

**D102**

U E928 AAE  
CHOGM-MAHATHIR R'R'R'  
(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 1130 HOURS, OCT 18)

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 18 (BERNAMA) -- THE COMMONWEALTH, IF IT IS TO REMAIN RELEVANT, MUST PROVIDE SOME OF THE ANSWERS TO THE GLOBAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENT AND DRUG PROBLEMS, THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, SAID TODAY.

HE NOTED THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS PROMISE, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE WAR, A BROADBASED AND AN UNPRECEDENTED AGENDA FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

+HOWEVER, LESS HEARTENING IS THAT WE ENTER THE NEXT DECADE WITH THE ECONOMIC ISSUES OF THE EIGHTIES UNRESOLVED. AND, EQUALLY DISHEARTENING, APARTHEID IS STILL WITH US, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

OPENING THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM), DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +THESE TRENDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES PROVIDE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES WHICH DEMAND NEW RESPONSES FOR US.

+THE COMMONWEALTH, IF IT IS TO REMAIN RELEVANT, MUST PROVIDE SOME OF THE ANSWERS. THE KUALA LUMPUR CONFERENCE, I HOPE, WILL GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK FOR THEM+. -- MORE  
1020MST 18 10 8 9

**D103**

U E929 AAE  
CHOGH-HAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

ON THE SUPERPOWER DETENTE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR INJECTED A NOTE OF CAUTION, SAYING: +WE CANNOT ASSUME THAT AS THEY RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES,

OUR INTERESTS ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD, WILL NOT BE SACRIFICED. WE MUST BE MINDFUL OF THIS. :

+WE MUST BE ABLE TO FORECAST AND TO PRE-EMPT. PEACE WILL CARRY A COST. THAT COST MUST BE EQUITABLY SHARED+.

ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +WE ARE AGREED THAT APARTHEID MUST BE ELIMINATED. THE CORRECT SIGNAL MUST BE SENT TO THE RACIST REGIME IN SOUTH AFRICA.

+SANCTIONS WORK. DO NOT BE DELUDED INTO BELIEVING THAT THE SMALL CHANGES WE ARE SEEING THERE IS DUE TO A SUDDEN FLOWERING OF HUMANITARIAN FEELINGS.

+CONCERN FOR THE EFFECT OF SANCTIONS ON THE BLACKS IS MISPLACED. CONSEQUENTLY, SANCTIONS MUST ONLY CONTINUE BUT MUST BE ESCALATED. INVESTMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS TO RACIST SOUTH AFRICA MUST BE COMPLETELY

STOPPED,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
1022MST 18 10 8 9

0107

U E930 AAE  
CHOGM-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE INDEPENDENCE PLAN FOR NAMIBIA IS PARTLY

AT LEAST THE RESULT OF SANCTIONS.

CONTROL OVER NAMIBIA WOULD BE GRUDGINGLY SURRENDERED AND EVERY OPPORTUNITY EXPLOITED TO FRUSTRATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN.

HE CALLED FOR VIGILANCE 'SO THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA DID NOT OBSCURE THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF APARTHEID.

+WE MUST NOT ALLOW THE RACIST PRETORIA REGIME TO DEFLECT US, + HE SAID.

+THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEMOCRATIC, TRULY NON-RACIAL, UNITARY AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA MUST REMAIN THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

+WE MUST NOT THINK OF SETTLING OLD SCORES. WHITES, BLACKS AND COLOURED

MUST LIVE TOGETHER IN AMITY. +

ON WEST ASIA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED THAT THE CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENT WHICH WAS NOW IN PLACE, WOULD LEAD TO AN END TO BLOODSHED

HE SAID THAT THE PALESTINIANS CONTINUE TO BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR HOMELAND.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH ISRAELI SECURITY MIGHT BE IMPORTANT, +WE MUST

CONSIDER ALSO THE SECURITY OF ITS ARAB NEIGHBOURS AND THE FATE OF THE PALESTINIANS. + -- MORE

1031MST 18 10 89

D108

U E931 AAE  
CHOGM-MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

+STATE TERRORISM AS FRACTISED BY ISRAEL IS AS DESPICABLE AS ANY KIND OF TERRORISM AND MUST BE STOPPED.

+THERE CANNOT BE PEACE AND SECURITY WITHOUT JUSTICE,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED.

TURNING TO AFGHANISTAN, HE DEPLORED THE FACT THAT THOUSANDS OF ITS PEOPLE CONTINUED TO LIVE IN REFUGEE CAMPS.

HE ALSO CALLED FOR GREATER EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM BEFORE IT DEGENERATED INTO ANOTHER BLOODY CIVIL WAR.

