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MAHATHIR CALLS FOR SUPPORTIVE WORLD ORDER
Mahathir-Order

From Donald Baptist

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CARACAS, Nov 27⁹⁰ (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called for a new era of global co-operation in which the interests and views of all countries are given due regard.

He said the new agenda should be for a +Supportive World Order+ where decisions which affected the vital interests of developing countries were not made by a privileged few in total disregard for the view of the countries concerned.

+If democracy was the sole acceptable political creed, let there be a democracy also in the process of global decision-making,+ he told the Second Summit of the Group of 15 (G-15) here today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is to hand over chairmanship of the group to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez at this summit, was given the high honour of speaking on behalf of the Asian members of the group.

It was in recognition of the role Malaysia and he played in promoting South-South co-operation.

Malaysia was the prime mover in the formation of G-15, a working group of leaders of developing countries to act as a catalyst for greater co-operation among Third World countries. -- more.

▼27/11/23-22MST

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Speaking after President Perez opened the summit, held at the Teresa Carreno Cultural Complex, venue of the launching of the South Commission's final report in August, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also highlighted environment issues, Third World indebtedness, the unfair treatment of developing countries by the developed ones and the compelling need for the South to work together to protect their threatened independence and to improve their development prospects.

He said that a +Supportive World Order+ would look at ways to reverse the current unhealthy trends so that the developing countries could have a meaningful share of the wealth of this planet.

Any necessary adjustment must not be made only by the South but the North too must adjust, for in the end the North would benefit from the prosperity of the South.

+Before the North wags a finger at the alleged profligacy of the South it should first reduce its own massive budget deficits and live within its means.

+The North must know that their irresponsible spending is affecting world currency and financial markets,+ he added. -- more.

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They must improve savings and eliminate wasteful consumption, give up subsidies and price support for agricultural products and remove protectionist barriers that impede access to market for the produce of developing countries.

Above all, they must learn to be competitive and not blame others for economic and other woes brought on by their own inadequacies.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the North must accept the legitimate aspirations of other nations and when they fortify themselves economically behind trade blocs, they must accept that others also have a right, at least, to raise their voices in defence of their interest.

He added: +Yet, the East Asians are not allowed even to consult each other or indeed to call themselves east Asians.

+The United States rejects and opposes vehemently the East Asia Economic Caucus or EAEC and demand that Japan and South Korea dissociate themselves from the formation of this consultative group.

+South Korea is told that it owes a debt of blood to the United States and it owes nothing to Malaysia and should therefore toe the US line.+ -- more.

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Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that with all these changes and threats facing the developing countries, there was today an even more compelling need for the South countries to work together to protect their threatened independence and to improve their development prospects.

+But] and unless we do this, the North will continue to marginalise us.

+In G-15 we have made a modest beginning in South-South cooperation but we need to build on this and to accelerate and widen our collaboration,+ he added.

He said it would not be easy but then nothing worthwhile was easy. +We must have the political will and we must accept the need to sacrifice now for a more permanent gain in the future.+

He also said that G-15 was still a very new forum but members could take a measure of satisfaction in what they had achieved so far.

Quietly, and without fanfare, economic cooperation not only among the 15 but among other South countries had begun to bear fruit.

The summit is being attended by 11 of the 15 heads of state of government. Those of Egypt, Nigeria, Brazil and Yugoslavia were unable to attend. -- Bernama.

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