

71 (A)  
 KUALA LUMPUR FEB. 4 (BERNAMA) -- DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD ASSURED FOREIGN INVESTORS TODAY THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WORKERS IN THIS COUNTRY TAKING OVER FACTORIES IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR NATIONALISTIC SENTIMENTS.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE BEHAVIOUR OF WORKERS AND THE MATTERS OF STRIKES AND OTHER FORMS OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION WERE IMPORTANT FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DECISION TO INVEST.

+THE FACT THAT MALAYSIA IS RELATIVELY FREE OF INDUSTRIAL UNREST AND POLITICIZATION OF WORKERS MEANS THAT RISKS ARE LESSENE+, HE SAID WHEN ADDRESSING THE CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA HERE ORGANISED BY STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

HE ADDED THAT THE SENSE OF REponsIBILITY OF MALAYSIAN WORKERS AND A MAJORITY OF TRADE UNION LEADERS WHICH WAS AN ASSET HAD NOT BEEN HIGHLIGHTED AND GIVEN DUE CREDIT SO FAR.

FOREIGN MANAGERS OF FACTORIES AND OTHER BUSINESS ENTERPRISES HAD SELDOM FOUND MALAYSIAN WORKERS AND THEIR LEADERS UNREASONABLE, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA MORE 1929/YF

MAHATHIR-- LEAD 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT FOR A TIME RECENTLY THERE WAS A FEELING THAT IRRESPONSIBILITY AND MILITANCY HAD CREPT INTO THE LEADERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS AND SOME OF THE WORKERS.

+BUT AS SOON AS THE ISSUES WERE MADE CLEAR AND THE EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION UPON THE NATION EXPLAINED, SANITY RETURNED+, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT TRADE UNIONS WERE BENEFICIAL TO THE WORKERS; AND THERE WAS NO DOUBT THE EXISTENCE OF TRADE UNIONS HAD RESULTED IN IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS FOR THE WORKERS.

+BUT THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ALLOW THE AMBITIONS OF YEARNING FOR POWER ON THE PART OF TRADE UNION LEADERS TO INFLUENCE LEGITIMATE TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA MORE

MAHATHIR-NEW LEAD 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA COULD NOT GUARANTTEE FOREIGN INVESTORS THAT THERE WOULD BE NO RISH IN INVESTING HERE BUT ASSURED THEM THAT COMPARED WITH A LOT OF OTHER COUNTRIES, THE RISK WAS VERY MUCH LESS.

+INDEED IN CERTAIN ASPECTS IT IS MUCH LESS THAN EVEN YOUR OWN COUNTRIES+, HE TOLD THE GATHERING.

HE ADDED THAT AMONG THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, AND INDEED IN MOST OF ASIA, MALAYSIA MUST HOLD THE RECORD FOR CONSISTENTLY WELCOMING FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

THERE HAD BEEN AGITATIONS AGAINST THE INFLOW OF FOREIGN CAPITAL AND EVEN AGAINST FREE ENTERPRISE BUT THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY VIOLENCE OR EXPROPRIATION.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID IF AT ALL FOREIGN COMPANIES HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER, THE PROCESS HAD BEEN PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE.

+INDEED NOT ONLY DO THE MALAYSIAN ADVERTISE THEIR LEGITIMATE PROPOSALS TO BUY UP PARTICULAR FOREIGN COMPANIES BUT THE FOREIGN COMPANIES TOO FREELY SOLICIT THE SUPPORT OF SHAREHOLDERS IN ORDER TO REMAIN FOREIGN OWNED+.

+SURELY THIS IS UNIQUE IN TERMS OF TOLERANCE BY INDEPENDENT NATIONS, HE SAID. --BERNAMA 1938/EY