TOUCHING ON THE WORLD ECONOMIC SCENE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE RICH COUNTRIES HAD APPARENTLY GANGED UP AGAINST THE POOR, ARROGATED TO THEMSELVES THE RIGHT TO DIRECT WORLD TRADE AND MANIPULATED CURRENCIES TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

+SUBSIDIES, QUOTAS, TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS BY THE RICH HAVE DISTORTED COSTS AND SUPPLIES WORLDWIDE. NOW ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS ARE TO BE USED TO HAMPER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1033tIST 18 10 89

D110

U E933 AAE  
CHOGM-MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

ON THE QUESTION OF POVERTY, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE RESPONSE BY THE COMMONWEALTH COULD NOT BE ASSISTANCE ALONE. THE LINKAGES OF POVERTY TO DEBT AND TRADE -- AND EVEN TO THE ENVIRONMENT -- MUST BE RECOGNISED AND ADDRESSED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE DEBT BURDEN OF THE POOR WAS GETTING HEAVIER. AN UNACCEPTABLY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THEIR GNP WAS SPENT TO SERVICE DEBTS, RESULTING IN A REVERSAL OF THE NET FLOW OF FUNDS BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR, AND FOR THE POOREST THE SITUATION WAS HOPELESS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE AFRICAN DEBT PROBLEM CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE AND WAS LARGELY UNNOTICED.

THIS WAS BECAUSE THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED DID NOT OWE ENOUGH TO POSSE A THREAT TO THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: + WHAT WE NEED IS A BOLD FINANCIAL INITIATIVE. SUCH A PLAN WILL HAVE TO RECOGNISE THAT EXISTING DEBTS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ARE NOT WORTH THEIR FULL VALUE AND THAT MOST AFRICAN DEBTORS

CANNOT SUSTAIN FULL DEBT-SERVICING.+ -- MORE  
1039MST 18 10 89

D111

U E934 A A E  
CHOGH-HAHATHIR 6 KUALA LUHPUR

**+MAKING** DEBT-SLAVES OF WHOLE NATIONS IS WORSE THAN THE INHUMAN PRACTICE OF DEBT-SLAVERY IN THE PAST. THOSE WHO CAN MUST PAY BUT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO TRULY CANNOT.+

DATUK SERI DR HAHATHIR SAID THAT ANOTHER DIMENSION OF THE PROBLEM WAS THE INCREASING ATTEMPT BY THE GROUP OF SEVEN (HOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES) TO INTERFERE DECISIVELY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL AND TRADING SYSTEM.

**+THEIR** DECISIONS TO REALIGN CURRENCIES HAVE NOT ONLY SEVERELY AFFECTED THE DEBT-SERVICING BURDEN OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BUT ALSO THE RESOURCES AND THEIR GROWTH PROSPECTS,+ DATUK SERI DR HAHATHIR SAID. HE SAID PROBLEMS OF DEBT AND POVERTY-CANNOT BE OVERCOME WHILE SIGNIFICANT DISPARITY EXISTED BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC GROWTH RATES OF THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

**DEVELOPING** COUNTRIES NEEDED BETTER ACCESS TO MARKETS AND MORE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TO PROVIDE THE MEANS AND THE CAPACITY TO SERVICE THEIR DEBTS, **THE PRIME MINISTER** SAID. -- MORE  
1041MST 18 10 89

D112

U E935 A A E  
CHOGH-HAHATHIR 7 KUALA LUHPUR

HE SAID FOR WORLD TRADE TO **GROW**, THE PRINCIPLES OF AN OPEN AND FAIR MULTI-LATERAL TRADING AND PAYMENT SYSTEMS MUST BE UPHOLD.

**+WHILE** WE TRY TO REDUCE TARIFF BARRIERS AND STIMULATE GLOBAL TRADE, WE ARE NOW THREATENED **BY** A DISCERNABLE INCREASE IN NON-TARIFF **BARRIERS**,+ DATUK SERI DR HAHATHIR SAID.

**+FURTHER** THE FOCUS HAS SHIFTED FROM FREE TRADE TO FAIR TRADE. **INDUSTRIALISED** COUNTRIES ARE INCREASINGLY **DEMANDING** RECIPROCITY EVEN AS THEY DENY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TARIFF CONCESSIONS AND PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.+

ON **ENVIRONMENT**, DATUK SERI DR HAHATHIR SAID **ITS** DEGRADATION COULD NO LONGER BE IGNORED AND URGENT SOLUTIONS SHOULD BE FOUND. -- MORE  
1043MST 18 10 89

**D113**

U E936 AAE  
CHOGM-MAHATHIR 8 KUALA LUMPUR

**+UNFORTUNATELY,+HE SAID,+MANY** DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SEEM INTENT ON LAYING THE **BLAME** FOR THE WORLD'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ON THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

**+YET** BY ANY MEASURE, IT IS THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE MOST ASSAILED OUR ENVIRONMENT. NUCLEAR TESTING, **EXCESSIVE** USE OF FOSSIL FUELS, PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION, RELEASE OF CFC INTO THE **ATMOSPHERE,** MASSIVE UASTAGE OF **PAPER,** TOXIC CHEMICAL DISPOSAL= ALL THESE AND MORE ARE THE DIRECT RESULT OF THE LIFE-STYLE OF THE RICH.+.

