

U 6624 AAE MEX

RPTING PROTECTIVELY

(RPTING CORRECTING 1ST AND 3RD PARAS)***

US-MAHATHIR (EMBARGO) FOR AUTOMATIC RELEASE

AFTER 8 PM TODAY, SEPT. 30)

FROM AHMAD REJAL ARSEER

IF Trip evlusers

NEW YORK, SEPT. 30 (BERNAMA)-- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID HERE TODAY THAT MALAYSIA WILL CONTINUE TO BE A FORWARD-LOOKING PROGRESSIVE AND VIBRANT DEMOCRACY FOR A VERY LONG TIME NO MATTER WHAT THE MANY NASTY THINGS THAT HAD BEEN SAID ABOUT IT.

THE COUNTRY HAS EVER SINCE GAINING ITS INDEPENDENCE IN 1957 ALWAYS BEEN DEPICTED NEGATIVELY BUT IT CONTINUED TO BE STABLE, DEMOCRATIC AND PROSPEROUS.

ADDRESSING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS -- AN INDEPENDENT BODY COMPRISING PROMINENT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND POLITICIANS

-- HERE THIS MORNING (8 PM MST) THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER SAID IN REPORTS ABOUT MALAYSIA HERE TO BE FOLLOWED, PEOPLE WOULD BE WONDERING WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE COUNTRY.

BUT IF PEOPLE CARED TO STUDY FACTS THEMSELVES RATHER THAN LISTEN TO THE DISSRUPTED FEN, THEY WOULD SEE THAT EVERYTHING WAS IN PLACE, HE SAID.

MALAYSIA TODAY HAS NO DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE AND IT WOULD REMAIN SO -- BEING FAIR TO ALL ITS CITIZENS OF WHATEVER ETHNIC GROUP, BEING FAIR AND NEVER ANTI-FOREIGN, AND IT WOULD CONTINUE TO MANAGE ITS ECONOMY AND FINANCES WELL AND BE MODERATE IN ITS INTERNATIONAL POSTURES. -- MORE

1922HST 30 09 88

6 6390 AAE

US-MAHATHIR (EMBARGO) 2 NEW YORK

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF BACK COPIES OF MANY INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINES WERE TO BE LOOKED AT IT WOULD SEEM AS IF MALAYSIA HAD NEVER DONE WELL IN ANYTHING.

+IT HAS DESCRIBED AS OPPRESSIVE TO THE CHINESE AND INDIANS FROM THE TIME WHEN TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN WAS PRIME MINISTER RIGHT UNTIL PRESENT MOMENT.

+YET CHINESE AND INDIANS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION ARE PREPARED TO SHUGGLE THEMSELVES IN AND PAY MONEY TO BECOME PERMANENT RESIDENTS OR CITIZENS.

+MALAYSIA HAS OFTEN BEEN ACCUSED OF UNDEMOCRATIC PRACTICES BECAUSE SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN 1957 THE GOVERNMENT HAD POWER TO OBTAIN CITIZENS WITHOUT TRIAL.

+YET TODAY'S GOVERNMENT IS DESCRIBED AS UNDEMOCRATIC ALTHOUGH IT HAS RELEASED MORE DETAINEES AND USED THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT LESS FREQUENTLY THAN PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS. -- MORE

1191HST 30 09 88

R E391 AAE
US-MAHATHIR (EMBARGO) 3 NEW YORK

+THE CONCLUSION THAT CAN BE DRAWN IS THAT ANY CURRENT GOVERNMENT MUST BE WORSE THAN PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS WHATEVER THE RECORDS SHOW.

