

D453

B E590 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN  
FROM WAN A.HULAIMI

LONDON, JULY 22 (BERNAMA) -- BRITAIN MUST APPRECIATE THE SENSITIVITIES OF MALAYSIA IN ORDER TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION PUT TO HIM AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS YESTERDAY, HE SAID IT WAS FELT THAT BRITAIN DID NOT APPRECIATE THE SENSITIVITIES OF MALAYSIA.

ELABORATING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MULTIRACIAL NATURE OF MALAYSIAN SOCIETY MUST BE APPRECIATED BY BRITAIN AND HE HOPED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESSES WOULD APPRECIATE THAT THE PROBLEM WERE BROUGHT BY THEM (THE BRITISH) TO MALAYSIA.

+OF COURSE IN A MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY YOU GET THE EXTREMISTS, AND YOU CANNOT PANDER TO THE MALAYS ALONE, FOR EXAMPLE, WITHOUT THE INDIANS AND THE CHINESE COMING UP IN ARMS,+ HE SAID.

TO THE INDUSTRIALISTS, HE SAID THAT WHEN THEY EMPLOYED PEOPLE IN MALAYSIA IT WAS REQUIRED THAT THEY HAVE REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS RACES SO AS NOT TO ALIENATE SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND FOR INDUSTRIAL PEACE. -- MORE

1030MST 22 07 87

D456

U E592 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN 2 LONDON

+THE SITUATION IN MALAYSIA IS SUCH THAT WE NEED POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION SOMETIMES,+ HE SAID.

ANSWERING A QUESTION ON THE ROLE OF ASEAN, HE SAID THE GROUPING WAS FORMED BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR SOME POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.

HE SAID THAT WHEN ASEAN WAS FORMED IT WAS A POLITICAL GROUPING RATHER THAN AN ECONOMIC ONE, ADDING THAT POLITICALLY THE GROUPING HAS SUCCEEDED.

AS AN ECONOMIC GROUPING, HE SAID, ASEAN WAS FINDING DIFFICULTY IN COOPERATION BECAUSE THE COUNTRIES WERE MUTUALLY COMPETITIVE.

+WE ARE COMPETING IN THE SAME MARKET AND IT IS DIFFICULT WHEN WE ARE COMPETING WITH EACH OTHER,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED. -- MORE  
1041MST 22 07 87

D457

U E593 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN 3 LONDON

HE SAID ASEAN COUNTRIES WITH LARGER POPULATIONS DID NOT WANT TO OPEN THEIR MARKETS, ESPECIALLY TO SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA, BUT +WE ARE TRYING TO CONVINCED THEM OF THE MERITS OF COOPERATING+.

HE MENTIONED THE ASSOCIATION OF TIN PRODUCING COUNTRIES (ATPC) AND THE SETTING UP OF QUOTAS FOR TIN PRODUCTION AS EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

ASKED ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES' CLAIM ON SABAH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REPLIED THAT HE FELT THE ISSUE WOULD BE RESOLVED IN ONE OR TWO YEARS.

+THINGS ARE BEING LOOKED INTO AND (PRESIDENT CORAZON) AQUINO'S GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT SETTLED ONCE AND FOR ALL BUT IT MUST FIT IN WITH THEIR BASIC LAWS.

+THEY ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE THINKING IN MALAYSIA AND I THINK WITHIN A YEAR OR TWO WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE IT. THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF GOODWILL BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THE PHILIPPINES,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1044MST 22 07 87

D464

U E596 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN 4 LONDON

WHEN ANOTHER QUESTIONER ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ASEAN EXPANDING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REPLIED THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

HE WAS THEN ASKED WHAT AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WERE POSSIBLE AS ENVISAGED BY THE SOUTH COMMISSION CHAIRED BY FORMER TANZANIAN LEADER DR JULIUS MYERERE.

HE REPLIED THAT ONE AREA WAS IN THE FIELD OF DATA GATHERING.

THE JAPANESE +SOGOSOSHAS+, HE SAID, HAD DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, BUT THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES LACKED INFORMATION ABOUT EACH OTHER.

