

22  
NO31 (F)  
SHIPS

76  
KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 10 (BERNAMA) -- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED HOPES TODAY THAT MALAYSIA'S REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE WILL SOON BE SERVED BY HER OWN +BOTTOMS+ (SHIPS) RATHER THAN FOREIGN SHIPPING OPERATORS.

HE SAID THIS WOULD NOT ONLY SAVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUT WOULD ALSO GIVE MALAYSIA PRESTIGE ON THE HIGH SEAS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS IN A MESSAGE ON THE NAMING AND DELIVERY CEREMONY OF THE MALAYSIAN INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CORPORATION'S SECOND BULK CARRIER, RIMBA MERANTI, A 27,000 DWT VESSEL, AT IMARI SHIPYARD. JAPAN.

HE AND HIS WIFE, DR. SITI HASMAH, WILL LEAVE FOR JAPAN TO WITNESS THE CEREMONY TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY. 56

THE OPEN-HATCH BULK CARRIER IS ALSO THE FIRST IN THE SERIES OF EIGHT MISC SHIPS NAMED AFTER MALAYSIAN TIMBER SPECIES. 4#

DR. MAHATHIR CONGRATULATED MISC FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MALAYSIA.

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

WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF THIS SPECIALLY DESIGNED MODERN BULK CARRIER, HE WAS CONFIDENT THE MISC WOULD PROVIDE MORE REGULAR, RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT SERVICE FOR SHIPPERS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1547/YF

NO32 (F)  
SHIPS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE POSITIVE INDICATIONS THAT THE WORLD TIMBER MARKET WAS HEADING TOWARDS SOME DEGREE OF RECOVERY.

+MALAYSIA CAN THEREFORE EXPECT TO SEE MORE OF HER TIMBER BEING EXPORTED OVERSEAS IN THE FUTURE AND THE ENTRY OF THE MISC INTO THE BULK TIMBER SERVICE IS MOST TIMELY, + HE ADDED.

MISC CHAIRMAN ENCIK KUOK HOCK NIEN SAID THE CEREMONY WOULD HERALD ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MANY DIVERSE SHIPPING ACTIVITIES OF THE CORPORATION.

HE SAID FROM ITS EARLY DAYS, MISC HAD FELT THE NEED TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT AND ECONOMIC FORM OF TRANSPORTATION FOR MALAYSIAN PRODUCE AND THIS LOGICALLY LED TO THE ORDERING OF BULK CARRIER.

THE RIMBA MERANTI WILL LATER BE JOINED BY THE RIMBA RAMIN, RIMBA KERUING AND RIMBA BALAU TO CARRY TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS FROM MALAYSIA TO TRADITIONAL MARKETS IN NORTH WEST EUROPE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

ANOTHER FOUR MORE VESSELS WOULD BE DELIVERED IN 1977. -- BERNAMA 1550/YF