

D408

U E860 AAE  
MAHATHIR-GSP 9'9'9'  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 25<sup>90</sup> (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID TODAY THE ACTUAL SITUATION OF WORKERS IN MALAYSIA WILL BE EXPLAINED TO THE UNITED STATES SO THAT THE GENERAL SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN.

HE SAID THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD STRIVE TO CONTACT THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION DIRECTLY SO THAT IT WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE PETITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR RIGHTS EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FUND CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE GSP STATUS.

+WE HAVE TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY'S POSITION AS THERE ARE MANY ATTEMPTS TO RESTRICT ITS INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER WATCHING THE REHEARSAL OF THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE GROUP OF 15 SUMMIT AT THE BANQUET HALL OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

HE SAID CERTAIN BODIES AND PRESSURE GROUPS HAD VESTED INTERESTS AND DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES.

SUCH GROUPS HAD NARROW VIEWS AND DWELT ONLY ON CERTAIN QUESTIONS SUCH AS ON THE ALLEGED ABSENCE OF FREEDOM IN MALAYSIA. -- MORE  
1643MST 25 05 90

MAHATHIR-GSP 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SUCH GROUPS DID NOT TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE THERE WAS NO FREEDOM.

+I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS THEIR ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA FOR INSTANCE. ARE THEY URGING THE UNITED STATES TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA WHERE WORKERS DO NOT HAVE ANY RIGHTS AT ALL,+ HE ASKED.

HE SAID BECAUSE MALAYSIA WAS LIBERAL IN ITS ATTITUDE AND ACCEPTED THEM THEY TRY TO THREATEN.+

+UNFORTUNATELY OUR OWN PEOPLE SUPPORT THEM, SUPPORT FOREIGNERS AND HOLD THEIR OWN COUNTRY TO RANSOM.WE WILL NOT BE A FREE NATION IF WE BOW TO OTHERS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT FORMULATED A POLICY IN LINE WITH THE PREVAILING SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY THAT IS TO PRESERVE THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND NOT TO OPPRESS THEM.+ -- MORE  
1701MST 25 05 90

D427

U E866 AAE  
MAHATHIR-GSP 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

HE SAID THE PRESENT ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT TOWARDS WORKERS WAS MORE LIBERAL COMPARED WITH THAT OF MOST DEVELOPED NATIONS WHICH AT ONE TIME PRESSURED WORKERS WHEN THEY WERE PASSING THROUGH THE PHASE NOW EXPERIENCED BY MALAYSIA.

IT WAS USELESS FOR WORKERS TO HAVE TOO MUCH FREEDOM TO THE EXTENT OF CAUSING INDUSTRIAL UNREST AS THIS WOULD CAUSE THEM TO LOSE THEIR JOBS WHILE THE UNEMPLOYED WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO GET EMPLOYMENT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

+OUR PHILOSOPHY CONCERNING WORKERS AND WORKERS' ACTIVITIES IS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO WORKERS' INTERESTS WITHOUT JEOPARDISING THE NATIONAL ECONOMY,+ HE SAID.

TESTING EACH OTHER'S STRENGTH OR ADOPTING A CONFRONTATIONAL ATTITUDE IN RESOLVING ISSUES WERE OUTDATED AND NO LONGER PRACTISED EVEN IN INDUSTRIALISED NATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID STRIKES OR LOCK-OUTS TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS ONLY DESTROYED THE EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS APART FROM JEOPARDISING THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND CAUSING HARDSHIP TO THE PEOPLE. -- MORE  
1722MST 25 05 90

D431

U E867 AAE  
MAHATHIR-GSP 4 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

EVEN TRADERS OPERATING STALLS FOR THE BENEFIT OF WORKERS WOULD STAND TO LOSE IF THERE WERE STRIKES, HE SAID.

IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S ASPIRATION TO DISTRIBUTE THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH FAIRLY AMONG ALL.

THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT SIDE WITH JUST ONE GROUP ALONE, HE ADDED.

+WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ROLES OF WORKERS AND ALSO INVESTORS FOR WITHOUT INVESTORS THERE WILL BE NO JOBS AND VICE VERSA.+

+WITHOUT ECONOMIC GROWTH, PEOPLE WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET REVENUE,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. -- BERNAMA