRONG GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD
NOT WILT UNDER PRESSURE AS HAD OCCURRED IN SEVERAL OTHER ASIAN AND
CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES.

COLONISATION IN THIS MODERN AGE DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN
MILITARY OCCUPATION BUT COULD TAKE PLACE THROUGH ECONOMIC, CULTURAL
OR POLITICAL SUBJUGATION, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE REPLICA OF A
MELAKA SULTANATE PALACE HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID FOREIGN POWERS ALSO SOMETIMES
RESORTED TO SELECTING AND INDOCTRINATING CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO WOULD
TAKE ORDERS FROM THEM OR SET UP A GOVERNMENT THAT WAS A DUPLICATE OF
THAT OF THE FOREIGN COUNTRY.

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MAHATHIR-FOREIGN 2 MELAKA

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIANS MUST LEARN FROM HISTORY, PARTICULARLY THE FALL OF THE MELAKA SULTANATE WHICH WAS THE FIRST MALAY GOVERNMENT TO CRUMBLE TO A EUROPEAN POWER.

HE SAID THE MELAKA SULTANATE FELL BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF THAT TIME DID NOT ORGANISE ITS ADMINISTRATION PROPERLY, SUCH AS EQUIPPING ITS ARMY WITH MODERN WEAPONS OR DRAWING UP EFFECTIVE BATTLE STRATEGIES.

+IF WE WISH TO CONTINUE ENJOYING OUR INDEPENDENCE, WE MUST ACCEPT THIS FACT AND ORGANISE OURSELVES SO THAT WE CAN BEAT OFF EFFORTS TO RE-COLONISE US,+ HE SAID.

+THIS MEANS THAT IN POLITICS FOR EXAMPLE, WE MUST HAVE A GOVERNMENT THAT CAN GOVERN EFFECTIVELY, AND IN THIS ASPECT WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE SO FAR IN THAT WE HAVE A GOVERNMENT THAT HAS BEEN FIRM IN DECIDING ITS STAND ON ANY MATTER+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF HAVING A STRONG GOVERNMENT, NO ONE COULD DENY THAT SINCE MERDEKA, THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT HAD OUTPERFORMED THE ACHIEVEMENTS MADE DURING THE 400 YEARS OF COLONIAL RULE. -- MORE
1720MST 17 07 86

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MAHATHIR-FOREIGN 3 MELAKA

TO ENSURE THAT THE INTENSE DEVELOPMENT TAKING PLACE WAS NOT AFFECTED, THE PEOPLE MUST BE UNITED, HE SAID, ADDING THAT EVEN A WEAK COUNTRY COULD BECOME STRONG THROUGH THE UNITY OF ITS PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WANTED TO BE FREE FROM ALL SUPER-POWER INFLUENCE AND THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED WITH A STRONG GOVERNMENT.

ALL ALONG, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN VERY FIRM IN ITS ACTIONS, SUCH AS THE DECISION IT TOOK TO BOYCOTT THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES.

THIS WAS BECAUSE IT WAS A STRONG GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAD A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA'S DECISION TO BOYCOTT AWAY FROM THE GAMES MIGHT BE VIEWED BY OTHERS AS OF NO CONSEQUENCE, BUT IT MEANT A GREAT DEAL TO THE COUNTRY AS IT SHOWED THAT MALAYSIA DID NOT HAVE TO BE GUIDED BY A MAJOR POWER LIKE BRITAIN.

ON THE \$3.09 MILLION PALACE REPLICA HE SAID IT WOULD HELP DRAW MORE TOURISTS TO MELAKA AND BENEFIT THE PEOPLE. -- MORE
1804MST 17 07 86

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MAHATHIR-FOREIGN 4 MELAKA

EARLIER, OPENING THE MINI-MALAYSIA PARK AND THE AIR BERON COUNTRY CLUB, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PAST CULTURES COULD BE USED AS THE BASIS TO FORM THE IDENTITY OF A NATION.

HE ALSO SAID MALAYSIANS MUST KEEP ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY, WHICH WAS HOME OF MANY RACES, A FACT HE SAID ALL MUST ACCEPT. -- BERNAMA
1804MST 17 07 86