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OIC-Egypt (Reaction)

DR MAHATHIR'S SPEECH "A ROAD MAP" FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES- EGYPT

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher has described Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech at the 10th Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit today as a "road map" which should be followed by Islamic countries.

He said the Malaysian Prime Minister not only made a shrewd and deep assessment of the situation facing the Muslim world but also laid out a programme of action to overcome the problems.

"He (Dr Mahathir) elaborated on a programme of action that is wide and very important. I hope the Islamic countries can follow the road map. That is a really good road map," he told reporters on the sidelines of the OIC Leaders' Summit.

Dr Mahathir set the tone for deliberations at the biggest gathering of Islamic nations with a call to them to use their strength and close ranks in dealing with issues confronting Muslims worldwide.

The Prime Minister said that with 1.3 billion people, the Muslim countries were actually strong but they had never really tried to unite and cooperate.

However when referring to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Egyptian Foreign Minister said Israel was to blame for the collapse of peace talks between the warring parties.

According to him, Israel had thwarted every effort made to bring both parties to the negotiating table.

"We see every effort (to solve the conflict) that has been made by country after country and organisations being thwarted by Israel," said Maher.

Israel must realise that thwarting the peace effort was not beneficial to them and it was much better to resume negotiations with Palestine.

-- BERNAMA

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