

Strive for a just world together, PM tells nations

By V.K. Chin

BELGRADE, Mon — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called on the non-aligned nations to present a united front to strive for a more just and equitable world.

"We must be free to choose our own way of managing our internal affairs without outside interference," the Prime Minister told the 9th Non-aligned Summit.

At Dr. M's overseas trip.
"We must not allow ourselves to be harassed by crusading movements which have now taken over where their governments have become unacceptable."

He said no one should have a monopoly on refining the definition of rights and wrongs and free people must be free to refine and redefine basic values themselves.

In his 14-page speech Dr Mahathir also touched

on the debt problem, human rights and south-south cooperation.

In the past 28 years, he said vast changes had taken place in the political and economic fronts.

He said the East-West confrontation was over with the elimination of some nuclear weapons and the reduction of some conventional ones.

On the economic front, however, he said there were disturbing trends to-

wards consolidation of the developed countries into powerful trading blocs.

But at the same time the centrally-planned socialist countries were moving away from political affinities in favour of economic benefits, he said.

On the debt situation faced by the developing world, Dr Mahathir said these poor nations could never repay their loans without surrendering their

independence.

He said the lender was equally to blame as he had made an imprudent loan and must therefore pay for his indiscretion.

"The only real solution to the debt crisis is to write off the whole or very nearly the whole of the debts owing," he suggested.

"The lenders must admit they were indiscreet and must pay for it. Commercial banks and governments alike must accept

5 SEP 1989

the losses.

"The governments of the rich countries will not be go bankrupt because of the write-off. And their banks can still be rehabilitate&"

On human rights, the Prime Minister said people were all for human rights and for democracy but these must begin with the right to be free from hunger & disease, malnutrition and illiteracy.

He said: "Human rights

● TURN TO PAGE 7

Western
democrats
stay
out: PM

● FROM PAGE ONE

as defined by the West is meaningless if there is no roof over our heads, no food on our tables and no schools for our children.

"The Western liberals must understand that we cannot practise their brand of democracy and human rights overnight. Nor do we want a carbon copy in their own image."

Dr Mahathir said countries which for thousands of years had only known authoritarian rule could not become democratic overnight.

Sudden freedom, he said, would result in disruptions, which in turn would retard the progress towards a more liberal and open society.

He said the liberal democrats of the West should cease trying to force the pace and should let the people concerned to work things out for themselves.

"Unfortunately, instigations by the liberal democrats of the West have already resulted in bloodshed and retardation of the progress of some countries," he said.

On south-south co-operation, he said a commission to look into ways of solving the problems of the poor countries through co-operation had had already been formed.

He said: "We have if nothing else, our huge populations which can be harnessed for our development rather than being only migrant workers in the north.

"Some labour-intensive industries should be relocated in the south to provide employment and contribute to their economic growth. Induced brain drain to the north should be stopped."