

MAHATHIR-ARAFAT R'R'R'

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 6<sup>90</sup> (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY LASHED OUT AT CERTAIN GROUPS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY WHICH CLAIM TO CHAMPION HUMAN RIGHTS BUT DO NOT CONDEMN THE CRUEL ACTS OF THE TEL AVIV REGIME TOWARDS THE PALESTINIANS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE GROUPS HAD OFTEN BEEN CLAIMING THAT THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WAS OPPRESSIVE BUT THEY WERE CLOSING THEIR EYES TO THE BRUTAL ACTS AGAINST PALESTINIAN CHILDREN AND WOMEN BY THE ZIONIST REGIME.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS ADDRESSING A MALAYSIA-PALESTINE UNITY RALLY ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE YASSER ARAFAT AT STADIUM NEGARA HERE. CABINET MINISTERS, MENTRIS BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS WERE AMONG THE 10,000 PEOPLE PRESENT.

HE SAID IF WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN PALESTINE WERE TO HAPPEN IN MALAYSIA, THESE GROUPS WOULD CERTAINLY COME DOWN HARD ON THE GOVERNMENT.

+BUT, HAVE THEY BEEN CONDEMNING ISRAEL?+ THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED, AND THEN IMMEDIATELY ANSWERED +NO+, DRAWING A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

+WHY MUST A DISCIPLINED AND LAW ABIDING ADMINISTRATION IN MALAYSIA BE BRANDED AS CRUEL?+ HE ASKED. -- MORE  
1714MST 06 03 90

D980

U E203 AAE

MAHATHIR-ARAFAT 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO QUESTIONED THE DOUBLE STANDARD PRACTICE OF THESE GROUPS, SAYING IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THEY HAD SOME VESTED INTERESTS (BY CRITICISING MALAYSIA).

WITHOUT NAMING THE GROUPS, HE SAID IT WAS ALSO CLEAR THAT THEIR STAND WAS ONE OF SHEER HYPOCRISY.

THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED THE STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIANS AS A FAIR CAUSE.

THEY WERE MERELY FIGHTING FOR A SELF-RULE NATION WITHOUT ANY INTENTION OF EVICTING THE JEWS OR OPPRESSING THEM, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LIKENED THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE TO THE STRUGGLE BY MALAYSIANS FOR INDEPENDENCE IN THAT BOTH WANTED TO BE FAIR WITHOUT ANY INTENTION OF BEING HARSH ON OTHER RACES, BUT WERE ACTUALLY TRYING TO WORK TOGETHER.-- MORE  
1730MST 06 03 90

D991

U E211 AAE

MAHATHIR-ARAFAT 3 KUALA LUMPUR R R R

HE SAID MALAYSIANS WOULD ALWAYS STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE BECAUSE THEY FELT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAD BEEN DENIED JUSTICE.

IN HIS 30-MINUTE SPEECH, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN ATTEMPTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, THE TEL AVIV REGIME HAD ADOPTED A SHILLY-SHALLY ATTITUDE.

HE SAID THAT SINCE THE +INTIFADAH+ (PALESTINIAN UPRISING) BEGAN 27 MONTHS AGO, MANY PALESTINIANS HAD DIED OR WERE WOUNDED AT THE HANDS OF THE ISRAELIS.

TEL AVIV HAD ALSO AGREED TO ALLOW JEWS FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO RETURN TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO CALLED ON THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION (PLO) TO CONTINUE SEEKING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

SIMILARLY, HE URGED IRAN AND IRAQ TO DO THE SAME OVER THEIR DISPUTE.-- MORE

0016

U E221 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ARAFAT 4 KUALA LUMPUR R R R

JUST AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER FINISHED SPEAKING, A 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL FROM SENTUL, THAJEEM NESA PAKWEER, 12, SUDDENLY APPEARED ON STAGE AND SOUGHT PERMISSION FROM ORGANISING CHAIRMAN OF THE RALLY, ANWAR IBRAHIM, TO GARLAND ENCIK ARAFAT AND DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

ENCIK ARAFAT, WHO WAS MOVED BY THE GESTURE, KISSED THE GIRL'S CHEEK, HUGGED AND PICKED HER UP AND ASKED THAT SHE BE ALLOWED TO STAND BESIDE HIM. THIS EARNED THE CROWD'S APPROVAL.

IN HIS SPEECH IN ENGLISH, ENCIK ARAFAT VOWED TO CHAMPION THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS UNTIL END OF THE ISREALI OCCUPATION.

TO THOSE WHO WERE TRYING TO PROLONG THE OCCUPATION, HE SAID :+I TELL THEM...I AM STILL RAISING THE OLIVE BRANCH IN ONE HAND AND THE GUN IN THE OTHER HAND.+

ENCIK ARAFAT ADMITTED THAT THEIR STRUGGLE WOULD NOT BE EASY BUT PROMISED THAT SOONER OR LATER, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO INVITE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND OTHER MALAYSIANS TO PRAY IN THE AL-AQSA MOSQUE IN JERUSALEM.-- MORE

1840MST 06 03 90

0019

U E224 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ARAFAT 5 KUALA LUMPUR R R R

+IN THE NAME OF CHILDREN, WOMEN, FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND THE PALESTINIAN MASSES, WE THANK YOU MALAYSIANS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR OUR STRUGGLE,+ HE SAID.

HE ENDED HIS 20-MINUTE SPEECH CHANTING +HIDUP RAKYAT MALAYSIA+ AND HIDUP RAKYAT PALESTIN+ -- IN BAHASA MALAYSIA -- THREE TIMES EACH.

EARLIER, ENCIK ARAFAT AND DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ENTERED THE STADIUM HOLDING EACH OTHER'S HANDS AND WAVING TO THE CROWD.

THE RALLY KICKED OFF WITH THE ROYAL MALAYSIA POLICE BAND STRIKING UP THE +NEGARA KU+. THE NATIONAL ANTHEM WAS ALSO PLAYED AT THE END OF THE GATHERING.

ANTI-ZIONIST FEELINGS WERE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED AS MALAYSIANS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE CARRIED BANNERS, AMONG THEM, CALLING FOR THE END OF ZIONIST CRUELTY, THE STOP TO RUSSIAN JEWS MIGRATING TO PALESTINE AND ONE READING +GO TO HELL ZIONIST+.

DESPITE THE TIGHT SECURITY, SEVERAL PEOPLE MANAGED TO EXTEND THEIR HANDS TO GREET ENCIK ARAFAT DURING HIS DEPARTURE.

THE RALLY WAS CARRIED +LIVE+ BY TV MALAYSIA.-- BERNAMA  
1846MST 06 03 90