

18 NOV 1997

Government-Motion

GOVT TO TABLE FIVE-POINT MOTION TOMORROW IN DEWAN RAKYAT

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 18 (Bernama) -- The Government will table a five-point motion expressing full confidence in Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the Dewan Rakyat tomorrow.

The motion is in light of the US Congressmen's draft resolution calling on him to apologize or resign for his alleged anti-Jewish remarks and the US move to investigate Petronas' investments in Iran.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim would table the five-point motion to reflect Malaysians' outrage over the US Congressmen's move.

The five points in the motion:

- \* Malaysia will uphold, respect and practise the multi-racial and multi-religious principle under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. It will continue to practise a liberal, fair and just policy and denies any anti-racial or anti-Jewish statement.

- \* Malaysia opposes the draft resolution of some US Congressmen and calls upon the international community to acknowledge the rights of the people of all countries to determine their own leadership and national policies.

- \* Malaysia opposes the decision of the US Government to investigate Petronas's investment in Iran's gas industry as it violates the spirit of free trade which is practised by the international community.

- \* Malaysia will strive to guarantee continued good relations with the United States in all fields and step up efforts to enhance this relationship.

\*Members of the House reiterate their full confidence in Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Prime Minister of Malaysia and give their support to him.

According to the notice distributed in Parliament, the government would propose that the Dewan Rakyat view seriously the letter dated Oct 27 sent by 34 members of the US Congress to the Prime Minister.

The letter accused Dr Mahathir of being anti-Semitic and demanded that the Prime Minister apologize publicly or resign for allegedly implying there was a Jewish conspiracy against Muslims through his reported statement that US financier and speculator George Soros by coincidence was a Jew and also by coincidence Malaysia and Indonesia, whose currencies had been affected, happened to be Muslim nations.

The Government also proposed that the Dewan Rakyat express regret over the move by the United States to invoke the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act in light of Petronas investments in Iran.

The motion is based on the following facts:

- \* Malaysia is a sovereign and independent nation developed on the principles of democracy and musyawarah.

- \* Malaysia is a multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-cultural country with the people living in peace and tranquility, practising mutual respect and together having built a strong and prosperous nation.

- \* Relations among countries are based on principles of justice, freedom, equality and mutual respect.

- \* Malaysia gives freedom to the people to determine their leaders and their government through free and democratic elections.

- \* Malaysia upholds the principle of free trade.

A total of 168 out of the 192 members of the Dewan Rakyat are from the

Barisan Nasional (BN).

The opposition parties represented by 24 members had expressed support for Dr Mahathir but after reading the contents of the motion, at least two parties, the DAP and PAS decided to hold meetings to determine their stand tomorrow.

One of the 24 Dr Patau Rubis (STAR-Mas Gading) told Bernama that he supported the motion in its entirety.

DAP Deputy Secretary-General Lim Guan Eng (DAP-Kota Melaka) said his party would meet later tonight to determine its stand along with other opposition members.

The seven PAS members also met in Parliament House but they did not issue any statement.

The Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) which has seven MPs are also expected to support the motion as there has been no indication to the contrary. --

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AH AAM