

Malaysians warned against foreigners who want

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# PM: Be proud of our

By Ahmad A. Talib

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Malaysians must not be influenced by foreign allegations that the country is not democratic enough, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said foreigners made these claims because they wanted Malaysia to remain backward and therefore unable to compete with them.

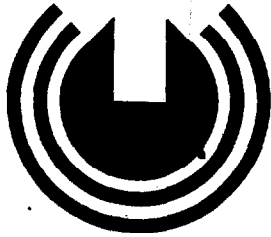
In his National Day message over Radio Televisyen Malaysia tonight, Dr Mahathir said: "There are Western countries which frown on our system of democracy. They claim that we are not democratic enough.

"Actually, they want us to practise the kind of democracy which brings about instability, economic decline and poverty. With this, they can then threaten and control us.

"They insist that the (former) Soviet Union, (former) Yugoslavia and other countries in Eastern Europe practise democracy. The result is one of disunity and riots, ethnic cleansing and other atrocities.

"All these help to weaken the countries which were once their enemies. They just allow the disaster, which arose out of an experiment in democracy, to continue without giving any assistance.

"Those who condemn us by saying that we are not democratic enough actually



FULL TEXT OF SPEECH ON P12

want us to be like the (former) Soviet Union and (former) Yugoslavia which are disunited, suffer racial riots and are unstable.

"When this happens, they can say that we are incapable of being independent and administering the country ourselves. They wish to see us more backward than the time when we were colonised."

Dr Mahathir said the country should be happy and proud that it is among a handful of new independent countries which are successful.

He said the May 1969 incident and the plight of the people in former Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland, Lebanon and several other plural societies should make the people realise how fortunate

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 2, COL 4

nation to be backward

# SUCCESS

## Dr M: Maintain peace, harmony

NST 3 1 AUG 1993

FROM PAGE ONE

nate they were.

He said instability and riots have caused many independent countries to become backward. Some of them experienced a fate worse than before they gained independence, he added.

Dr Mahathir said that when this happened, the dignity and sovereignty of the nation would be adversely affected.

"Independence has no

meaning to the people of these countries. Instead, they are so frustrated.

"On that score, we should always strive not to be at loggerheads with each other. We gain very little from such strife and rioting compared to what we can benefit in a peaceful and harmonious environment."

He said Malaysia's multi-racial society must be together in spirit and effort if the people wished to realise the objectives of Vision 2020.

He said National Day was a day for us to look back at our struggle for independence. The younger generation, in particular, should know this struggle so that they would appreciate and not forget the importance of independence.

"This is because if we are not careful, imperialism, in a subtle form through economic pressure, cultural influence and so forth, can resurface ... we should not take for granted our success and achievements."