DATUK **SERI** DR MAHATHIR SAID POVERTY CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL **DECLINE,** BUT IT WAS -ONLY BECAUSE THE POOR COULD NOT HELP THEMSELVES.. **IF** THEY WERE DENIED THE FEW RESOURCES THEY **HAD,** THEY WERE GOING TO **BECOME** POORER AND WOULD CAUSE EVEN GREATER ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION.

**+ON** THE OTHER HAND THE RICH CAN AFFORD NOT ONLY TO REDUCE THEIR WASTE GENERATING LIFE-STYLE BUT CAN EXPAND **MORE** ON REAFFORESTATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND THEY HAD WRESTED FROM THEIR FORESTS. WITH THEIR **TECHNOLOGY** AND THEIR **WEALTH** THEY CAN ACTUALLY MAKE MILLIONS OF ACRES OF DESERTS BLOOM,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
**1045MST 18 10 89**

**D114**

U E937 AAE  
CHOGM-MAHATHIR 9 KUALA LUMPUR

**UNFORTUNATELY,** ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE ONLY BLAMING THE POOR COUNTRIES 'AND' ARE SEEKING TO FORCE THEM TO SLOW DOWN THEIR DEVELOPMENT IN THE INTEREST OF **RESTORING** THE ENVIRONMENT WHICH THE RICH HAD-POLLUTED.+

DATUK **SERI** DR MAHATHIR SAID THE COMMONWEALTH COULD HELP BY **BRINGING** SOME SANITY AND BALANCE TO THE CURRENT DEBATE.  
**+UE ALL MUST** SHARE THE BURDEN OF KEEPING OUR ENVIRONMENT **LIVABLE,** BUT THE SHARING MUST BE FAIR AND IN ACCORD WITH THE MEANS AT THE DISPOSAL OF EACH OF US. THE POOR MUST NOT BE MADE TO PAY FOR THE PAST AND PRESENT SINS OF THE RICH.+

THE PRIME **MINISTER** SAID ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH TRANSCENDED NATIONAL BOUNDARIES AND **WHICH** REQUIRED A GLOBAL APPROACH WAS THE DRUG PROBLEM. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT MALAYSIA MADE NO APOLOGY FOR THE SEVERITY OF ITS PUNISHMENT FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS. -- MORE  
**1046MST 18 10 89**

**D115**

U E938 AAE  
CHOGM-MAHATHIR 10 KUALA LUMPUR

+WE SEE TODAY HOW VERY SERIOUS THE PROBLEM CAN BECOME,+ HE SAID. +  
WHOLE

GOVERNMENTS ARE BEING THREATENED9 SUBVERTED AND CORRUPTED BY THE DRUG  
TRAFFICKERS. ALONE **MANY NATIONS** MAY JUST GO **UNDER,+** HE SAID.

**+ONLY** A COMBINED AND COORDINATED ANTI-DRUG TRAFFICKING WAR BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN HOPE TO DEFEAT THIS EVIL AND PROP UP GOVE  
RNMENTS

AGAINST THE VIOLENT ASSAULTS BY THE MERCHANTS OF DEATH.+

DATUK SERI **DR** HAHATHIR REITERATED THAT AN ALL-OUT GLOBAL WAR MUST  
B E

WAGED WITH ALL THE HONEY AND FORCES AVAILABLE

**+THE** COST **WILL** BE **HIGH,** BUT THE PRICE **WE WILL** HAVE TO PAY IF THE **D**  
RUG

MENACE PREVAILS WILL BE FAR **HIGHER,+** HE SAID.

**+EXTRADITION,** CONFISCATION OF ALL PROCEEDS FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING A  
ND

SEVERE PUNISHMENT FOR TRAFFICKERS MUST BE UNIVERSAL.+

DATUK SERI **DR** HAHATHIR HAD A SPECIAL WORD FOR **QUEEN ELIZABETH9 WHO**  
IS

HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH. -- MORE

1048HST **18** 10 89

**D116**

U E939 AAE  
CHOGM-MAHATHIR **11** KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE MALAYSIAN **GOVERNMENT** AND THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA WERE  
GREATLY HONOURED BY HER ACCEPTANCE OF MALAYSIA'S INVITATION TO MAKE A  
STATE

VISIT TO THE COUNTRY **IMMEDIATELY** BEFORE CHOGH.

**+SHE** HAS WON THE HEARTS OF EVERYONE OF US BY HER FRIENDLINESS AND  
**CHARM,+** HE SAID.

HE **SAID** HER PRESENCE IN **MALAYSIA** MAKES **THE COMMONWEALTH** THAT MUCH  
MORE

COHESIVE AND MEANINGFUL. -- 'BERNAMA

1049HST 18 10 89