

19 NOV 1997

Parliament-motion

CONFIDENCE IN MAHATHIR:ANWAR TABLES MOTION

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- The government today tabled a motion expressing the Dewan Rakyat's full support for Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Prime Minister.

The motion also expressed objection to the United States' investigations into the national oil corporation, Petronas' investment in Iran.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim tabled the motion in the Dewan Rakyat here following a draft resolution by some US congressmen demanding Dr Mahathir to publicly apologise or resign over his alleged statement of a Jewish conspiracy in Southeast Asian currency speculation.

Dr Mahathir had repeatedly clarified that his remarks were misinterpreted and that he is not anti-Jew.

The motion was also in protest against the US for attempting to invoke its Iran-Libya Sanctions Act 1996 on Petronas for having invested more than US\$20 million in a gas project in Iran.

The motion states:

" * Realising that Malaysia is a sovereign and independent nation whose development is based on democracy and consensus:

* Recognising that the cosmopolitan feature of Malaysia, made up of a multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-cultural population living together in peace and harmony, mutual respect and working together in the development of a prosperous and strong nation;

* Convinced that the relations with other countries must adhere to the principle of justice, freedom, equality and respect for one another;

* States that Malaysia gives its citizens the freedom to choose their own leader and government through the process of a free and democratic election;

* Stresses that Malaysia practises the principle of free trade;

* Views seriously the letter dated 27 October 1997 sent by the 34 US Congressmen to the Honourable Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, alleging that he is anti-Semitic and the motion by several congressmen in the US Congress demanding the Prime Minister to openly apologize in connection with the allegation or to step down as prime minister;

* Regrets the effort made by the US government to use the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act on Petronas for investing in the gas industry in Iran;

" Therefore this august House resolves:

* That Malaysia will uphold the principle of harmonious living of the various races and religions and it will continue under the leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. And in accordance with the fair, just and open policy that is being practised, refutes the statement that the national leaders of the country are anti-Semitic or against any other races;

* To object the motion by several congressmen for their baseless allegation and their dispute on the sovereignty and the right of the people and seeks that the international community respect the rights of the people of any nation to determine their own leadership and national policies through the process of democracy and consensus;

* To object to the decision made by the US government to investigate

Petronas' investment in the Iranian gas industry because it is against the spirit of free trade adopted by the international community;

* To strive to ensure the continuity of good relations with the US in all aspects and to enhance that relations;

* And in respect of these, to give our full confidence and support to the Honourable Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the Prime Minister of Malaysia." -- BERNAMA

Team AH NMO rn