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NAM SUMMIT ACCEPTS MALAYSIA'S STAND ON BOSNIA

Nam-Mahathir

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JAKARTA, Sept 6, (Bernama) -- Malaysia has succeeded in convincing the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) 'to issue a strong statement on the question of Yugoslavia, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the statement was agreed to at a bureau-level meeting last night chaired by President Suharto of Indonesia and participated in by Malaysia,

+NAM finally agreed that Serbia be mentioned in the statement as the side which committed inhumanitarian and aggressive acts in, Bosnia-Herzegovina,+ he told a press conference for Malaysian journalists here at the conclusion, of, the 10th NAM summit.

The statement was to be presented to the 'final plenary session today and, once accepted, would be the NAM consensus on the issue of Yugoslavia, he said.

Malaysia, which had been vocal' on the, issue; 'had expressed dissatisfaction with a draft statement which only condemned the atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina but did not hold any side responsible for them: -- more

▼06/09/13-36MST

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Nam-Mahathir 2 Jakarta

+I am satisfied that finally the movement is issuing a strong statement on the issue, more in line with our views,+ he said.

+This is a big problem...therefore NAM has to be firm,+ he said, adding that the United Nations and the London Conference on Yugoslavia also took firm mea&es on the matter,

+It will be strange if NAM, which is considered a radical voice in such matters, adopts a soft stand,+ said Dr Mahathir who returned to Kuala Lumpur after having attended the summit. since Tuesday.

He said that at first countries had not wanted a strong statement on Yugoslavia because they feared a similar situation might, erupt among their own ethnic groups.

+We understand that it is not that -they do not have concern for' the atrocities in Bosnia but that they fear the political implications in their own countries,+ he said. -- more

▼06/09/13-49MST

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There was heated debate on the issue of Yugoslavia right' from the meetings of senior officials through the foreign ministers meeting when Malaysia, questioned the membership of Yugoslavia in the movement.

Malaysia does not recognise Serbia and Montenegro, which make up the rump Yugoslavia, as the successor of the former Yugoslavia,, one of the five founders of NAM.

Malaysia urged for NAM to strongly condemn Serbia for its aggression. in Bosnia Herzegovina which has now been accepted. as an observer in NAM, along with Slovenia, also, a former Yugoslav republic.

NAM foreign ministers will decide on the membership of Yugoslavia in the movement when they meet in New York while attending the UN general assembly session in the middle of this month.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic had told 'the NAM summit, it was difficult for Belgrade to understand why it 'was being branded 'an aggressor when it was prepared to recognise the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. -- more

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Commenting on that statement, Dr Mahathir said: +We welcome the statement but it must be followed by action.

Such a statement had been made several times but had not been followed with action,, he added.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry acting secretary-general Datuk Abdul Halim Ali said NAM also agreed at the bureau-level meeting to insert a clause on 'the conflict in Yugoslavia in the final document of the summit.

+We are happy that the' firm stand of the movement on the issue of Yugoslavia is to be, reflected in the summit document,+ he said.

A Yugoslav delegate, Pavle Jerremovic, who was' 'approached today, said his country' had not been informed yet of the NAM stand on the issue but added that Yugoslavia would definitely not agree with such, a statement. --
Bernama