

0934

R 4477 AAE

MAHATHIR-POVERTY
FROM AHMAD REJAL ARBEE

① Trip overseas.

NEW YORK, OCT 3 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD APPEALED IN THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE SETTING UP OF A FULL TIME AND FULLY MANNED INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY TO FIGHT THE SCOURGE OF POVERTY.

IN HIS 4-MINUTE POLICY SPEECH TO THE 43RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE YESTERDAY HE SAID: +THIS CIVILIZATION OF OURS WILL BE CONDEMNED BY POSTERITY IF WE CAN PUT MAN ON THE MOON BUT WE CANNOT GIVE ENOUGH HELP TO THE NEEDY ON EARTH AT ONLY A FRACTION OF THE COST.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PEOPLE WERE ALWAYS CONCERNED OVER EXTREME DISPARITY BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR WITHIN ANY COUNTRY.

+BUT IN SOME COUNTRIES THERE IS NO DISPARITY. EVERYONE IS JUST POOR.+

HE SAID THERE WAS NOW NO NECESSITY ANY LONGER TO IMAGINE WHAT POVERTY WAS LIKE BECAUSE IT HAD NOW BEEN VIVIDLY PORTRAYED IN LIVING COLOUR WITH SOUND AND MOTION, THE EXTENT AND HORROR OF HUMAN POVERTY.

+WE SEE LIVING CHILDREN BEING LITERALLY DEVoured BY FLIES. WE SEE SKELETONS HOBLING AROUND. WE SEE PEOPLE SO ILL THAT WE WONDER HOW THEY SURVIVE AT ALL.+ -- MORE

1036HST 03 10 88

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R 5300 AAE

MAHATHIR-POVERTY 2 NEW YORK

HE SAID NATIONS OF THE WORLD HAD NO EXCUSE IN THE PRESENT DAY AND AGE TO PERMIT SUCH MISERY TO BEFALL MILLIONS OF FELLOW HUMANS WHEN +WE HAVE TO SPEND BILLIONS ON WEAPONS, ON PRESERVING THE BEAUTY OF NATURE, THE TREES AND THE FORESTS, THE RARE INSECT SPECIES AND OTHER THINGS THAT WE CLAIM WILL ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF OUR LIFE.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE RESPONSE OF MILLIONS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE TO APPEALS FOR AID TO THE SUFFERING POOR WAS LAUDABLE, +BUT THE TASK IS TOO BIG FOR AD HOC CHARITABLE EFFORTS.

+THE ANSWER WOULD LIE IN A FULL TIME AND FULLY MANNED AUTHORITY TO FIGHT AGAINST THE SCOURGE OF POVERTY.+

HE TOLD REPORTERS LATER THAT MALAYSIA WOULD BE TAKING UP ITS SUGGESTION FOR THE SETTING UP OF THE AUTHORITY AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE ORGANISATION WHICH DEALS WITH SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND CULTURAL ASPECTS.

HE SAID THAT WHILE APPRECIATING THE VOLUNTARY EFFORTS TO HELP THE IMPOVERISHED PEOPLE, HE FELT THAT THERE WAS NEED FOR A FULL TIME AGENCY SOLELY CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEM. -- MORE

1038HST 03 10 88

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R E301 AAE
MAHATHIR-POVERTY 3 NEW YORK

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER IN PASSING WHEN HE CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE 43RD ASSEMBLY, DANTE CAPUTO OF ARGENTINA, PRIOR TO HIS ADDRESS.

THE PRIME MINISTER IN HIS SPEECH TOUCHED ON VARIOUS ISSUES INCLUDING THE RELEVANCE OF THE UN ORGANISATION, AFGHANISTAN, IRAN-IRAQ WAR, RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINEANS, SOUTH AFRICA, KAMPUCHEA, ANTARCTICA, DISARMAMENT, PROTECTIONISM AND DRUG ABUSE.

ON THE UN, HE SAID THERE WAS NOW A SHIFT TOWARDS BETTER APPRECIATION OF ITS ROLE AND RELEVANCE.

HE WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT AT LONG LAST THE UN IS COMING INTO ITS OWN AND FULFILLING THE TASKS OF MOVING CONFLICTS FROM THE BATTLEFIELDS TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, HAD NEVER WAVERED IN ITS FAITH AND CONFIDENCE OF THE UN EVEN WHEN MULTILATERALISM HAS A BAD WORD WITH POWERFUL NATIONS RESORTING TO SOLVING PROBLEMS ON THEIR OWN. -- MORE
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R E302 AAE
MAHATHIR-POVERTY 4 NEW YORK

+WE ARE THEREFORE PLEASED TO WELCOME THIS CHANGE, THIS RENEWAL OF FAITH IN THE UN WHICH WE HOPE WOULD MEAN THE BIRTH OF A NEW ERA IN MULTILATERALISM.+

AS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION, HE SAID, THE UN MUST BE PERCEIVED TO BE RELEVANT IN MEETING NEEDS OF ITS MEMBERS, AS A FORUM FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY, AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND AS A CATALYST FOR PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID THAT A UNITED NATIONS FUNCTIONING AT ITS BEST WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF ALL ITS MEMBERS AND NOT MERELY TO SERVE THE INTEREST OF CERTAIN POWERS OR GROUP OF STATES. -- MORE
1111MST 03 10 88

MAHATHIR-POVERTY 5 NEW YORK

ON AFGHANISTAN, HE SAID THERE HAD TO BE COMPLETE AND FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCORD REACHED IN GENEVA BY ALL PARTIES IF AFGHANISTAN WAS TO REGAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE.

