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MAHATHIR CALLS ON UN TO SUPERVISE DESTRUCTION OF NUKE WEAPONS

Mahathir-nuclear

From Syed Jamil Jaafar

(P) D.M. - reverse trips

NEW YORK, Sept 25ⁿ (Bernama) -- Malaysia wants the United Nations to play the role of a supervisor for the destruction of all nuclear weapons everywhere, and not just in Iraq.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who made the call in his address to the 46th United Nations General Assembly here Tuesday, said the UN which was playing the role of inspector in Iraq should extend that role and also check the invention and production of other diabolical weapons.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir proposed that researches in new weapons by all nations should be reduced and no weapon should be sold by anyone without permits issued by the UN.

He also said that for developing countries, their only hope lay in the democratisation of the UN, especially as the option to defect to the other side was no longer available.

+We want to remain independent but we also want to conform to international norms as determined not by some non-governmental organisations (NGO) or the so-called advanced democracies but by all nations of the world,+ he added. -- more

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Mahathir-nuclear 2 New York

Turning to South Africa, the prime minister said Malaysia was glad that the winds of change had brought about significant developments in that country towards the dismantlement of apartheid and the creation of a new democratic and non-racial South Africa.

While the climate of peace and dialogue had benefited many parts of the world, the Middle East remained the most volatile region and the Palestinian people continued to suffer under the cruel and illegal Israeli occupation, he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the plight of the Palestinian people touched the hearts of Malaysians.

He added: +We would like the Palestinian people to be treated fairly and justly.

+If what they do to protect themselves is considered criminal, then the same deeds committed by the Israelis should be considered equally criminal.

+Governments which kidnap and kill people should be condemned even more than desperate freedom fighters who are forced to violence because they can seek justice no other way.+

He said the Jews in the Soviet Union were better off where they were (instead of coming to the occupied territories) where their entrepreneurial skills could be put to good use to rebuild the economy of the country. -- more

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Speaking on the environment, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the UN conference on environment to held in Rio De Janeiro (Brazil) next year would not be a constructive one if it was going to be a finger-pointing, third world bashing session.

He said the idea that tropical forests could be saved only by boycotting tropical timber smacked more of economic arm-twisting than a real desire to save the forests.

He also said the vast potential for reafforestation had hardly been touched, for example, the deserts of California could be converted into a tropical forest with flora and fauna by pumping ground water and planting trees.

Instead, the underground water was being used for golf courses and artificial lakes to surround luxury hotels.

+If we can build sophisticated warplanes at one billion dollars a piece, surely we should have the ingenuity and the money to create tropical forests out of deserts,+ he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Libya should be congratulated for tapping underground water to irrigate its desert. -- more

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The Prime Minister also explained why the East Asia Economic Group (EAEG) was proposed, saying that to be heard, the poor must band together not to form impoverished trade blocs but to lend weight to their arguments in multi-lateral trade negotiations.

He said the EAEG was merely a forum for the nations of East Asia to confer with each other to reach agreement on a common stand for a common problem caused by the restrictive trade practices of the rich. -- Bernama

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