

RICE

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KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 27 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA'S STOCKPILE OF RICE WILL BE INCREASED FROM 260,000 TONS TO MORE THAN 300,000 TONS SOON IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT DROUGHT IN SEVERAL STATES OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON RICE WHICH MET THIS MORNING HAD ALSO DECIDED THAT A MALAYSIAN TEAM BE SENT TO BURMA, THAILAND AND CHINA SOON TO BUY MORE RICE.

THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALSO MET THE VISITING YUGOSLAV MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, ENCIK STOJAN ANDOV, AT HIS OFFICE

HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING THAT TRADE BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND YUGOSLAVIA HAD INCREASED BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS +BUT THE LEAPS HAVE BEEN IN OUR FAVOUR ONLY+.

+IT WAS NECESSARY THEREFORE FOR THE YUGOSLAV DELEGATION TO VISIT US AND EXPLORE HOW THEY COULD BRING ABOUT A BALANCE IN THE TRADE.+

--BERNAMA MORE 1735/BY

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ACCORDING TO HIM, MALAYSIA'S VALUE OF EXPORTS TO YUGOSLAVIA LAST YEAR WAS \$100 MILLION WHILE IMPORTS FROM THAT COUNTRY WERE ONLY WORTH \$2-1/2 MILLION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID; +THEY WOULD LIKE TO REDUCE THIS BIG DIFFERENCE BUT ON OUR PART THIS WOULD MEAN WE HAVE TO MAKE CERTAIN ACCOMODATIONS+.

HE SAID MALAYSIA HAD BEEN USED TO UNIFORM STANDARDS AND PATTERNS BECAUSE OF TRADING WITH BRITAIN AND OTHER NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES FOR A LONG TIME.

+WHAT WE HAVE BEEN BUYING FROM ALL THESE COUNTRIES ARE SIMILAR BUT IF WE START BUYING FROM YUGOSLAVIA, THEN THEY WILL HAVE TO SUIT OUR NEEDS OR WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES IN OUR REQUIREMENTS+, HE ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA, AND +I AM VERY KEEN ON RESPONDING+.

LATER, DATUK SER DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT A NEW TOWN MIGHT BE CONSTRUCTED AT KAKI BUKIT NEAR MALAYSIA'S BORDER WITH THAILAND SOON AND MORE FACILITIES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED AT PERANGAN, NORTH OF CHANGLOON.

THE FACILITIES WOULD INCLUDE CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND POLICE CHECKPOINTS.

HE SAID THAT THESE POSTS WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT AND EFFECTIVE ROLE IN HELPING THE AUTHORITIES TO CURB THE ACTIVITIES OF COMMUNIST TERRORISTS, SMUGGLERS AS WELL AS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. --BERNAMA 1740/BY