

U E979 AAE

NAM - MAHATHIR

FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

BELGRADE9 SEPT 4 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

TODAY CAUTIONED THIRD WORLD LEADERS OVER WHAT HE SAW AS +A DISTINCT ATTEMPT+ TO RELEGATE THE UNITED NATIONS TO AN INFERIOR ROLE AND THE FORMATION OF NEW AND EXCLUSIVE FORA TO EXCLUDE THE PARTICIPATION OF POOR NATIONS.

CITING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP OF SEVEN AS AN EXAMPLE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GROUP OF RICH NATIONS HAD TAKEN IT UPON THEMSELVES TO REGULATE THE WORLD ECONOMY AND FINANCES RESULTING IN SUFFERINGS AMONG THE POOR NATIONS.

+ONE RESULT IS THAT COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA HAVE HAD THEIR DEBTS DOUBLED BY THE UPWARD REVISION OF THE YEN WE BORROWED,+ HE SAID IN HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE NINTH CONFERENCE OF THE HEADS OF STATE OF GOVERNMENTS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT HERE.

A TOTAL OF 102 PRESIDENTS, PRIME MINISTERS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES FROM DEVELOPING, COUNTRIES WHICH MAKE UP ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLDS POPULATION ARE ATTENDING THE FOUR-DAY CONFERENCE DECLARED OPEN THIS MORNING BY THE YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT9 DR JANEZ DRNOVSEK.

ALOS PRESENT ARE OBSERVERS FROM OTHER NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE INTENTIONS OF THE GROUP OF SEVEN WAS TO REDUCE JAPANESE EXPORTS, THE POOR NATIONS LIKE MALAYSIA HAD TO PAY THE PRICE. -- MORE

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AT THE SAME TIME, JAPAN HAD NOT BEEN MADE LESS COMPETITIVE BY THE YEN REVALUATION9 HE SAID.

+INDEED, IT IS NOW TWICE AS RICH AND IS BUYING UP BUSINESSES AND PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE OTHER SIX,+ HE ADDED.'

DESCRIBING THE WHOLE STATE OF AFFAIRS AS +POETIC JUSTICE+, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WARNED THAT THE TERMS OF TRADE WERE NOT GETTING ANY BETTER FOR THE THIRD WORLD.

PROTECTIONISM AND UNFAIR TRADING METHODS, HE SAID, WERE CREATING HAVOC WITH THE ECONOMIES OF THE POOR.

+WHILE SUBSIDIES BY THE THIRD WORLD MAY RESULT IN COUNTERVAILING DUTIES BY THE RICH, THEY THEMSELVES SUBSIDIES THEIR INDUSTRIES TO THE POINT WHERE OVERPRODUCTION IS ENCOURAGED AND THE MARKETS BECOME SATURATED,+ HE SAID.

+CONSEQUENTLY THE PRODUCTS OF THE POOR NATIONS HAVE BECOME INSALEABLE. SURPLUS FOOD IS USED TO DEPRIVE POOR COUNTRIES OF THEIR MARKETS,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO WAS THE THIRD SPEAKER TO TAKE THE FLOOR AT THE OPENING DAY OF THE CONFERENCE AFTER PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA AND PRESIDENT CHADLI BENJEDID OF ALGERIA, SAID THAT IT WAS THE DUTY OF EVERY NAM MEMBER NATION TO ENSURE THAT THE REVITALISATION OF THE UN WAS COMPLETED.

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HE SAID: **+THERE** CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT BUT FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE UN WE WOULD NOT SEE THE MORE PEACEFUL WORLD THAT WE ARE SEEING TODAY+.

+THE IRAN-IRAQ **WAR**, THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN, THE SOUTH AFRICAN RECALCITRANCE OF NAMIBIA, THE DISRUPTIONS OF SEVERAL AFRICAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND THE PROBLEMS IN ASIA WOULD NOT BE RESOLVED OR REDUCED BUT FOR THE **UN+**, HE EXPLAINED.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE LEADERS: **+WE** HAVE A DUTY TO STRENGTHEN THE UN AS THE SOLE **INSTRUMENT** FOR ESTABLISHING A MORE EQUITABLE AND JUST WORLD SOCIETY. WE MUST NOT ALLOW EXCLUSIVE ORGANISATIONS TO TAKE OVER.+

DURING THE 20-MINUTE SPEECH, THE PRIME **MINISTRER** ALSO TOUCHED ON THE PROBLEM OF **ENVIRONMENT**, HUMAN **RIGHTS**, THE **PENANISSUE**, KAMPUCHEA9 THE CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY9 THE DEBT PROBLEMS AND HIS PERCEPTION OF NAM'S NEW ROLE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT-DAY WORLD.