+SOME MALAYSIANS OF CHINESE AND INDIAN ORIGINS HAVE EMIGRATED BUT AS WE ALL KNOW THE CHINESE AND THE INDIANS EMIGRATE ALL THE TIME. MANY CHINESE HAVE EMIGRATED FROM CHINESE-RULED SINGAPORE, SO DO THEY FROM CHINA, HONG KONG AND TAINAN EVEN DURING THE BEST OF TIMES.+

HE SAID THAT RECENTLY THE BRITISH WEEKLY JOURNAL +ECONOMIST+ WARNED ABOUT MALAYSIAN CHINESE TAKING THEIR MONEY OUT OF MALAYSIA, BUT HONG KONG CHINESE, TAINAN CHINESE AND SINGAPORE CHINESE WERE COMING INTO MALAYSIA TO INVEST MILLIONS MORE.

+THERE IS PLENTY OF MONEY IN MALAYSIA AT THE MOMENT AND INTEREST RATES ARE VERY LOW. THE MOVEMENT OF MALAYSIAN CHINESE AND THEIR MONEY HAS BEEN GOING ON ALL THE TIME AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO GO ON IRRESPECTIVE OF WHO THE PRIME MINISTER IS.+

DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT OF LATE THERE HAD BEEN TALKS OF A TREND TOWARDS DICTATORSHIP IN MALAYSIA, MADE BY PEOPLE WHO HAD LOST THEIR BID FOR LEADERSHIP OF THE GOVERNING PARTY. -- MORE
1133NST 30 09 88

R E393 AAE
US-MAHATHIR (EMBARGO) 4 NEW YORK (RPTING)

+THE LOSERS HAVE MANAGED TO PAINT A LURID PICTURE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AS A DICTATOR IN ORDER TO WIN SUPPORT FOR THEMSELVES. THEY SUCCEEDED AND WON A BY-ELECTION RECENTLY.

+WHAT DOES THIS PROVE WHICH DICTATORSHIP ALLOWS ITSELF TO BE OPENLY VILLIFIED AND TO LOSE ELECTIONS?

+AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, DICTATORS WHO BOTHER TO HOLD ELECTIONS INVARIABLY WIN WITH 99.9 PERCENT OF THE VOTES CAST IN THEIR FAVOUR.+

HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT LATELY THE DISMISSAL OF THE LORO PRESIDENT BY THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG WAS CITED AS PROOF THAT MALAYSIA WAS MOVING TOWARDS A DICTATORSHIP.

+JUDGES MAY NOT HAVE BEEN DISMISSED BEFORE, BUT MANY JUDGES HAVE BEEN REMOVED IN THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, BRITAIN, SRI LANKA AND ELSEWHERE, SOME FOR INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT HAD NO POWER TO REMOVE A JUDGE -- MORE
1136NST 30 09 88

R E394 AAE
US-MAHATHIR (EMBARGO) 3 NEW YORK

ONLY JUDGES SITTING AS A TRIBUNAL COULD RECOMMEND THE REMOVAL OF A JUDGE TO THE KING. IN THE RECENT CASE SIX JUDGES INCLUDING TWO FROM OUTSIDE MALAYSIA MADE UP THE TRIBUNAL.

+IT IS RIDICULOUS TO SUGGEST THAT EMINENT JUDGES, PARTICULARLY FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES, WOULD ALLOW THEIR NAMES TO BE BESMIRCHED IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE INTEREST OF A PRIME MINISTER OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT MALAYSIA WAS CURRENTLY BOOMING WITH FIRST HALF OF '88 SHOWING GDP GROWTH OF NINE PERCENT.

+THE MUCH MALIGNED MINISTER OF FINANCE IS NOW DESCRIBED AS THE ARCHITECT OF THIS NIMOR ECONOMIC MIRACLE.

+OF COURSE, THE PRIME MINISTER IS STILL DESCRIBED AS A PROFLIGATE DICTATOR BENT ON BANKRUPTING THE COUNTRY.

+I DO NOT MIND WHO GETS THE CREDIT AND THE PLAUDITS. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT DESPITE ALL THE NASTY THINGS SAID ABOUT MALAYSIA IT IS STILL STABLE, DEMOCRATIC AND PROSPEROUS.+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- BERNAMA
1205NST 30 09 88