

D961

U E746 AAE
REPETITION CORRECTING FIRST PARA
ROUNDTABLE-MAHATHIR R R R

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 17 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR BIG POWERS TO RECOGNISE THE ROLE OF SMALL NATIONS IN CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS GLOBAL PEACE.

STRESSING THAT THERE WAS NO NATION TOO SMALL TO CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED IF EACH NATION PUTS ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER, IF IT DEVELOPS ITS NATIONAL RESILIENCE AND IF IT SEEKS THE DIGNITY AND CHOOSES THE HIGH GROUND OF INDEPENDENCE+.

IN HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE THIRD ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE HERE, HE SAID SMALL NATIONS, SUCH AS MALAYSIA, HAD ACCEPTED THE GREAT ROLE THAT GREAT POWERS HAVE TO PLAY IN THE PROCESS OF REDUCING TENSIONS, BUILDING CONFIDENCE, AND RESOLVING CONFLICTS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, IMPORTANT THOUGH THEY ARE, THE CONTRIBUTION THAT THE GREAT POWERS MAKE MUST EXTEND BEYOND THE CREATION OF BETTER ATMOSPHERICS.

ON THE PART OF THE SMALL NATIONS, CITING ASEAN AS AN EXAMPLE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GROUPING HAD BEEN AND WOULD CONTINUE TO ENSURE COMPLETE PEACE RETURN TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. -- MORE
1156MST 17 06 89

D956

U E744 AAE
ROUNDTABLE-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR R R R

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE ASEAN GROUPING HAD GROWN FROM NATIONS OF DIVERSITY INTO A COMMUNITY WHERE THERE IS SECURELY IN PLACE A STRUCTURE OF UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST, GOODWILL AND ACTIVE COOPERATION UNPRECEDENTED IN THE HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

+WHAT WE HAVE NOW FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IS A PAX ASEANA, THE MORE REMARKABLE BECAUSE IT IS A PEACE WITHOUT AN IMPERIUM,+ HE SAID.

WHAT WAS IMPORTANT TOO WAS THAT THE ASEAN COMMUNITY CONSTITUTES THREE QUARTERS OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN REAL ESTATE, WHERE THREE OUT OF FOUR SOUTHEAST ASIANS LIVE AND WHERE MORE THAN NINE TENTHS OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN INCOME IS GENERATED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ASEAN'S AIM FROM ITS FIRST EXISTENCE WAS PURELY TO TURN THE REGION INTO A REGION OF PEACE AND COOPERATIVE EXISTENCE. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT ASEAN OPPOSED THE VIETNAMESE INVASION OF CAMBODIA.

HOPING THAT HANOI WOULD KEEP THEIR WORDS TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS BY SEPTEMBER, HE SAID ASEAN SHOULD NOW STAND READY TO LAUNCH THE SECOND PHASE OF REGIONAL RECONCILIATION.

+THIS IS THE CREATION OF A SOUTHEAST ASIAN SYSTEM OF STATES THAT ARE AT PEACE WITH EACH OTHER, INVOLVED IN A DYNAMIC AND VIGOROUS RELATIONSHIP OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
1139MST 17 06 89

U E745 AAE

ROUNDTABLE-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR R R R

HE CALLED ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS NOT TO BE AT +SIXES AND FOURS+ AND TO REMOVE ALL MISTRUST AND MISUNDERSTANDING, BECAUSE A DIVIDED SOUTHEAST ASIA WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF ANY REGIONAL STATE.

+IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL OF SOUTHEAST ASIA THAT WE SECURE A HEALTHY BALANCE OF FORCES, A SYSTEM OPEN TO THE WORLD, COMPOSED OF STATES WHICH ARE ECONOMICALLY PROSPEROUS, SOCIALLY DYNAMIC, STRATEGICALLY SECURE, DOMESTICALLY AT PEACE AND POLITICALLY AT ONE.

+THUS WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT OF ALL THE LARGE POWERS AND OF BURMA, VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED ALL THE EXTERNAL POWERS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE MATURED STATES OF WESTERN EUROPE AND THE NEW, DYNAMIC STATES OF NORTHEAST ASIA, TO COME TO SOUTHEAST ASIA TO PLAY LEGITIMATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLES BENEFICIAL TO ALL.

+I ALSO SUPPORT FULLY THE OBJECTIVE OF TRANSFORMING INDOCHINA FROM A BATTLEFIELD INTO A MARKETPLACE, A PROCESS IN WHICH WE IN ASEAN CAN PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE, BUT A TRANSFORMATION NEVERTHELESS THAT HAS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE STATES OF INDOCHINA THEMSELVES.+
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1149MST 17 06 89

D965

U E748 AAE

ROUNDTABLE-MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR R R R

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ALL THESE MIGHT NOT BE ACHIEVED BECAUSE SO MUCH DEPENDED ON THE REMOVAL OF VIETNAMESE TROOPS FROM CAMBODIAN SOIL WHICH, HE REITERATED, THEY MUST DO.

BUT, HE ADDED, ASEAN MUST BE PREPARED TO PLAY A FULLY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE REMOVAL OF THAT +ROADBLOCK+ AND ENSURE THE EMERGENCE OF A CAMBODIA THAT IS INDEPENDENT, NEUTRAL, NON-ALIGNED, AND PEACEFUL.

HE SAID THE CAMBODIANS HAD SUFFERED ENOUGH AND IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY IF THERE WAS A RETURN TO GENOCIDAL POLICIES, FOR THAT +WE MUST ALL DO OUR UTMOST TO PREVENT THE OUTBREAK OF CIVIL WAR+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ANY COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT REACHED MUST BE ONE THAT IS VIABLE, PRODUCTIVE AND MORAL.

HE SAID, +SUCH A SOLUTION MUST RECOGNISE THE REALITIES ON THE GROUND, IN THE REGION, AND OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. SUCH A SOLUTION MUST SECURE A MEANINGFUL PLACE FOR PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK (THE UNITED NATIONS-RECOGNISED CGDK PRESIDENT).+

A TOTAL OF 150 PARTICIPANTS FROM 23 COUNTRIES INCLUDING VIETNAM'S DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TRAN QUANG CO ARE TAKING PART IN THE TWO-DAY ROUNDTABLE ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (ISIS) MALAYSIA.

THE ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION WILL INCLUDE THE SOVIET-AMERICAN DETENTE, CHINA-SOVIET NORMALISATION, SOVIET-JAPANESE COLD WAR, SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS, THE KOREAN CONFLICT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA BEYOND CAMBODIA. --
BERNAMA

1220MST 17 06 89