

23/03/1999

Dr M: Foreigners still trying hard to undermine country

ALOR STAR, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on the people to be mindful of "Greeks bearing gifts", saying that foreigners were still trying very hard to undermine the country.

Addressing civil servants, community leaders, ulama, imam and penghulu at Wisma Darul Aman here, Dr Mahathir asked them to help fend off attempts by the West to re-colonise the nation.

Revealing the foreigners' strategy of using university students and the Malays to create chaos and bring down the present Government, the Prime Minister appealed to the people, particularly those present to safeguard the country's sovereignty.

Dr Mahathir said: "I hope the Malays and ulama will give serious thought to the threat I'm referring to. Don't be emotional. This is not a fable invented by me ... this is a real threat.

"I can't help it if they don't give their votes to us but I am hoping that we will not allow ourselves to be used by our foes to re-colonise us," he said to the packed crowd who had gathered much earlier.

Dr Mahathir had addressed a smaller crowd at the same hall yesterday before attending a full crowd at the stadium later in the night at a meet-the-people session. He left for Kuala Lumpur this morning.

Also present were his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid, State Legislative Speaker Razak Hashim and State Secretary Datuk Ismail Shafie.

Pledging that he would not allow the country's sovereignty to be challenged during his tenure, Dr Mahathir reminded the people of the challenges they would be facing in the future. Saying that he knew of the humiliation of being re-colonised since he had lived under the colonisation of the British, Japanese and Siamese before Independence, the Prime Minister said some of the young generation were unaware of this.

"We had to call them 'Sir' in our own home and country. The Malays were considered as dumb."

Dr Mahathir said the present young generation, especially university students, did not know what it felt to be colonised as "they were born in luxuries".

He voiced his disappointment that some university students were now vocal in calling for reformation, without knowing the full impact of their involvement.

Actually, Dr Mahathir said, they had been used by certain quarters, including those from the West, to topple the present Government and his leadership.

"They are tools of foreign elements to bring down the Government, a Government which has been vocal in highlighting the nation's problems and that of other developing nations.

"I do not want to be recolonised. As long as I'm around I will not allow this country to be recolonised. I am already 74 and I am not important. I have got what I want. There's no higher position than what I am now. It is my responsibility to convey to the people the threats we are facing.

"I may die tomorrow but as a responsible person, I have to warn the people of the threat and of the need to not allow ourselves from becoming their tools."

Dr Mahathir said the opposition had been playing to certain western tunes by accusing him of being secular and anti-Islam.

"The intention (opposition) is to smear my image so that the people will reject the present leadership," he said.

The Prime Minister said the opposition has the heart to co-operate with the foreign elements as long as they think they could further their political interest.

Dr Mahathir said the foreign media had been hoping that Pas would succeed in weakening the Government.

"Don't ever think that the foreign media is supporting Pas because they want to see the formation of an Islamic State ... they are just interested in crippling a country which has been vocally criticising them," he said, adding that the DAP had also been used for the same motive.

"The nation can never be destroyed unless the Malays collaborate with them to cripple their own country," he added.

Referring to what is commonly referred to as the Fifth Column, the Prime Minister said: "They will use The Fifth Column strategy where our own people will open the gates to enable the foreigners to invade our country."

Dr Mahathir also cited the the history of "The Wooden Horse" where the Greeks had used a wooden horse to invade Troy.

"That's why the West have a saying `Beware of Greeks Bearing Gifts'.

"Now we are seeing the foreign elements offering us gifts. These gifts (to us) are the same as the wooden horse given by the Greeks to the Trojans.

"These gifts are only aimed at weakening us."

(END)