

U E471 AAE
MAHATHIR-DEMOCRACY
FROM AHMAD REJAL ARBEE

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NEW YORK, OCT 3 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS CHIDED THE HYPOCRISY OF STRONG NATIONS FOR WILLINGLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF WEAK NATIONS WHILE THEIR SELF-APPOINTED DEMOCRATS BEMOAN THE LACK OF DEMOCRACY IN THOSE SAME WEAK STATES.

ADDRESSING THE 43RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON TUESDAY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID INEQUALITY WAS THE BANE OF HUMAN SOCIETY.

+DEMOCRACY PURPORTEDLY CHERISHED BY ALL, IS ASSOCIATED WITH EQUALITY AND EQUITABILITY,+ HE SAID.

+WHILE GOVERNMENTS ARE URGED TO BE DEMOCRATIC, IN THE AFFAIRS BETWEEN NATIONS, DEMOCRACY IS NOTICEABLY ABSENT.+

IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, THERE WAS NO EQUALITY. THE STRONGER AND THE RICHEST TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE WEAK AND POOR, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT HAPPENED NOT ONLY IN THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BUT ALSO IN THE POLITICAL SENSE.

+IDEOLOGIES AND PHILOSOPHIES AS WELL AS VALUE SYSTEMS ARE FORCED UPON WEAK NATIONS IN THE NAME OF DEMOCRACY.

+AS WITH FANATICAL RELIGIOUS PROSELYTISERS, THE SO-CALLED CHAMPIONS OF DEMOCRACY ARE NOT AVERSE TO USING UNDEMOCRATIC AND COERCIVE MEANS TO FORCE THEIR PARTICULAR BRAND OF DEMOCRACY ON THE WEAK AND POOR.

+REFUSAL TO COMPLY RESULTS IN ALL KINDS OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ARM-TWISTING,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT DEMOCRACY MUST CONFER A FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

+NO ONE HAS A MONOPOLY ON THE DEMOCRATIC TYPE THAT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE.

+CERTAINLY, NO ONE SHOULD FORCE HIS OWN CHOICE AND INTERPRETATION ON SOMEONE ELSE.

+WHILE HARSH AND EVEN VIOLENT METHODS MAY BE USED TO FORCE DICTATORSHIPS TO YIELD TO DEMOCRATIC FORCES, IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF A WORKING, PROSPEROUS DEMOCRATIC NATION IS DESTROYED BECAUSE SOME SELF-APPOINTED DEMOCRAT FELT IT WAS NOT DEMOCRATIC ENOUGH.

+THIS HOLIER THAN THOU ATTITUDE IS OUT OF TUNE WITH MODERN TIMES.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT DEMOCRACIES OF THE WEST TOOK HUNDREDS OF YEARS IN THE MAKING AND THEY SHOULD NOT EXPECT COLONIAL TERRITORIES RULED AUTOCRATICALLY FOR SEVERAL CENTURIES BY WESTERN DEMOCRACIES TO BECOME PERFECT DEMOCRACIES OVERNIGHT.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEW OF EQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY SEEMED TO BE VERY WELL RECEIVED BY DELEGATES ATTENDING THE ASSEMBLY WHO APPLAUDED HIM TWICE, ONCE WHEN HE FINISHED THE SPEECH AND AGAIN WHEN HE MOVED AWAY FROM THE ROSTRUM TO LEAVE THE CHAMBER. -- MORE

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A NUMBER OF DELEGATES LATER CAME OUT TO CONGRATULATE THE PRIME MINISTER FOR HIS FORTHRIGHT VIEWS.

HE TOLD MALAYSIAN JOURNALISTS OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER THAT A LOT OF DELEGATES WHO CONGRATULATED HIM ON THE SPEECH MENTIONED HIS REFERENCES TO EQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY.

+THEY ALSO FEEL THE PRESSURE (FROM THE RICH AND POWERFUL NATIONS).+

HE SAID THAT NATIONS HAD THE RIGHT TO FIND THEIR OWN DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AND SO LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT OPPRESSIVE OR AUTOCRATIC AND IF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE WERE HAPPY, EXCEPT FOR THE FEW MINORITY WHO WOULD NEVER BE HAPPY, THEN THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE NORMS OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSED ON OTHERS.

IN AMERICA, FOR EXAMPLE, THE IDEA OF FREEDOM EVEN GOES TO THE EXTENT OF PUBLISHING AND SELLING PORNOGRAPHIC LITERATURE AND OTHER THINGS.

+THE FACT THAT SUCH MATTER IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO US DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ARE NOT DEMOCRATIC. IF THEY WANT IT, THEY CAN KEEP IT. BUT DON'T IMPOSE ON US,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. -- BERNAMA

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