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YES, WE ARE MALAYSIANS

Bername News Analysis

By Taj Sing Onn

(Embargo: For use on or after Monday, Nov.25)

They appear nonplussed, some of them, that is.

+Why is your Prime Minister (Datuk Seri) ^{Dr. M.} Dr. Mahathir (Mohamad) so riled up against the West?+ they ask this writer on the interminable diplomatic cocktail circuit.

Then, oozing with diplomatic charm, they then turn on this writer and with alacrity observe that +I see that you have been saying in your articles that the North should show a more sympathetic attitude towards the developing South.+

Ah, yes, why, why, why, indeed?

For a simple answer, suffice to say that even the common or garden worm gets tired of going the same way and turns. -- more

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YES, WE ARE MALAYSIANS 2 BERNAMA NEWS ANALYSIS (embargo)

I guess we have **reached that** stage, **all of us** Malaysians, **from the Prime Mini** ster down to the jaga kereta boy.

Nine decades of the 20th century have slipped by. **We are** in the last decade **of** this millenium.

Vision 2020 envisaged by Dr. Mahathir and other leaders **beckon** to us from a future just three **decades away**, "of a **Malaysia** in the **full flush** of nationhood, industrialisation and a healthy, caring way of life with a **new** race called Bangsa Malaysia, in **every sense** of the word.

And here **we have** some countries of the developed North **doing everything** possible to thwart our march to our cherished goal.-- more

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YES, WE ARE MALAYSIANS 3 BERNAMA NEWS ANALYSIS (embargo)

There are some countries in the North which would **want** to entrap us in a **new imperialism**, **which would** want us to follow their lifestyles and their **forms of government**.

In truth, they would want us to **remain** as **drawers of water and hewers of wood**.

That is not quite good enough for us with **Vision 2020**.

Malaysians **want**, a place in the sun **too**.

In this **new world order** of the 21st century just around **the corner** we hope to see a **community of 167 nations of equal s**.

I repeat, **I repeal**., I repeat (with **apologies** to a certain US Senator), equals, not some **more** equal than others or first among **equals**. -- more

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That is why some countries of the North must change or the 21st century will be bedevilled by the **ills and scourges** of the **present** century.

The US **should** learn **that** its interventions in Latin America, **Asia** and elsewhere have **not** brought about a **more** peaceful or better **world**. It **has not**, made the world safe for **democracy**.

Their bogeyman, world communism, has taken a **severe** battering from which **it** will **not** likely recover.

The thin, grey line between capitalism and communism **is** becoming **more** and more blurred.

Gorbachev and Bush now look like kissing cousins. -- more

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The North should **stop harping on** human rights, the environment, pollution, and **what** have you.

And so-called environmentalists **should** stop bothering the **developing** South, **chaining** themselves to **pillar, post, or barges**.

They come from countries which cannot **ha** said to **have a blameless past**.

In **fact**, **most** of the **ills** besetting developing countries are imported or **learnt** from the North -- AIDS, **pol 3 uti on, drug** addiction, etc.

Some countries **of** the North **will remember** with shame **how they enslaved** China and Indochina in **an earlier era** by the use of **opium**. -- more

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YES, WE ARE MALAYSIANS 6 BERNAMA NEWS ANALYSTS (embargo)

SO stop the **preaching** and trying to **appear** whiter than white when **you** have unclean **hands**.

We **all** have problems, **don't** we?

Malaysians are not unmindful **o-f** the **host** of problems we inherited when we tried to **adopt** wholesale the **l** ifestyles of the West.

We are starting to **ask** questions **of** the **type** of society we want in 2020.

We are also trying to **find** out the level **of** material progress we should aim for without **sacrifi** cing **perenni al** values like filial piety, respect for **elders**, peace and **harmony** in our society, **strong** moral values, a God-based **spi ri** tual **core** and other intrinsic values **now** almost **forgotten** in this **craven**, materialistic world. -- more

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YES, WE ARE MALAYSIANS 7 BERNAMA NEWS ANALYSTS (embargo)

No sir, we are not against the West., only against the sham posturings and hypocrisies. Very few Malaysians are unfamiliar with the Magna Carta or Paul Revere's ride for liberty.

Only a few, however, including this writer, have come across observations by St. Jean de Crevecoeur, a Frenchman, on the appearance of a new creature on the face of the earth, an American, over two centuries ago.

De Crevecoeur says in one of his 12 LETTERS FROM AN AMERICAN FARMER:

+What then is the American, this new man? He is ... that strange mixture of blood which you will find in no other country.

+He is an American, who, leaving behind him all his ancient prejudices and manners, receives new ones from the new mode of life he has embraced, the new government he obeys, and the new rank he holds.. -- more

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YES, WE ARE MALAYSIANS 8 BERNAMA NEWS ANALYSIS (embargo)

+Here individuals of all races are melted into a new race of men, whose labours and posterity will, one day cause great changes in the world.

+Americans are the western pilgrims, who are carrying with them that great mass of arts, sciences, vigour, and industry which began long since in the east; they will finish the great circle.+

No apologies for the long quote as the western pilgrims seem to have gone astray.

The Great Circle has come full circle with the resurgence of the East,, the increasing liveliness of Pacific Rim countries.

The US has forgotten to mind the store+ at home but is instead busy doing missionary work trying to make the world safe for their form of democracy which is not. doing too well in the world. -- more

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The US should scrap their vaunting, chiliastic ambition of trying to shape the world in its own image.

Other countries have their rights, their priorities which might not be similar to those of the US. So what.?

Malaysians should be wary of the deceit around them.

Take just one instance, American films. US filmmakers find it hard to tell it like it is, or was.

The combat, films you see on TV would have you believe that the Americans won the Vietnam War and that sauer krauts (the German nasties, that is) were such abominably bad and stupid soldiers. -- more

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YES, WE ARE MALAYSIANS 10 **BERNAMA NEWS ANALYSTS** (embargo)

This North-bashing could **go on and on** but **enough** is enough.

It should be sufficiently **clear** to the North **now** that the developing South, including **Malaysia**, **wants** to see a **united, caring world** in the 21st century where **we will** all be partners **in progress**.

Whether **this** is sheer idealism in a world which has **almost** buried that under mega tonnes of rubble **is** left to be seen.

However, know all, that **we are** Malaysians. **Yes**, **we are** Malaysians and proud of our Prime **Minister** Dr. Mahathir **for** not being **+less than frank+** with the **North**.

He is not alone. Fellow **Malaysians** are proud of him and **share his** feelings.

The North should come **in from the cold** and join the human race. --
Bernama

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