

MAHATHIR - ISLAM

BM

SEREMBAN, AUG 17 (BERNAMA) -- THE DISPUTE BETWEEN ARAB NATIONS IN WEST ASIA NOW HAS AFFECTED THE IMAGE OF ISLAM AMONG NON-MUSLIMS THE WORLD OVER, PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, SAID TODAY.

THE GULF CRISIS, FOLLOWING IRAQ'S INVASION OF KUWAIT RECENTLY, ALSO UNDOED ALL THE GOOD THINGS PEOPLE HAVE HEARD OF ISLAM, HE ADDED.

THE CONFIDENCE OF NON-MUSLIMS TOWARDS ISLAM WOULD WANE ON SEEING THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY MUSLIMS AGAINST FELLOW MUSLIMS IN WEST ASIA, HE SAID.

HE ADDED: +THEY WILL NOT BELIEVE (THE GOOD THINGS SAID ABOUT ISLAM) AND THEY WILL SAY, LOOK, THEY ARE BROTHERS IN ISLAM BUT THEY ARE SO CRUEL TO INVADE WITHOUT WARNING... WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO HOLD TALKS TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS.+

DATUK SERI MAHATHIR, WHO WAS SPEAKING AT THE FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY FOR THE ISLAMIC DAKWAH CENTRE IN PAROI NEAR HERE, ASKED WHETHER SUCH ACTION COULD RAISE THE IMAGE OF ISLAM, STRENGTHEN ISLAMIC DAKWAH AND CONSOLIDATE THE WORLD'S GOOD IMPRESSION OF ISLAM?

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1257MST 17 08 90

D194

R E832 AAE

MAHATHIR - ISLAM 2 SEREMBAN

HE SAID WHATEVER IRAQ AND KUWAIT CLAIMED IN THE CRISIS, MILITARY INVASION BY ONE MUSLIM COUNTRY OF ANOTHER SHOULD BE AVOIDED AND ALL PROBLEMS AMONG MUSLIMS SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

HE EXPRESSED ANXIETY OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF SACRED PLACES LIKE MEKAH AND MADINAH BEING VIOLATED SHOULD THERE BE WAR.

CITING THE ATTACK ON THE MASJIDIL HARAM (GRAND MOSQUE) SEVERAL YEARS AGO BY MUSLIMS THEMSELVES, HE SAID IT WOULD NOT COME AS A SURPRISE IF A MILITARY ATTACK TOOK PLACE AND BOMBS ARE DROPPED ON MEKAH AND MADINAH SIMPLY BECAUSE OF POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AMONG MUSLIMS.

+THIS IS NOT A GOOD EXAMPLE THAT CAN BE EMULATED. IT IS AN ACTION WHICH HAS AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON ISLAM AND ALSO ON MUSLIMS,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SAME SITUATION OCCURRED IN THE COUNTRY BECAUSE THE MUSLIMS WERE DIVIDED AS THERE ARE GROUPS WHICH ACCUSED OTHER MUSLIMS AS BEING UNISLAMIC. -- MORE

1308MST 17 08 90

D197

R E833 AAE

MAHATHIR - ISLAM 3 SEREMBAN

HE ADDED THAT UMNO, WHOSE MEMBERS ARE MAINLY MUSLIMS, WAS CRITICISED FOR COOPERATING WITH NON-MUSLIMS.

HE SAID NON-MUSLIMS WHO WORKED TOGETHER WITH UMNO ARE NOT ENEMIES BECAUSE THEY ACCEPTED THE SPECIAL POSITION OF ISLAM AS THE OFFICIAL RELIGION.

+GOD IS GREAT. TODAY, THOSE WHO MAKE THE ALLEGATIONS ARE THEMSELVES COOPERATING WITH NON-MUSLIMS WHO ARE WORSE... THOSE WHO DO NOT ACCEPT THE POSITION OF ISLAM IN THE COUNTRY,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD COMPARE THE ACTIONS OF THAT GROUP WITH THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD RAISED THE IMAGE OF ISLAM, LIKE SETTING UP THE ISLAMIC INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (IIU) AND THE ISLAMIC BANK.

HE ADDED THAT THE BUSINESS PRACTICES AND LOAN SCHEMES OF THE ISLAMIC BANK ARE ACCEPTED BY NON-MUSLIMS AS SHOWN BY THE SHELL COMPANY WHICH RECENTLY OBTAINED A LOAN UNDER ISLAMIC TERMS WHILE OTHER BANKS ARE ALSO CARRYING OUT BUSINESS ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE ISLAMIC PRACTICE. -- MORE

D213

R E840 AAE
MAHATHIR - ISLAM 4 SEREMBAN

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID FOR DAKWAH ACTIVITIES TO BE EFFECTIVE AMONG NON-MUSLIM, THEY HAD TO SHOW THE SUCCESS OF MUSLIMS IN VARIOUS SECTORS.

THE ARABS ACCEPTED ISLAM BECAUSE THEY SAW THE EFFECTIVENESS AND THE JUST ADMINISTRATION OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD IN MADINAH WHILE +OUR FORE-FATHERS ACCEPTED ISLAM ABOUT 700 YEARS AGO+ BECAUSE THEY WITNESSED THE SUCCESS OF MUSLIM TRADERS WHO CAME FROM INDIA, ARABIA AND YEMEN, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE INFLUENCE OF ISLAM WOULD GROW IF MUSLIMS ACHIEVED SUCCESS BUT ON THE OTHER HAND IF THEY ARE POOR AND BACKWARD, THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE OTHERS AND THEIR ADHERENCE TOWARDS THEIR OWN RELIGION WOULD WANE.

HE SAID MUSLIMS SHOULD DEMONSTRATE THE GOODNESS OF ISLAM TO NON-MUSLIMS WHILE THEY ARE STILL LIVING BECAUSE +OUR FRIENDS CANNOT WAIT UNTIL AFTER DEATH TO SEE THE GOODNESS OF ISLAM.+

HE ADDED THAT DAKWAH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT CONCENTRATE ON RELIGIOUS MATTERS ONLY BECAUSE MUSLIM ALSO NEEDED EXPERTISE IN OTHER FIELDS LIKE MEDICINE, LAW AND BUSINESS. -- MORE

1412MST 17 08 90

D214

R E841 AAE
MAHATHIR - ISLAM 5 SEREMBAN

+ALTHOUGH THEY CONCENTRATE THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON SPECIFIC FIELDS, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY DO NOT PERFORM ACTS OF WORSHIP. DO NOT THINK PEOPLE WHO DO NOT SPEND THEIR TIME ON RELIGION HAVE NO RIGHT AND PLACE IN THE HEREAFTER,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, NEGERI SEMBILAN MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI MOHAMED ISA ABDUL SAMAD SAID CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE \$6 MILLION DAKWAH CENTRE WOULD BEGIN NEXT MONTH.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION WERE PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER, DATUK NAPSHAH OMAR AND DEPUTY LAND AND REGIONAL AND DEVELOPEMNT MINISTER DATUK HAJI KHALID YUNOS. -- BERNAMA
1413MST 17 08 90