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MISC'S SECOND BULK CARRIER TO BE DELIVERED

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 10 (BERNAMA ES) — DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MALAYSIA WOULD SOON SERVE HER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE WITH HER OWN SHIPS WITHOUT RELYING TOO MUCH ON FOREIGN SHIPPING OPERATORS.

IN A MESSAGE TO MARK THE NAMING AND DELIVERY OF THE SECOND MALAYSIAN INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CORPORATION'S BULK CARRIER +RIMBA MELATI+ AT THE IMARI SHIPYARD IN JAPAN THIS THURSDAY, DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WOULD NOT ONLY SAVE MALAYSIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUT ALSO GIVE PRESTIGE TO MALAYSIA ON THE HIGH SEAS.

THE 27,000 DWT +RIMBA MELATI+, THE FIRST TO BE NAMED AFTER A MALAYSIAN TIMBER SPECIE, WILL BE JOINED BY THREE OTHER BULK CARRIERS, +RIMBA RAMIN+, +RIMBA KERUING+ AND +RIMBA BALAU+ BY THE END OF THE YEAR TO PROVIDE REGULAR SERVICE TO EUROPE AND BRITAIN FOR MALAYSIAN TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS EXPORTERS.

ANOTHER FOUR SUCH BULK CARRIERS WOULD BE DELIVERED IN 1977 TO ENSURE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE MISC' BULK SERVICE.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT MISC AS MALAYSIA'S SOLE NATIONAL FLAG CARRIER HAS A GREAT ROLE TO PLAY IN FULFILLING THE COUNTRY'S SHIPPING NEEDS.

HE SAID THERE WERE NOW POSITIVE INDICATIONS THAT THE WRLD TIMBER MARKET IS HEADING TOWARDS SOME DEGREE OF RECOVERY AND AS SUCH MALAYSIA COULD EXPECT TO SEE MORE OF HER TIMBER BEING EXPORTED OVERSEAS. S 2/11

MALAYSIA LAST YEAR EXPORTED 6,971,857 TONS OF 50 CU. FT. TIMBER WORTH \$1,000.5 MILLION.

MISC CHAIRMAN MR KUOK HOCK HEN IN HIS MESSAGE SAID MISC SINCE ITS FORMATION HAD FELT THE NED TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT AND ECONOMIC FORM OF TRANSPORTATION OF MALAYSIAN PRODUCE.

— BERNAMA ES 1340/AB