

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 24 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR HAH
ATHIR
MOHAMAD TODAY HIT OUT AT CRITICS WHO ACCUSE MALAYSIA OF OPPRESSING TH
E

PENANS, SAYING THAT IT WAS TIME WESTERNERS REALISED THAT THE ERA OF
SHOULDERING THE +WHITE MAN'S BURDEN+ IN THE EAST HAD PASSED..

THE PRIME MINISTER, SPEAKING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE CLOSE OF
THE
WEEK-LONG COHONUEALTH SUHIT HERE, CITED THE PENANS ISSUE AS ONE OF
THE
ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNS IN THE WEST WHICH +IMPINGED+ ON A
COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR HAHATHIR WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER HE WAS
S
SATISFIED/WITH THE COHONWEALTH'S LANGKAWI DECLARATION ON THE ENVIRON
MENT
WHICH WAS A +WATERED DOWN+ VERSION COMPARED TO THE STRONGER STAND ON
THE
ISSUE HE MADE IN HIS OPENING SPEECH AT THE SUHIT.

HE SAID HE PERSONALLY WOULD HAVE PREFERED A STRONGER DECLARATION,
BUT
UNDERSTOOD THAT THE VIEWS OF OTHER LEADERS ON THE ENVIRONMENT ALSO HA
D TO BE
CONSIDERED AND INCORPORATED IN THE EN-D RESULT.

+THIS DOES NOT PREVENT US FROM PUSHING OUR LINE IN OTHER FORUMS,+
HE
SAID, ADDING THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE LANGKAWI DECLARATION BECA
USE IT
VOICED THE NEED FOR BALANCED RESPONSIBILITY BY BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEV
ELOPING
COUNTRIES. -- MORE
2021HST 24 10 89

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U E092 AAE OAN LIB
CHOGH-HAHATHIR (PENANS) 2 KUALA LUHPUR

REFERRING TO A RECENT FOREIGN BROADCAST ON THE PENANS AND ON
SELF-PROFESSED PENAN CHAMPION, SWISS FUGITIVE BRUNO MANSER, DATUK SER
I DR

HAHATHIR SAID THAT HANSER WAS A +RELIC OF THE PAST.+

HE SAID THE +ROMANTIC+ NOTIONS ABOUT PRESERVING THE +PRIVILEGED+ P
ENAN

WAY OF LIFE HAD TO BE DISPELLED.

+THE PENANS LIVE IN THE JUNGLE, DEPRIVED OF MEDICAL CARE WITH A LI
FE
EXPECTANCY OF 40 YEARS COMPARED TO THE 60 YEARS FOR OTHER MALAYSIANS,
+ HE

SAID. +THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A PRIVILEGE FOR THEM?+

HE SAID IT SEEMED THAT THOSE WHO CHAMPIONED THE PENAN CAUSE WERE
CONDEHNING THEM TO A LIFE OF DISEASE AND A SHORTER LIFE SPAN. +THE QU
ESTION

WE HAVE TO ASK OURSELVES IS HOW LONG YOU WANT TO KEEP THEM IN THAT ST
ATE.

UNTIL THE YEAR 2000, 2100, OR 2500?+

+WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THE WESTERN PEOPLE ... SUPPOSING SOME
ALIEN FROM OUTER SPACE HAD COME TO EUROPE IN YEAR AD1 AND FOUND THEM
ALL

LIVING IN THE CAVES AND THOSE ALIENS HAD SAID LOOK, IT IS VERY ROMANTI
C TO

HAVE THESE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE CAVES AND WEARING SKINS AND THEY SHOU
LD BE

PRESERVED?+ -- MORE

2033MST 24 10 89

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U E094 AAE OAN LIB
CHOGM-MAHATHIR(PENANS) 3 KUALA LUHPUR

+THEN OF COURSE, WE WOULD NOT HAVE THIS PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY BECAUSE YOU WOULD ALL BE WEARING SKINS AND WOULD NOT KNOW HOW TO OPERATE ALL THESE NICE GADGETS,+ HE SAID, POINTING TO THE TELEVISION CAMERAS TRAINED ON HIM.

+FORTUNATELY, THERE WERE NO ALIENS, AND WE WERE NOT CIVILISED AND ADVENTUROUS ENOUGH TO GO TO EUROPE AT THAT TIME TO TELL YOU TO PRESERVE YOUR NATURAL STATE BECAUSE IT IS SO ROMANTIC,+ HE SAID TO LAUGHTER FROM THE

200 JOURNALISTS AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIANS WERE CAPABLE OF CARRYING THEIR OWN BURDENS. +WE KNOW WHAT WE WANT TO DO FOR OURSELVES,+ HE SAID.

+WE DO NOT NEED ANYMORE EUROPEANS WHO THINK THEY HAVE THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN TO SHOULDER. WE CAN SHOULDER OUR OWN BURDEN,+ HE SAID.

+DON'T TRY AND PUT A HUMAN FACE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION BY BRINGING UP MINORITY ISSUES BECAUSE IF I WERE TO DISCUSS ABOUT MINORITY

ISSUES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THERE ARE MANY THINGS I CAN SAY WHICH WILL NOT BE

VERY POPULAR WITH THESE COUNTRIES WHICH CONDEMN US FOR THE PENANS,+ HE

ADDED. -- BERNAHA

2037HST 24 10 89

U E094 AAE OAN LIB