

D552

B E858 AAE
MAHATHIR.

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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 19⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE TRADE WARS INVOLVING THE RICH COUNTRIES WILL NOT RESULT IN BLANKET RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

RESTRICTIONS SHOULD INSTEAD BE DISCRIMINATORY IN FAVOUR OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE INTERACTION COUNCIL AT DEWAN TUN HUSSEIN ONN, PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

THE COUNCIL, OF WHICH FORMER JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER TAKEO FUKUDA IS HONORARY CHAIRMAN, IS AN INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION TO PROMOTE ACTION ON ISSUES CENTRAL TO WORLD PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE THREE-DAY SESSION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (ISIS) MALAYSIA AND THE INTERACTION COUNCIL SECRETARIAT IN NEW YORK.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +THE RICH SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THE FAVOURED TREATMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IF THOSE COUNTRIES THEMSELVES ARE UNABLE TO PRODUCE ON THEIR OWN.

+WHAT MATTERS IS THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE ABLE TO REAP SOME BENEFIT WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR DEVELOPMENT.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID EVERY COUNTRY WANTED TO EARN MONEY FOR ITSELF AND THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE IF THERE WERE NO TRADE RESTRICTIONS. -- MORE

1758MST 19 04 87

D547

B E848 AAE
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'R'R'R'

THE INCENTIVES OFFERED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR EXPORT MANUFACTURING COULD ONLY BE WORTHWHILE IF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OPENED THEIR MARKETS.

HE REGRETTED THE ATTITUDE OF THE RICH AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THEIR +NEAR TOTAL DISREGARD FOR THE POOR.+

HE CITED THE RECENT MEETING OF SEVEN ECONOMIC POWERS WHICH MADE DECISIONS IN THEIR OWN FAVOUR WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD.

+THUS, TO SOLVE THEIR TRADE IMBALANCES, THEY DECIDED TO REVALUE THE YEN AND DEUTSCHEMARK AND UNDERVALUE THE AMERICAN DOLLAR.

+FOR MALAYSIA, THIS DECISION HAS PUSHED UP ITS YEN LOAN BY 70 PERCENT WHILE REDUCING ITS EARNINGS FROM PETROLEUM EXPORTS. AND VERY MUCH THE SAME THING HAS HAPPENED TO OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.+ -- MORE

1750MST 19 04 87

D566

B E866 AAE
MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'R'R'R'

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE RICH COUNTRIES
+NOT TO TAKE AWAY WITH ONE HAND WHAT THE OTHER HAND GIVES.+
+DEVELOPMENT AID WILL NOT HELP IF THE RESULTANT DEVELOPMENT IS
NEGATED BY RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES,+ HE STRESSED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS SADDENED NATIONS OF THE WORLD
HAD YET TO LEARN TO ACCEPT THE FACT THEY WERE INTER-DEPENDENT.
+THERE ARE SOME WHO THINK THAT THEY CAN BE RICH IN THE MIDST OF
POVERTY.+

ACTUALLY, HE POINTED OUT, ENRICHING THE POOR WOULD ENRICH
FURTHER THE RICH AS THE MORE SPENDING MONEY THE POOR COUNTRIES HAD,
THE MORE THINGS THEY WOULD BUY FROM THE RICH.

IN HIS PERCEPTION OF TODAY'S WORLD ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
SCENERIO, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS +HIGHLY CHARGED+, DATUK SERI DR
MAHATHIR CITED NUMEROUS PROBLEMS FACING THE WORLD WHICH HAD LED TO
TENSION AND THREATS AMONG THE RICH NATIONS. -- MORE
1824MST 19 04 87

B E885 AAE
MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'R'R'R'

AMONG THEM WERE TRADE IMBALANCES, DESTABILISATION OF WORLD
CURRENCIES, COLLAPSE OF COMMODITY PRICES, SOARING DEBTS AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE ARMS RACE, THE UNABATING WARS IN THE
MIDDLE EAST, PROXY WARS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND SOUTH ASIA AND THE
EXPANDING DADAH HABIT AMONG YOUTH.

HE SAID SOME 12 YEARS FROM NOW, HISTORY WOULD RECORD THE FLOW OF
TIME INTO NOT ONLY A NEW CENTURY BUT ALSO A NEW MILLENNIUM.

+RIGHTLY WE SHOULD BE MOVING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY WITH A SENSE
OF PRIDE AND ACCOMPLISHMENT CONSIDERING THE TREMENDOUS STRIDES THAT
MANKIND HAS ACHIEVED IN THE 20TH CENTURY,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR
SAID.

BUT WHAT HAPPENED WAS THE SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 20TH
CENTURY HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO OVERCOME OR REDUCE MISERIES AND IN MANY
INSTANCES INCREASED IMPOVERISHMENT AMONG THE ALREADY POOR, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BELIEVED THE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE OF
THE INTER ACTION COUNCIL MEMBERS, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS +THE
CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD,+ BEING FORMER HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS AND
STATES, WOULD HELP ALLEVIATE THOSE PROBLEMS. -- MORE
1925MST 19 04 87

B E888 AAE
MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'R'R'R'

+A FEW PEOPLE, ABLE AND FAMOUS THOUGH THEY MAY BE, CANNOT
RESOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT BESET OUR PLANET TODAY.

+BUT IF YOU CAN MANAGE TO PRICK THE CONSCIENCE OF THE POWERS
THAT BE, THAT WOULD HAVE DONE THE WORLD AND THE CAUSE OF THE POOR
NATIONS IN PARTICULAR A GREAT SERVICE INDEED.+ -- BERNAMA
1930MST 19 04 87