HE RECOUNTED HOW INDIAN PREMIER RAJIV GANDHI HAD TOLD HIM OF INDIA'S EXPERIENCE WHEN IT NEEDED SPECIAL PIPELINES AND WAS INFORMED THEY WERE AVAILABLE IN BRAZIL. -- MORE

1105MST 22 07 87

D465

U E597 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN 5 LONDON

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IF COUNTRIES IN THE THIRD WORLD HAD A BANK OF INFORMATION, THEY COULD DO MORE TRADING WITH EACH OTHER.

HE ALSO MENTIONED EDUCATION AS ANOTHER AREA OF COOPERATION TO KEEP COSTS DOWN.

A LOT OF MONEY WAS SPENT BY COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH IN THE NORTH TO EDUCATE THEIR PEOPLE, HE SAID, BUT +IF WE STARTED OUR OWN UNIVERSITIES USING TEACHERS FROM THE NORTH, WHO INCLUDED SOME OF OUR OWN PEOPLE WHO HAD HITHERTO NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT IN THE SOUTH, THEN WE WOULD BE ABLE TO LOWER THE COSTS+.

ANOTHER QUESTIONER POINTED OUT THAT IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE SOCIETY, HE WAS CRITICAL OF THE GROUP OF SEVEN DEVELOPED NATIONS, AND ASKED WHETHER HE HAD ANY PARTICULAR MECHANISM IN MIND WHEREBY CONSULTATIONS MIGHT TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THEM AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

AT THE MOMENT, REPLIED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD NO SAY AT ALL, ALTHOUGH THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER MADE IT A POINT TO WRITE TO COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO ASK WHAT ISSUES JAPAN COULD TAKE UP AT THE MEETING (OF THE SEVEN). -- MORE

1107MST 22 07 87

D466

U E598 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN 6 LONDON

+WE THINK THAT WHILE THE GROUP OF SEVEN SHOULD CONTINUE BECAUSE THEY HAVE THEIR OWN SPECIAL INTERESTS, THERE SHOULD BE SOME REPRESENTATION FROM THE SOUTH. HOW WE CHOOSE THESE REPRESENTATIVES WE CAN DECIDE, BUT THAT MEANS, OF COURSE, THAT AT THE MEETING OF THE SEVEN, THERE SHOULD BE TWO OR THREE SPEAKING FOR THE SOUTH,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO SEE A LARGE FORUM WHICH MIGHT PROVE UNWIELDY. A CASE IN POINT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, WAS THE ESCALATION OF THE VALUE OF THE YEN WITH THE INTENTION TO REDUCE JAPANESE EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

MALAYSIA, WHICH BORROWED A LOT FROM JAPAN, SUDDENLY FOUND ITS DEBTS DOUBLED. +A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE SOUTH COULD HAVE POINTED THIS OUT TO THEM,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER QUESTIONER SAID: +YOU MADE SOME PROVOCATIVE REMARKS ABOUT THE VICES OF DEMOCRACY. WHAT DO YOU THINK POLITICIANS SHOULD DO -- FOLLOW THEIR CONSCIENCE OR PRINCIPLE RATHER THAN THE WHIMS OF THE PEOPLE?+ -- MORE

1113MST 22 07 87

D467

U E599 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN 7 LONDON

+DEMOCRACY IS A VERY GOOD SYSTEM,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REPLIED, +WE PRACTISE IT AT HOME BUT FROM TIME TO TIME SOMEBODY GIVES A NEW INTERPRETATION OF DEMOCRACY, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT PERTAINING TO INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT DEMOCRACY WAS THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY, AND THIS INTEREST OF THE MANY SHOULD NOT BE JEOPARDISED BY THE DESIRES OF A MINORITY.

HE RELATED THIS TO THE LOBBYING BY FARMERS IN EUROPE TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ECONOMIC WELLBEING OF THE REST OF THE WORLD WITH THE CREATION OF +FOOD MOUNTAINS+.

HE SAID: +IF YOU GO BACK TO BASICS, WE SAY DEMOCRACY IS THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY EXPRESSED THROUGH VOTES, THEN YOU WON'T BE SUBJECTED TO THE INTERESTS OF SMALL GROUPS, FOR EXAMPLE THE FARMERS IN FRANCE WHO ARE NOT INTERESTED IN FRANCE BUT IN THEMSELVES+. -- BERNAMA  
1115MST 22 07 87