

U E794 AAE
NAM-MAHATHIR
FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN
BELGRADE, SEPT 3 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA HOPES THAT THE
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), WHICH HOLDS ITS NINTH SUMMIT MEETING
BEGINNING HERE TOMORROW, WILL AFTERWARDS BECOME MORE ACTION-ORIENTED
IN THE INTEREST OF ITS MEMBER NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT LARGE.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, WHO HEADS THE
MALAYSIAN DELEGATION TO THE FOUR-DAY SUMMIT, SAID HERE TODAY IT WAS
OBVIOUS THAT THE MOVEMENT, NOW REPRESENTING 102 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
OF THE WORLD, HAD TO UNDERGO SOME REASSESSMENTS TO MAKE IT MORE
RELEVANT.

+AFTER 28 YEARS I THINK AN ASSESSMENT HAS TO BE MADE OF THE
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT-DAY
WORLD WHICH IS NO LONGER DISTINCTLY DIVIDED BETWEEN EAST AND WEST,+
HE TOLD MALAYSIAN NEWSMEN COVERING THE CONFERENCE.

+WE WANT TO KNOW THE RELEVANCE OF THE MOVEMENT AND HOW WE CAN
PLAY A BETTER ROLE,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS MORE EASILY
SAID THAN DONE, ESPECIALLY IN A BIG FORUM LIKE NAM. -- MORE
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ON WHAT MALAYSIA HOPES TO ACHIEVE AT THE CONFERENCE, DATUK SERI
DR MAHATHIR SAID THE LEAST WAS TO AIR ITS VIEW ON NUMEROUS
INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, REGARDED NAM AS AN IMPORTANT FORUM AS IT
REPRESENTED THE MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.

+OF COURSE, WHEN WE SPEAK, WE HOPE OUR VIEWS WILL NOT ONLY BE
HEARD AT THIS FORUM BUT ALSO BY THE REST OF THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN
THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA, THE DEBT PROBLEMS OF THE POORER
NATIONS? AND THE PROBLEM OF PALESTINE AND THE DRUG PROBLEM.

HE SAID MALAYSIA WOULD DEFINITELY PUT FORWARD ITS VIEWS ON THESE
ISSUES.

IN ADDITION, THE COUNTRY WAS ALSO CONCERNED OVER WHAT HE TERMED
AS +AN ATTEMPT TO FORCE THROUGH A NEW CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
DEMOCRACY.+

THIS WAS PARTICULARLY SO AS HOST COUNTRIES WERE STILL STRUGGLING
FOR THEIR BASIC RIGHTS TO LIVE, FOR FREEDOM FROM WANT AND FOR
FREEDOM FROM INSTABILITY. -- MORE

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THE OTHER ISSUES WHICH MALAYSIA HOPES TO UNDERLINE AT THE
CONFERENCE WERE THE INCREASING PROTECTIONIST TENDENCIES BY THE
DEVELOPED WORLD AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE NAM MEMBER COUNTRIES AND
THE EXCLUSIVITY OF THE GROUP OF SEVEN IN RESPECT OF ITS DECISIONS
WHICH AFFECT THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED MALAYSIA'S ELECTION AS ONE
OF THE EIGHT VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE CONFERENCE FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC
REGION AS AN HONOUR FOR THE COUNTRY.

+WE LIKE TO SERVE IN THAT CAPACITY AND WE HOPE THAT WE WILL BE
ABLE TO TAKE PART IN GUIDING NAM INTO ACHIEVING ITS GOALS,+ HE SAID.

ON HIS SCHEDULED BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH SEVERAL HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT DURING HIS STAY HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE
MEETINGS WOULD BE USEFUL AS MALAYSIA WAS INTERESTED IN HEARING THEIR
VIEWS ON ANTARCTICA, THE GREEN HOUSE EFFECT, THE QUESTION OF THE
OZONE LAYER AND THE GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION. -- BERNAHA

2015MST 03 no 89