

PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 2' 2=2'

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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 28 (BERNAMA) -- THE UMNO RALLY SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY AT STADIUM MERDEKA HERE IS OFF, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD ANNOUNCED TODAY.

HE ALSO ANNOUNCED A BAN ON ASSEMBLIES AND RALLIES IN THE COUNTRY, SAYING THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY HAD REACHED A DANGEROUS POINT.

HE SAID THIS IN A STATEMENT TO THE DEWAN RAKYAT WHICH WAS CARRIED LIVE BY RTM.

ABOUT 500,000 PEOPLE HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO TURN UP FOR SUNDAY'S RALLY TO CELEBRATE UMNO'S 41ST ANNIVERSARY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO HOME MINISTER, REPORTED TO THE DEWAN RAKYAT THAT THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY HAD NOW BECOME VERY TENSE AS A RESULT OF DEVELOPMENTS OF A RACIAL NATURE RECENTLY.

+THE POLICE FEEL, AND I AGREE WITH THEM, THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT WAIT UNTIL A RIOT HAS BROKEN OUT BEFORE ACTING,+ HE SAID IN HIS SPEECH MADE FOLLOWING THE DETENTION OF 55 PEOPLE UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT (ISA) AND THE REVOCATION OF THE PUBLICATION PERMITS OF SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS BY POLICE SINCE YESTERDAY. -- MORE  
1725MST 28 10 87

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B E312 AAE

PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT PREVENTIVE MEASURES HAD TO BE TAKEN NOW TO SAVE THE COUNTRY FROM POSSIBLE DANGER AND DISASTER.

ALL PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES AND RALLIES, WHETHER INDOORS OR OUTDOORS, WERE BANNED, INCLUDING THOSE FOR WHICH PERMITS HAD EARLIER BEEN GIVEN.

HE GAVE A WARNING THAT THE COUNTRY COULD NOT AFFORD TO HAVE A RACIAL RIOT, SAYING: +WE ALL STILL REMEMBER THE 1969 MAY 13 INCIDENT (AND) SURELY THERE IS NONE AMONG US WHO WOULD WANT TO CAUSE SUCH A RIOT.+

OUTLINING THE BACKGROUND OF THE ISA DETENTIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE POLICE HAD FOUND THAT SEVERAL LEADERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES AND GROUPS ALIGNED TO THEM HAD PURPOSELY BLOWN UP RACIALLY-RELATED ISSUES.

THE DAP, ESPECIALLY, HAD PLAYED UP CHINESE AND INDIAN COMMUNAL ISSUES OPENLY BY GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS OPPRESSING THESE RACES, HE SAID. -- MORE

1752MST 28 10 87

B E321 AAE

PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THEY HELD PUBLIC RALLIES, MEETINGS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES TO MAKE THE CHINESE AND INDIANS ANGRY AT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MALAYS.

POLICE HAD FOUND THAT THE DAP LEADERS WERE VERY FOND OF USING ISSUES OF A RACIAL NATURE TO GET SUPPORT FOR THEIR PARTY, ACTING AS THE CHAMPIONS OF THE CHINESE AND INDIANS AND DELIBERATELY BAITING THE CHINESE AND INDIAN BASED PARTIES IN THE GOVERNMENT FOR ALLEGEDLY NOT FIGHTING FOR THE INTERESTS OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.

THIS HAD RESULTED IN THE CHINESE AND INDIAN PARTIES IN THE GOVERNMENT +REACTING+ AND TRYING TO OUTDO THE DAP IN COMMUNAL CHAMPIONING, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE COMMUNAL HEROISM EFFORTS INTENSIFIED WHEN THE DAP MANAGED TO DEFEAT SEVERAL CANDIDATES OF CHINESE BASED PARTIES IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN THE 1986 GENERAL ELECTION, AND LABELLED THESE PARTIES AS +RUNNING DOGS+ OF UMNO.

+AS A RESULT, THE CHINESE AND INDIAN BASED PARTIES IN THE BN REDOUBLED THEIR EFFORTS TO PROVE THEY TOO WERE STRONG FROM THE ASPECT OF COMMUNAL CHAUVINISM, IN FACT STRONGER THAN THE DAP AND ITS LEADERS,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE  
1824MST 28 10 87

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B E331 AAE  
PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE HOUSE THAT AMONG THE ISSUES USED IN THE +WHO IS MORE RACIAL CONTEST+ WERE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ONES LIKE THE QUESTION OF THE LION DANCE, COOPERATIVES, SIGNBOARDS AND ADVERTISEMENTS, CHINESE LANGUAGE, BUKIT CHINA AND DRESSING.

THE OTHER ISSUES INCLUDED THE PLEDGE FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN, ELECTIVE COURSES IN UNIVERSITI MALAYA, THE NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS CURRICULUM (KBSR), PRIBUMI/BUMIPUTERA ISSUE AND LATELY THE CHINESE SCHOOL TEACHERS' ISSUE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO DESCRIBED THE USING OF TEMPLES FOR RACIAL MEETINGS AS +VERY DANGEROUS+.

+IN SPEECHES MADE WHEN DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES, MANY ABUSIVE WORDS THAT WERE SEDITIOUS IN NATURE WERE UTTERED,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE REACTION FROM THE MALAYS HAD ALSO INTENSIFIED BECAUSE OF THESE FACTORS UNTIL IT REACHED AN EXTREME LEVEL. -- MORE

1848MST 28 10 87

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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE MASS MEDIA, HE SAID THE NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES WERE ALSO BECOMING BOLDER IN REPORTING AND WRITING ARTICLES THAT FANNED THE FEELINGS OF THE COMMUNITIES CONCERNED.

SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES HAD PURPOSELY ADDED TO THE INSTIGATIONS AND CIRCULATED THEM TO THE PEOPLE, HE ADDED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE PRO-COMMUNIST QUARTERS HAD NOT REMAINED QUIET AS THEY WANTED TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION.

THEY CONDUCTED THEIR INSTIGATION THROUGH BOTH LEGITIMATE AND ILLICIT ORGANISATIONS AND THERE WAS EVIDENCE TO SHOW THEY HAD OBTAINED INSPIRATION AND MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FROM EXTERNAL QUARTERS THAT DID NOT WANT TO SEE THE COUNTRY PEACEFUL AND PROGRESSIVE, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT APART FROM COMMUNIALISM, RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES WERE ALSO ANOTHER FACTOR THAT WIDENED THE GAP IN THE RELATIONS AMONG THE RACES. -- BERNAMA

1858MST 28 10 87