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MAHATHIR-EUROPE R'R'R'

BM

ALOR SETAR, NOV 23 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE RECENT EVENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE WHICH SAW THE PEOPLE RISING AGAINST COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP IS A GOOD DEVELOPMENT FOR DEMOCRACY.

HE SAID THE DEVELOPMENT SHOWED THAT COMMUNIST RULE IN SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS HUNGARY, EAST GERMANY AND POLAND WAS NO LONGER POPULAR AMONG THE PEOPLE.

+WE LIKE THEM TO OPPOSE... BECAUSE WE DO NOT LIKE COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP,+ HE TOLD A GATHERING OF ABOUT 2,000 GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AT DEWAN DATUK SYED OMAR HERE.

THIS IS THE PRIME MINISTER'S FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE WHICH HAS SEEN THOUSANDS OF EAST GERMANS FLEEING TO WEST GERMANY AND THE OPENING OF THE BERLIN WALL TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME.

HOWEVER, DESPITE BEING HAPPY WITH THE DEVELOPMENT, MALAYSIA DID NOT WISH TO SEE CHAOS ARISING FROM THE PEOPLE'S LOST OF CONFIDENCE IN THEIR GOVERNMENTS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. -- MORE

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HE ADDED: +WE HOPE THAT ORDER CAN BE RESTORED AND THAT THEY WILL FINALLY PRACTICE THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO EXPLAINED A BIT ON THE MEANING OF A DICTATORSHIP, SAYING IT OCCURRED WHEN ONLY ONE PARTY HELD THE REINS OF POWER.

DICTATORS, HE SAID, ALSO HAD THE +MACHINERY OR MEANS+ TO ENSURE THEY ALWAYS REMAIN IN POWER, AND TO ACHIEVE THIS THEY WERE WILLING TO KILL THE ORDINARY PEOPLE TO ELIMINATE OPPOSITION. -- BERNAMA  
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