ON THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, HE HOPED THEIR RESOLVE TO WORK FOR PEACE WAS IRREVOCABLE AND THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD MARSHALL THEIR ENERGIES FOR THEIR NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.

ON THE MIDDLE EAST, HE SAID, ISRAEL MUST BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTINUED TRAGIC STATE OF AFFAIRS MERELY BECAUSE OF ISRAEL'S INTRANSIGENCE WHICH HAD DEFIED INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

HE SAID THE BEST HOPE FOR A DURABLE AND COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM LAY IN THE CONVENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST WITH PARTICIPATION OF ALL PARTIES INCLUDING THE PLO. HE CALLED ON THOSE POWERS THAT HAD BEEN THE STRONGEST SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL TO CONVINCE ISRAEL THAT ITS VITAL INTERESTS WERE BEST SERVED BY DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATIONS AT A PEACE CONFERENCE RATHER THAN BY THE HAILED FIST.

+INDEED THESE SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL MUST SHARE THE MORAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INJUSTICE AND INHUMANITY COMMITTED BY ISRAEL AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS + -- MORE
1122MST 03 10 88

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R E303 AAE
MAHATHIR-POVERTY 6 NEW YORK

ON SOUTH AFRICA, HE REITERATED MALAYSIA'S CALL FOR DECISIVE ACTION IN THE FORM OF COMPREHENSIVE MANDATORY SANCTIONS UNDER CHAPTER 7 OF THE UN CHARTER.

HE SAID MALAYSIA HAD TAKEN EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS AND THE FRONTLINE STATES TO ASSIST THEM IN COPING WITH DESTABILISATION CAUSED BY SOUTH AFRICA AND HAD PLEDGED US\$2 MILLION TO THE AFRICA FUND.

ON ANTARCTICA, HE REGRETTED THE HASTY CONCLUSION OF THE CONVENTION ON REGULATION OF ANTARCTICA MINERAL RESOURCES ACTIVITIES IN TOTAL DISREGARD OF UN RESOLUTIONS FOR A MORATORIUM ON ALL NEGOTIATIONS FOR A MINERAL REGIME UNTIL ALL UN MEMBERS COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

TOUCHING ON DISARMAMENT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE WOULD GENERATE THE NECESSARY POLITICAL WILL FOR DISARMAMENT.

+THE RESOURCES RELEASED FROM THE SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DISARMAMENT PROCESS WOULD PROVIDE A SOURCE OF MUCH NEEDED FUNDS FOR HUMANITARIAN WORK AND PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD.+ -- MORE
1126MST 03 10 88

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R ES06 AAE
MAHATHIR-POVERTY 7 NEW YORK

ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, HE SAID RESOLUTION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A FAIRER AND MORE FAVOURABLE INTERNATIONAL TRADING ENVIRONMENT, A RE-EXAMINATION OF THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, A REVIEW AND RE-ALIGNMENT OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE RATE RESERVE AND A RESOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEBT PROBLEM WOULD BE POSITIVE BEGINNINGS OF THE UN WORK PROGRAMME IN THE ECONOMIC AREA.

MALAYSIA ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE URUGUAY ROUND OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH SOUGHT TO RETAIN AN OPEN INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM AND PROMOTE INCREASED TRADE LIBERALISATION.

ASIDE FROM PROTECTIONIST TENDENCIES, THE WORLD'S TRADING NATIONS MUST AGREE ON A MORE REALISTIC AND BROAD-BASED ACTION ON THEIR CURRENCY REALIGNMENT.

AGREEMENTS CONFINED ONLY TO AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP HAD PROVEN DISASTROUS T ITEM CLOSED
1130MST 03 10 88

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R ES07 AAE
MAHATHIR-POVERTY 8 NEW YORK

THE INTERESTS OF SMALLER NATIONS WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY THEIR REPRESENTATION AT SUCH GATHERINGS WHEN ISSUES AFFECTING THEM WERE TAKEN UP, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING (ICODAIT) IN GENEVA LAST YEAR, SAID THAT NATIONS MUST HAVE THE POLITICAL WILL TO ACT IN CONCERT TO COUNTER THE DRUG PROBLEM.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, WELCOMED THE CONVENING OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE ON THE NEW CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES IN VIENNA FROM NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER THIS YEAR WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR FURTHER ACTION AGAINST ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKERS. -- BERNAHA
1132MST 03 10 88