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OIC speech was in classic Dr M style

Mohamad Reaz

I WISH to respond to the ongoing discussion regarding Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's OIC address.

What is surprising is the suddenness and torrential fury of the reactions from Western quarters. And they picked on only one issue among many - the continued dominance of the Jews in world affairs.

It may be that Dr Mahathir was too stark in his remarks. But that's classic Dr Mahathir, without apologies. He doesn't play down facts. And what he said was a fact of history. The Jews dominate political, military, economic, social and scientific thinking, directly or indirectly.

Reading the speech in its entirety, I don't believe that Dr Mahathir was trying to pit the entire Muslim world against the Jews or that he was being inflammatory.

He put his head out on the chopping board by chiding the Muslims for their impotence and inaction in world affairs and in affairs concerning the Muslims themselves. And that really was the thrust of his speech. It was a real gamble on his part because of the risk that Muslims in Malaysia and abroad may not be comfortable with critical selfanalysis.

But he took the gamble and seems to have won. Most of the OIC leaders have recognised and supported his stand on the various issues he made in his speech, especially the point that Muslims should help themselves and not cup their palms for paltry alms.

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