

D477

B E650 AAE
MAHATHIR-POLICY
BM

87 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 24 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA NEED NOT MAINTAIN THE PRACTICE OF BOWING TO ANYONE OUT OF FEAR OR BECAUSE OF MONEY, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD UMNO'S 38TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE TODAY.

MALAYSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY WAS BASED ON RECIPROCITY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT TOLD THE ASSEMBLY AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE (PWTCC) HERE.

+IF WE RESPECT THEM, THEY SHOULD ALSO RESPECT US,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

MALAYSIA'S DESIRE NOT TO SEEK ENMITY WITH ANYONE DID NOT MEAN REMAINING SILENT WHEN THERE WERE ACTS OF CRUELTY AND INJUSTICE, HE SAID.

IN LINE WITH THIS POLICY, MALAYSIA HAD CONDEMNED THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM AGAINST LIBYA, HE SAID WHEN DELIVERING HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE ASSEMBLY. -- MORE
1145MST 24 04 87

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THE PRIME MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MALAYSIA BEING A SMALL NATION COULD NOT SHAKE THE WORLD.

HOWEVER AS A NATION AND A PEOPLE WITH DIGNITY MALAYSIA COULD NOT KEEP QUIET IN THE FACE OF WICKED ACTS BY BIG POWERS.

HE STRESSED THAT JUSTICE WOULD BE MEANINGLESS IF THERE WAS FAVOURITISM OR FEAR.

REFERRING TO THE PAST PRACTICE OF THE MALAY STATES SENDING THE +BUNGA EMAS+ TO STRONGER NATIONS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +WE RESPECT CUSTOM BUT NOT ALL CUSTOMS NEED BE RETAINED.+

MALAYSIA NEED NOT BE BOASTFUL BUT RATHER SHOULD BE MODERATE AND TOLERANT, HE SAID.

MALAYSIA WAS NEITHER A CLIENT STATE OF ANYONE, HE ADDED. -- MORE
1157MST 24 04 87

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MAHATHIR-POLICY 3 KUALA LUMPUR

TOUCHING ON ASPECTS OF THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY, HE SAID: +IT HAD CONDEMNED THE SOVIET UNION FOR ITS OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN.

+MALAYSIA HAD EXPRESSED OPEN SUPPORT FOR THE AFGHAN MUJAHIDEEN AND HAD PROVIDED ASSISTANCE AND A VENUE FOR ITS REPRESENTATION HERE.

+IT HAS SUPPORTED THE PLO AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS.

+MALAYSIA HAS STRONGLY CRITICISED THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME FOR ITS APARTHEID POLICY AND SUPPORTED BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN THAT COUNTRY.

ON THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, HE SAID MALAYSIA HAD NOT ONLY BEEN NEUTRAL BUT HAD MADE EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO THE WARRING NATIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THE WAR WAS A WASTAGE AND ONLY BENEFITED ISRAEL AND ITS SUPPORTERS. -- BERNAMA
1200MST 24 04 87