

CHOGM-MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 24 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID
TODAY THE KUALA LUMPUR STATEMENT ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE LANGKAWI
DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT ARE TWO HIGH POINTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT
HERE.

THE LANGKAWI DECLARATION A MALAYSIAN INITIATIVE! SAW FOR THE FIRST
TIME DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE CLOSE OF
THE
WEEK-LONG COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING HERE.

ALSO PRESENT WAS COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL SIR SHRIDATH RAMPHAL,
WHO IS STEPPING DOWN NEXT JUNE.

POINTING OUT THAT MALAYSIA IS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL
ISSUE, HE SAID HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THERE WAS A BALANCE BETWEEN THE
VIEWS
OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON THE ISSUE.

+I FEEL VERY STRONGLY ON THE CAMPAIGN ON ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY
THOSE IMPINGING ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA,+ HE SAID, ADDING
THAT THE TREND WAS TO LAY THE BLAME ON +ANYTHING DIRTY,+ OR CAUSES OF
POLLUTION, ON THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITHOUT GIVING THESE COUNTRIES

A
CHANCE TO HAVE THEIR SAY. -- MORE
1956MST 24 10 89

0497

U E082 AAE OAN LIB DHC

CHOGM-HAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE CONCEDED THAT THE LANGKAWI DECLARATION WAS +WATERED DOWN+ WHEN
COMPARED WITH HIS STATEMENT AT THE OPENING OF THE MEETING LAST WEDNESDAY,
WHERE HE SAID THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
ENVIRONMENTAL WOES OF TODAY.

BUT, HE SAID, AT A CONFERENCE LIKE THE COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT, A BALANCE
HAD TO BE STRUCK BETWEEN ALL VIEWS, AS WAS REFLECTED IN THE LANGKAWI
DECLARATION.

THE CONFERENCE! DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, DEVOTED EQUAL TIME TO
DISCUSSION ON APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA AS ON THE ENVIRONMENT, WHERE
+WE
ARE AGREED ON PRACTICALLY ALMOST EVERYTHING.+

THE OTHER HIGH POINT, ON SANCTIONS TO END APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA,
HE SAID AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, ONLY THE KL STATEMENT ON +SOUTHERN
AFRICA: THE WAY AHEAD+ WAS THE REPRESENTATIVE STAND OF CHOGM, AND NOT
ANY
OTHER STATEMENT.

HE DESCRIBED BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER'S SEPARATE
STATEMENT ON THE SANCTIONS AND APARTHEID AS +UNFORTUNATE.+

+I BELIEVE THAT WHEN YOU ARE MARCHING, AND EVERYBODY IS PUTTING OUT
THE LEFT FOOT AND YOU PUT OUT THE RIGHT FOOT, THEN YOU ARE OUT OF STEP
I CAN'T SAY MORE THAN THAT,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
1958MST 24 10 89

D498

U E084 AAE OAN LIB DHC

CHOGM-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA HAD +ALWAYS BEEN VERY STRONG IN WANTING TO END+ WHITE MINORITY RULE IN PRETORIA. REITERATING THAT THE COMMONWEALTH WAS +VERY SERIOUS+ ON THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE ENVIRONMENT HE SAID THE COMMONWEALTH WAS +QUITE INFLUENTIAL+ IN THAT ITS CALL FOR SANCTIONS TO END APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA WAS TAKEN UP BY SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. +THE COMMONWEALTH IS NOT A GENTEEL CLUB FOR PEOPLE WHO SPEAK ENGLISH,+ HE ADDED. ASKED FOR THE +LOW POINT+ OF THE SUMMIT, HE SAID: +YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS'... I DON'T HAVE TO SAY THAT.+ ON THE REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM WERE FREE TO REPATRIATE THOSE WHO WERE DETERMINED TO BE NOT GENUINE REFUGEES. MALAYSIA HE SAID, WOULD NOT WANT TO BE SADDLED WITH THE +RESIDUAL PROBLEM -- BOAT PEOPLE UNSUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING RESETTLEMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES -- AND THE REMNANTS WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK TO VIETNAM AFTER THE RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES HAD MADE THEIR SELECTIONS -- MORE

2000MST 24 10 89

D500

UE086 AAE OAN LIB DHC

CHOGM-MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR (LAST)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT IN A BREAK WITH COMMONWEALTH TRADITION HE WOULD REMAIN AS CHOGM CHAIRMAN OF A HIGH-LEVEL APPRAISAL GROUP TO CONSIDER NEW ROLES AND PATTERN OF COOPERATION FOR THE COMMONWEALTH IN THE 1990S AND BEYOND. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ARE AUSTRALIA, BAHAMAS, BRITAIN, CANADA, INDIA, NIGERIA, SINGAPORE AND ZAMBIA. ON THE COMMONWEALTH CONCERN FOR THE SECURITY OF SMALL STATES, HE SAID THEY WERE NOT THINKING OF A COMMONWEALTH DEFENCE PACT LIKE THE FIVE-POWER DEFENCE ARRANGEMENT LINKING MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, BRITAIN, NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA. +BUT WE REALISE THAT SOME SMALL COUNTRIES ARE IN DANGER OF BEING TAKEN OVER BY THEIR OWN NATIONALS OR OTHERS LIKE DRUG CARTELS,+ HE SAID. HE SAID THEY WERE REFERRING TO EXPERIENCES LIKE IN THE MALDIVES WHERE INDIAN FORCES HAD TO STEP IN, GRENADA WHERE AMERICAN FORCES WERE SENT IN AND COLOMBIA, WHERE DRUG CARTELS WERE ENDANGERING THE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THE COMMONWEALTH HAD NOT COME UP WITH ANY FORMULA TO HELP THE SMALL STATES BUT IT FELT THAT THE FEAR OF THE SMALL STATES WERE REAL.

BERNAMA

2004MST 24 10 89