

PM slams West's hysteria

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By SHARIF HARON

THE industrial countries should shed their "hysterical" fear of being displaced by developing countries joining the ranks of industrial powerhouses like Japan, Taiwan and South Korea, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The achievements of the Japanese, or even the South Koreans and Taiwanese, are unique, but, even then, they still buy certain products from the older developed nations. And, the other developing nations are not likely to reach levels attained by those three countries, he said.

"Hysterical terms like NICs should never have been coined, for they create fears which are not justified," Dr Mahathir noted when opening the Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers Standing Committee Meeting at

Parliament House in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said the industrial countries must realise that as developing countries prosper, they will become better markets for the manufactured products of the developed countries.

most destroyed by the rich nations," he added.

The Prime Minister said the powerful nations have exported their vices which undermine the efforts of the poor to better themselves.

Attempts by poor countries to industrialise and export

developed countries.

Yet, at the same time, the rich and the powerful subsidise the production of their primary products which are then dumped in the developing countries, thus displacing competing primary products from developing nations.

"One cannot help but conclude that the industrialised countries are deliberately denying the developing nations equitable participation in the world's trade.

"There is reason to believe that the old imperialist nations have found a substitute in economic imperialism," Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister said the concept of justice and fair-play, as expounded by early thinkers, have changed considerably and taken new dimensions as new and more brash forces make their views felt.

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There is no way that developing countries are going to produce all the manufactured goods they need.

He criticised the industrialised countries for "deliberately denying the developing nations equitable participation in the world's trade".

"The economies of developing countries are not only at the mercy of the industrialised giants, but their economies have also now been al-

manufactured goods are obstructed by protectionist walls put up by rich nations not only to protect their domestic industries but also to deny developing countries the right to compete in the international markets, he added.

And new rules and regulations, he added, are imposed by rich nations from time to time to frustrate attempts of developing countries to gain entry into the markets of the