

D113

U E355 AAE
MAHATHIR-SOUTH

FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

CARACAS, AUG 2 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DAIK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS URGED COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH TO EVOLVE COMMON STRATEGIES IN DEALING WITH THE NORTH AND TO COLLECTIVELY SEEK TO NEGOTIATE A MORE FAVOURABLE GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT.

TO THIS END, THEY NEED TO COORDINATE THEIR POLICIES ON THE FULL RANGE OF ISSUES THAT CONFRONT THEM. *Oversea trips.*

+WITHOUT THIS I FEAR THAT ALL OUR EFFORTS AT STRENGTHENING BILATERAL COOPERATION WILL NOT AVAIL MUCH,+ HE SAID AT A DINNER GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR BY THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AT HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE, LA CASONA, HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ON A FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO VENEZUELA, SAID THE VAST CHANGES WITNESSED BY THE WORLD IN RECENT MONTHS WHICH RESULTED IN VIRTUAL ELIMINATION OF SUPER-POWER RIVALRY HOLDS OUT THE PROMISE OF A MORE PEACEFUL ERA.

HOWEVER, HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT THIS WOULD TRANSLATE INTO A MORE CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE SOUTH. -- MORE
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D114

U E556 AAE
MAHATHIR-SOUTH 2 CARACAS

+FOR ONE THING, THE COLLAPSE OF SOVIET POWER HAS NOW PLACED THE INDUSTRIALISED NORTH IN A POSITION TO IMPOSE ITS OWN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AGENDA ON OTHERS,+ HE SAID.

+ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND ACCESS TO MARKETS ARE INCREASINGLY TIED TO THE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES AND FREQUENTLY THE ECONOMIC NEEDS OF THE NORTH.+

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THE WORLD APPEARED TO BE MOVING FROM THE COLD WAR TO A GLOBAL ECONOMIC STRUGGLE.

THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SEEMED DETERMINED TO USE EVERY MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO BLOCK MEANINGFUL GLOBAL ECONOMIC REFORMS THAT ARE NECESSARY IF THE SOUTH IS TO OVERCOME ITS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

HE SAID: +QUOTAS, NON-TARIFF BARRIERS, DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES, HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, EXCHANGE RATES, ENVIRONMENT, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, TREATMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES ARE ALL BEING USED TO STIFLE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE SOUTH.+

+YET WHEN THE SAME MISDEMEANOURS ARE PERPETRATED IN THE NORTH, THEY ARE ACCEPTABLE,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
1015MST 02 08 90

D115

U E557 AAE
MAHATHIR-SOUTH 3 CARACAS

ON BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND VENEZUELA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID FORMAL DIPLOMATIC TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE STILL VERY MUCH IN ITS INFANCY, HAVING BEEN ESTABLISHED ONLY IN 1986.

APART FROM BEING SEPARATED BY VAST GEOGRAPHICAL DISTANCE, THEY ALSO HAD VERY DIFFERENT CULTURAL BACKGROUND, HISTORY AND LANGUAGE.

YET THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT HAD VISITED MALAYSIA TWICE WHILE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S FIRST VISIT TO THE SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINENT WAS TO VENEZUELA.

+THOSE WHO SEEK A RATIONALE OR PERHAPS AS EXPLANATION FOR THE GROWTH OF OUR RELATIONS NEED LOOK NO FURTHER THAN OUR MUTUAL COMMITMENT TO SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AND TO THE BELIEF THAT NEITHER DISTANCE NOR CULTURAL OR LINGUISTIC DIFFERENCES ARE IMPEDIMENTS TO MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THIS MUTUAL COMMITMENT WAS SO APTLY DEMONSTRATED IN KUALA LUMPUR RECENTLY WHEN BOTH THE COUNTRIES JOINED WITH OTHER LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES TO +CHART A NEW COURSE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.+

+WE ALSO PROPOSED TO GO BEYOND ELOQUENT STATEMENTS AND GET ON WITH THE TASK OF IMPLEMENTING PRACTICAL PROGRAMMES THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO OUR RESPECTIVE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS,+ HE ADDED. --

BERNAMA

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