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Mahathir-United Nations

MAHATHIR: THERE IS NO NEW WORLD ORDER

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- There is no New World Order today, only the Old World Order where might is right and the Devil takes the hindmost.

That was Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's message to the Diners' Club of the Armed Forces Staff College at a hotel here today.

In his speech, "United Nations and the New World Order", the former Prime Minister said the United Nations (UN) had failed to serve all its member states and help right the wrongs perpetrated on innocent people.

"It has been hijacked by a few to serve their cause, or, if these few cannot hijack it, it is bypassed and ignored," he told 150 students including 31 officers from 26 countries who are working towards their diploma in Strategic Defence Studies at the Malaysian Armed Forces Staff College.

For example, Dr Mahathir said, two of the founding members, the United States and the United Kingdom, decided "to completely ignore the United Nations and attack Iraq under the pretext of (an) Iraqi threat to use weapons of mass destruction against Britain within 45 minutes of the order being given by Saddam Hussein."

He warned that if the U.S. and coalition countries succeeded in carrying out a regime change in Iraq using military force, in future "The United States and the coalition countries, particularly old imperialists like Britain, would be busy invading one country after another to carry out regime change."

In that case, he said, "The United Nations would be simply irrelevant."

Turning to the war in Palestine since 1948, Dr Mahathir pointed out that the Palestinians first "tried to regain their land by appealing to world opinion, to the United Nations."

"The appeals went unheeded," he said, so with other Arab countries they fought a conventional war.

That failed, he recalled, and Israel annexed Palestinian land which they had conquered.

"Israel believes it can defeat the Palestinians by out-terrorising the Palestinians," Dr Mahathir said.

"Until the world recognises that there is really no difference between conventional and unconventional terrorism," he warned, "there is not going to be peace in the world."

"Only a democratic United Nations can resolve the problem with justice and fairness and end all forms of terror," Mahathir said.

And since the big powers have rendered the UN impotent through their undemocratic ways, he concluded, "It is they who must reform themselves and subscribe to a United Nations-sponsored, democratic resolution of conflicts via the conference table."

Responding to questions after his speech, Dr Mahathir said he did not want to become UN Secretary-General because "You are under the thumb of other people and not able to do anything the permanent five will not listen to you."

US office asked whether Asean would consider becoming a junior partner of the UN to form a regional security force.

Dr Mahathir replied that security was not dealt entirely with the use of force but also by diplomatic means, by finding the reason for problems and trying to resolve them.

Guests at the function included Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin, Chief of the Armed Forces, Jen Tan Sri Mohd Zahidi Zainuddin, the Armed Forces Staff College Commandant, Brig Jen Datuk Jamil Rais Abdullah, college board members and former commandants.

The Diners' Club invites prominent speakers to address them two or three times a year.

-- BERNAMA

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