

D947

R E823 AAE

MAHATHIR-NIC

(EMBARGO:FOR RELEASE AT 10.30PM JULY 9)

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 9 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CATEGORISE DEVELOPING STATES AS NICS (NEWLY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES) MERELY TO RETARD THE LATTER'S GROWTH.

THE CONCEPT WAS DEvised TO ENSURE NO OTHER ASIAN COUNTRY EMERGE AS A +POWERHOUSE+ LIKE JAPAN IS NOW, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID OVER TELEVISION MALAYSIA'S CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMME + ISU SEMASA+ TONIGHT.

ONCE A DEVELOPING COUNTRY IS LABELLED AN NIC, DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD SLOW DOWN THAT COUNTRY'S PROGRESS BY REVALUING THEIR CURRENCY, IMPOSING QUOTA, WITHDRAWING GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) STATUS, AND ASSESSING ISSUES OF HUMAN AND WORKERS' RIGHTS.

HE SAID JAPAN WAS ABLE TO GRADUATE TO A DEVELOPED NATION STATUS BECAUSE THE WEST THEN HAD NOT DEvised WAYS TO BLOCK JAPAN'S GROWTH.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ASKED WHETHER EASTERN EUROPE WHICH WAS BEGINNING TO ADOPT THE FREE MARKET SYSTEM WOULD BE CONSIDERED AN NIC ?-- MORE

1937MST 09 07 90

D949

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MAHATHIR-NIC 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

+IN MY OPINION, THEY (EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES) WILL NOT BLOCK EASTERN EUROPE FROM BECOMING DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, IN FACT THEY WOULD HELP THEM BECOME SO,+ HE SAID .

THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED WHY SHOULD THERE BE DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN EASTERN EUROPE AND EAST ASIA?

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR FORECAST THAT EAST GERMANY WOULD MOVE TOWARDS BEING A DEVELOPED COUNTRY WITHOUT HAVING TO BE AN NIC AS IT WAS BEING HELPED BY WEST GERMANY.

WHILE DESCRIBING THIS AS UNFAIR, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION MALAYSIA MUST OPPOSE THE MOVE BY EXPOSING THE WEST'S REAL MOTIVES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ASKED WHAT RIGHTS THESE COUNTRIES HAD TO CONSIDER MALAYSIA AN NIC WITHOUT GETTING MALAYSIA' CONSENT OR WITHOUT DISCUSSING THE CONDITIONS TO BE SET ON AN NIC.-- MORE

1941MST 09 07 90

R E828 AAE

MAHATHIR-NIC 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID PROPOSED INVESTMENTS IN THE COPUNTRY IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR TOTALLED \$17 BILLION COMPARED TO \$11 BILLION LAST YEAR.

HE SAID EVIDENCE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH WAS GLARING IN TOWNS AND VILLAGES ALIKE FROM THE INCREASING NUMBER OF CARS, PACKED RESTAURANTS, SHOPPING COMPLEXES AND HOTELS.-- BERNAMA

1955MST 09 07 90