

D711

U E925 AAE BMX DHC LIB
SUMMIT-SECRETARIAT R R R

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 1 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA HAS PROPOSED THE SETTING UP OF A SECRETARIAT FOR THE GROUP OF 15 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH (G-15) WHOSE LEADERS BEGAN THEIR THREE-DAY INAUGURAL SUMMIT HERE TODAY.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD IN THE INAUGURAL SPEECH AT THE OPENING ALSO PLEDGED MALAYSIA'S SUPPORT FOR SUCH A SECRETARIAT TO FORGE A MORE FORMAL COORDINATION AMONG THE SOUTH COUNTRIES.

HE SAID THE SECRETARIAT NEED NOT BE ELABORATE BUT RATHER COULD DO WITH MINIMAL STAFFING AND AN AUSTERE BUDGET.

HE SAID THAT WHILE THE NORTH WAS WELL EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH ALL EVENTUALITIES, AND EMERGING TO BE EVEN BETTER ORGANISED, THE SOUTH COUNTRIES HAD NOTHING EVEN REMOTELY EQUIVALENT TO THE ORGANISATION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) COUNTRIES.

+WITH THE EMPHASIS NOW ON THE NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE RATHER THAN THE EAST-WEST DIVIDE, THE NEED FOR A MORE FORMAL COORDINATION OF THE SOUTH IS

EVEN GREATER,+ HE SAID.-- MORE
1215MST 01 06 90

D715

U E927 AAE BMX DHC LIB
SUMMIT-SECRETARIAT 2 KUALA LUMPUR R R R

+IF WE ARE GOING TO ACT POSITIVELY AS A RESULT OF THIS CONFERENCE, CERTAINLY A SECRETARIAT OF SOME KIND IS NECESSARY,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE SOUTH COMMISSION HEADED BY FORMER TANZANIAN PRESIDENT DR JULIUS NYERERE WHICH LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE CREATION OF THE G-15, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT HAD NOW FINISHED ITS WORK AND HAD SUBMITTED ITS REPORT.

WITHOUT REVEALING THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT, HE SAID WHAT WAS MORE IMPORTANT WAS THAT THE SOUTH COUNTRIES MUST NOT ALLOW IT TO BECOME YET ANOTHER ACADEMIC EXERCISE.

THE IMPORTANT THING, HE SAID, WAS FOR THEM TO ACT TO SET IN MOTION THE PROCESSES WHICH WOULD MAKE THIS WHOLLY SOUTHERN EFFORT WORTHWHILE AND PRODUCTIVE. -- BERNAMA
1223MST 01 06 90