

CNS8679

R GE 25-09 00189 EB803

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MAHATHIR ADDRESSES UN

Mahathir-UN

From Syed Jamil Jaafar

NEW YORK, Sept 25<sup>th</sup> (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir

Mohamad said Tuesday there must be democracy between states of the world if democracy is to be the only acceptable system of government within states.

He said what would be the meaning of democracy to developing countries if they had no right of choice at all, if democracy meant that their peoples were consistently subjected to instability and disruptions and economic weaknesses making them subject to manipulation by the powerful democracies.

+Hegemony by democratic powers is no less oppressive than hegemony by totalitarian states,+ he said in his address at the 46th United Nations General Assembly here.

The prime minister spoke at length on democracy and covered areas such as the role of the UN, nuclear armaments, South Africa, Palestine, environment, multilateral trade negotiations and the East Asia Economic Group (EAEG).

He said that following the revolutionary changes over the last two years, the world was now ripe for +a new world order+. -- more

♥25/09/10-28MST

CNS8680

R GE 25-09 00136 EB804

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Mahathir-UN 2 New York

+But it is hoped that this new world order will not be one that is imposed upon the world by the main beneficiary of the current revolution,+ he said.

+All members of this august body called the United Nations should participate in the shaping of the new world order if we are to avoid a return to a new colonial era.+

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said democracy and only democracy was legitimate and permissible now and no one was really disputing this.

Malaysia, he said, could think of no alternative but democracy in the context of its pluralistic society.

+But is there only one form of democracy or only one high priest to interpret it?, he said. -- more

♥25/09/10-30MST

CNS8684

R GE 25-09 00154 EB805

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Mahathir-UN 3 New York

He said there were differences in the practice of democracy even among those who were preaching democracy to the developing countries.

+Can only the preachers have the right to interpret democracy and to practise it as they deem fit and to force their interpretations on the others?+ he said.

+Cannot the converts too interpret the details, if not the basics?+

He said that if democracy meant the right to carry guns, to flaunt homosexuality, to disregard the institution of marriage, to damage the well-being of the community in the name of individuals' rights, to destroy a particular faith, then could not the new converts opt to reject them?

The prime minister said democracy meant majority rule. The minority must have their rights but these rights cannot include the denial of the rights of the majority. -- more

♥25/09/10-44MST

CNS8690

R GE 25-09 00172 EB807

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Mahathir-UN 4 (last) New York (rptg changing take number)

He said that in the UN, all members were equal but five (permanent members of the Security Council) were more equal than the rest of the 166.

Seven countries (Group of Seven developed nations) on their own laid down the laws which affected adversely the economies of others, and a few nations on their own had taken it upon themselves to determine the new world order.

+Clearly the states of the world are not equal, not in the UN, not anywhere, the prime minister said.

+If democracy is such an equitable concept, why must we accept inequality between nations?+

He said that since the formation of the UN in 1945, new ideas about rights and wrongs and democracy had crystallised and if international democracy as represented by the UN were to be meaningful and effective, there must be an infusion of some of the current ideas and realities. --  
Bernama

♥25/09/10-54MST