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MAHATHIR CALLS FOR RESTRUCTURE OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Mahathir - council

from Kuala Lumpur 00

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr

Mahathir Mohamad Thursday called for the restructure of the United Nations' Security Council and removal of the veto power to make the council representative of the powers of today. *Oversee for pt.*

+I don't see why the 1st great war should influence us forever, + he said in an interview with the Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency that produced a paper +terra viva+ at the Earth Summit here.

Dr Mahathir said there was some justification for the Security Council (with the veto power confined to five major powers) in the period just after World War II. The five powers are the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia (formerly the Soviet Union) and China.

+But now, after, such a long time, 50 years or so, we cannot be governed by what happened during that period.

+So, the Security Council has to be reshaped or restructured so as to be representative of the powers of today, including the not-so-powerful and Third World countries, + he added. -- more

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Dr Mahathir also said that the problem faced by the developing countries at the Earth Summit, formally known as UNCED (UN Conference on Environment and Development), is that the North is not prepared to share the +levers of power.+

The Prime Minister had recently lashed out at the developed nations for controlling the international agencies like the United Nations, Security Council, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund -- levers of power -- in order to dictate to the South countries.

+On the one hand, they talk about democracy and the need for 'us (the Third World) to practise democracy but, on the other hand, when it comes to international democracy, there is no one-country one-vote, it is a question of how strong you are,+ he said.

+People who preach democracy, should practise democracy,+ he added.

Dr Mahathir also said that there was a fear on the part of the developing countries, especially in a unipolar world, when a power made, the declaration that it was more interested in its own people than the rest of the world.

It meant that there was a bias on the part of the power concerned, because when there was a unipolar world with only one superpower then that superpower must be responsible for everyone (of the world) and not just its own people alone, he said. -- more

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On the question of a Third World news agency, he said it was not a new idea, and that developing countries did not have the money to set up such an agency.

+As a result, we are all dependent on news from the North and such news is often very biased news which is distorted, or misinformation.

+We have stories on Malaysia which are wrong and so we assume that if what they report on Malaysia is wrong, what they report on the South countries must be wrong, he added. -- Dername

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