

D763

U E789 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ISLAM  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 19<sup>90</sup> (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE POSITION OF SCIENCE AND ITS RELEVANCE TO THE QURAN MUST BE UNDERSTOOD AND ANY CONFUSION ERASED TO ENSURE THE STATUS OF ISLAM AND ITS FOLLOWERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WAS NOW CONFUSION AMONG SOME MUSLIMS IN UNDERSTANDING THE TENETS OF THE QURAN AND WHEN THEY SPOKE ABOUT THESE THEY ONLY STRESSED SPECIAL OR PERSONAL RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS.

OPENING THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE QURAN AT PUSAT ISLAM HERE, HE SAID THEY DID NOT GIVE EMPHASIS TO GENERAL OR RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS TO THE SOCIETY.

HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE CONFUSION RESULTING FROM THEIR NARROW INTERPRETATION OF THE QURAN, THEY ALWAYS VIEWED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS AS UN-ISLAMIC AND NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TENETS OF THE QURAN.

+IT IS ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH NARROW INTERPRETATION THAT HAS RESULTED IN THE CURRENT BACKWARDNESS OF THE MUSLIMS TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ARE POOR IN ALL ASPECTS AND ARE UNABLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES WITHOUT AMMUNITION AND HELP FROM NON-ISLAMIC SOURCES,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
1250MST 19 03 90

D764

U E790 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REGRETTED THAT THERE WERE MUSLIMS WHO REGARDED SCIENCE AS THE DOMAIN OF THE NON-MUSLIMS AND WHO FELT THAT MUSLIMS WHO TOOK UP THE FIELD WERE NOT RESPECTED BY THE RELIGIOUS.

HE SAID ANYONE BRAVE ENOUGH TO SAY THAT A SCIENTIST WAS AN ULAMA WAS CRITICISED BY THE ULAMA WHO WANTED TO RESTRICT THE USE OF THE WORD.

AS SUCH, THERE WERE TALENTED AND QUALIFIED PEOPLE WHO ABANDONED THE SCIENCE-RELATED FIELDS TO RETURN TO WHAT WAS CALLED RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID OTHERS WOULD CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES IN SCIENCE FEELING GUILTY CONSCIOUS AND EVEN SINFUL AND THUS WOULD NOT DELVE DEEPLY INTO THE SUBJECT.

+HENCE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MUSLIMS ARE AT A LOW LEVEL AND BRING ABOUT LITTLE BENEFIT,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE  
1252MST 19 03 90

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SCIENCE HAD CLOSE RELEVANCE TO THE SURVIVAL AND PROGRESS OF THE MUSLIMS.

+IF THE MUSLIMS ARE DEFEATED IN ALL FIELDS BECAUSE OF THEIR WEAKNESSES, THEY ARE NOT ONLY TO BE FAULTED FOR NOT FULFILLING THE TENETS OF THE QURAN BUT THEY COULD ALSO BE SEPARATED FROM THEIR RELIGION, HE SAID.

+THERE WILL BE MUSLIMS WHO WILL SAY THAT GOD WILL PROTECT THE MUSLIMS, BUT ARE WE REQUIRED BY THE QURAN TO LEAVE EVERYTHING TO GOD AND NOT WORK OURSELVES?, HE ASKED.

HE SAID THE TRUTH OF ISLAM COULD ATTRACT MANY FOLLOWERS BUT WITHOUT THE WORLDLY SUCCESS BY THE CHAMPIONS OF ISLAM OF OLD NOT MANY WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH OF ISLAM.

HE SAID SUCCESS ON EARTH WAS NO LESS IMPORTANT AND SCIENCE COULD HELP ATTAIN SUCH SUCCESS. -- MORE  
1254MST 19 03 90

THE PRIME MINISTER CITED AS EXAMPLES VARIOUS SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES BY MUSLIMS FROM THEIR RESEARCH IN ISLAM AND THE QURAN.

HE SAID THAT FLIGHTS TO OUTER SPACE WERE BASED ON KNOWLEDGE RESEARCHED BY MUSLIM ULAMA LIKE IBNU RUSHD, AL-KHAWARIZMI, ULUGH BEG AND IBU KHALDUN WHO ANSWERED THE QURAN'S CALL TO LEARN ABOUT THE UNIVERSE.

HE SAID THEY HAD PROVED THAT IT WAS NOT THE QURAN'S INTENTION FOR THE MUSLIMS TO JUST STAND BY AND WATCH THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S INVENTIONS AND THE QURAN WAS NOT A HOLY BOOK TO BE READ ONLY. IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD AND ITS TEACHINGS PUT TO USE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE ALPHABETS AND NUMBERS SYSTEM ALSO ORIGINATED FROM THE MUSLIMS BUT TODAY THE MUSLIMS WERE LEFT BEHIND WHILE OTHERS PROGRESSED.

THE CAUSE OF THIS WAS INTERPRETATION MADE DURING CERTAIN AGES THAT PERFORMANCE OF RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO PERSONAL OBLIGATIONS AND READING TO RELIGIOUS MATTERS. -- MORE  
1313MST 19 03 90

D780

U E797 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 5 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE QURAN'S CALL ON +IKRAQ+ DID NOT MEAN ONLY READING THE QURAN BUT READING OR LEARNING OTHER THINGS BEQUEATHED BY GOD SO THAT MAN WOULD BETTER UNDERSTAND AND BE MORE AWARE OF GOD'S GREATNESS.

HE STRESSED THAT BECAUSE OF THE NARROW INTERPRETATION OF THE QURAN, NOT ONLY HAD THE KNOWLEDGE ATTAINED AND DEVELOPED BY THE MUSLIMS NOT BENEFITED THE MUSLIMS BUT IT HAD ALSO BEEN LOST TO THE MUSLIM SOCIETY.

ON QURANIC EDUCATION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT CONSTANTLY WORKED TO CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF QURANIC RECITATION THROUGH THE QURANIC STUDIES INSTITUTE OF THE ISLAMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID THE INSTITUTE HAD PRODUCED STUDENTS WHO COULD NOT ONLY RECITE THE QURAN BUT WHO ALSO UNDERSTOOD OTHER RELATED DISCIPLINES.

STARTING THIS YEAR THE INSTITUTE HAD EXTENDED ITS SCOPE BY TAKING IN FEMALE STUDENTS AND ITS DIPLOMAS HAD BEEN ACCORDED EQUAL RECOGNITION WITH OTHER DIPLOMAS.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO OPENED AN EXHIBITION ON THE QURAN AND SCIENCE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TWO-DAY SEMINAR. THE EXHIBITION IS ON UNTIL APRIL 1. -- BERNAMA  
1329MST 19 03 90