ON THE QUESTION OF **ENVIRONMENT**, HE SAID IT WAS NOW MADE INTO A TRADE WEAPON.

+THE THINNING OF THE OZONE LAYER IS BLAMED ON LOGGING OF TROPICAL FORESTS. THE FACT THAT THE BURNING OF THE FOSSIL FUELS AND RELEASE OF CFC INTO THE ATMOSPHERE OCCUR LARGELY IN THE RICH COUNTRIES ARE SIGNIFICANTLY **IGNORED+**, HE SAID.

ALSO IGNORED, HE ADDED, WAS 'THE LOGGING OF VAST TRACTS OF TEMPERATE FORESTS WHICH WAS STILL GOING ON DESPITE THE FACT THAT MILLIONS OF SQUARE MILES OF TEMPERATE FORESTS HAD ALREADY BEEN CLEARED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE RICH COUNTRIES OVER THE CENTURIES. --
MORE

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REMINDING THE CONFERENCE OF THE FACT THAT IN THE DESERTS OF AMERICA! UNDERGROUND WATER IS BEING PUMPED UP TO WATER GOLF COURSES AND CREATE LAKES TO BUILD LUXURY HOTELS, HE SAID: +YET THE WATER CAN EASILY REAFFOREST THE DESERTS TO REDUCE THE GASES WHICH DESTROY THE OZONE LAYER AS WELL AS CREATING THE GREEN HOUSE EFFECTS.+

+INSTEAD, POOR COUNTRIES ARE BEING FORCED NOT TO EXTRACT WEALTH FROM THEIR FORESTS IN ORDER TO KEEP THE ENVIRONMENT SAFE FOR THE RICH,+ HE ADDED.

ON HUMAN RIGHTS, HE REGRETTED THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAD NOW APPOINTED THEMSELVES THE ARBITER OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE.

IN -THE NAME OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THEY HAVE APPLIED ALL KINDS OF PRESSURES ON COUNTRIES UNABLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.

EVERY NOW AND AGAIN, NEW FORMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WERE INVENTED AND ANY COUNTRY FOUND DEFAULTING WAS SUBJECTED TO VILE PUBLICITY AND OTHER REPRESSIVE MEASURES.

+HAVING BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLING AND TORTURE OF MILLIONS IN THE PAST, THEY NOW ADOPT A HOLIER THAN THOU ATTITUDE AND WANT TO IMPOSE THEIR NEW-FOUND IDEAS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE REST OF THE WORLD+, HE CHIDED. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD THE CONFERENCE THAT IN MALAYSIA! A CAMPAIGN WAS BEING WAGED BY OUTSIDERS TO FORCE A PRIMITIVE JUNGLE TRIBE, THE PENANS, TO REMAIN PRIMITIVE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS IS THEIR RIGHT.

THAT THESE PEOPLE LIVE A MISERABLE LIFE, WITHOUT THE AMENITIES THAT OTHER MALAYSIANS ENJOY WAS NOT GIVEN ANY THOUGHT, HE SAID.

+THE OUTSIDERS WANT TO RETAIN THE SO CALLED PICTURESQUE WAY OF LIFE OF THESE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE FOREVER. THEY ARE ,TO REMAIN MUSEUM PIECES,+ HE SAID.

ON THE FOREIGN DEBT PROBLEMS FACED BY MANY NAM MEMBER COUNTRIES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE ONLY REAL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS WAS TO WRITE-OFF THE WHOLE OR VERY NEARLY THE WHOLE OF THE DEBTS OWING.

+THE LENDERS MUST ADMIT THEY WERE INDISCREET AND MUST PAY FOR IT.+

+COMMERCIAL BANKS AND GOVERNMENTS ALIKE MUST ACCEPT THE LOSSES. THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE RICH COUNTRIES WILL NOT BE BANKRUPT BECAUSE OF THE WRIT-OFF. AND THEIR BANKS CAN STILL BE REHABILITATED,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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