

20/11/1997

Full text of the motion tabled in Parliament

THE motion tabled by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim reads that:

* AWARE that Malaysia is a sovereign and independent nation whose development is based on democracy and consensus;

* REALISES 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 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 practices 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 openly apologise in connection with the allegation or step down as Prime Minister;

* REGRETS the efforts 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: 1. EMPHASISES 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 race;

2. OBJECTS to 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;

3. OBJECTS TO the decision made by the US government to investigate the Petronas investment in the Iranian gas industry because it is against the spirit of free trade adopted by the international community;

4. STRIVES to ensure the continuity of good relations with the US in all aspects and to enhance relations;

5. 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.

(END)