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OIC will have to climb that mountain

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Cynicism Versus Realism

MOST people will be cynical. They will have to be disproved by an invigorated and energised OIC under Malaysian leadership.

It is a tall order and a lot is being heaped on Malaysian shoulders which, alone, cannot carry the burden of giving hope, where none exists, of making progress in the valleys of death.

There has to be a congregation of significant commitment among a sufficient number of OIC members and their leaders. With his prestige, Dr Mahathir should focus his energy and abilities after retirement as Prime Minister of Malaysia on forging workable common positions among OIC states on the big international political issues where Muslims have been victims and at risk.

That, again, will not be easy for, despite his moderation and realism, he continues to be depicted in the Western media as anti-Jewish which, of course, is simply not kosher, the wrong kind of accusation to have hurled at you.

Thus, CNN and the Western media were quick to distort his comment in the opening speech about the six out of the twelve million Jews who were exterminated in Europe, as if it was something he relished, when his point was that, even when so reduced, the Jews were able to come out of the pogroms and the holocaust, think through what they have to do to establish unshakeable Jewish reality them-selves or through surrogates.

These are reflections on political realism, not expressions of racial hate. Western leaders should see this and recognise how Dr Mahathir wishes to give order and form to political Islam which is modern in outlook, for solidarity and peace.

No doubt, his call for Islamic unity will be pounced upon as a nascent threat when, again, it should be obvious that internecine Muslim conflict is a source of instability not just within states - the failed states - but also more widely in the international political system.

Similarly, finding strength in unity, through the pooling of resources, is no threat unless you bode ill for Muslims, for it will be easier to deal with an Islamic nation which is self-confident and at peace with itself. It is not as if we are talking about a nation-state that is trying to pose a challenge to any of the major powers, only an intention to found