

JAPAN

88

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 5 (BERNAMA) — MALAYSIA HAS ASKED JAPAN TO PHASE DOWN HER FERTILISER PRODUCTION WHEN THE TWO ASEAN UREA PROJECTS COME ON TO STREAM.

SHE HAS ALSO ASKED JAPAN TO EXPORT HER LABOUR-INTENSIVE AND LOW-TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES TO MALAYSIA AND TO LIBERALISE HER TRADE RESTRICTIONS ON ASEAN EXPORTS.

THE REQUESTS WERE CONVEYED TO JAPANESE MINISTER

OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY ENCIK TOSHIQ KOHMOTO BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD DURING A ONE-HOUR CLOSER DOOR MEETING AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR IS ALSO MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

HE SAID THERE WOULD BE EXCESS OF FERTILISERS WHEN MALAYSIA'S UREA PROJECT CAME ON STREAM TOGETHER WITH THE INDONESIAN ONE WHICH WAS ALREADY IN PRODUCTION.

IN THAT CASE, ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE FACING STIFF COMPETITION FROM THE JAPANESE FERTILISER PRODUCERS IN THE WORLD MARKET.

—BERNAMA MORE 1315/BY

JAPAN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID WHAT MALAYSIA HAD SUGGESTED WAS THAT JAPAN SHOULD LOWER HER PRODUCTION OF SUCH FERTILISERS SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT COMPETE WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ASEAN.

HE SUGGESTED THAT JAPAN CHANGE HER PATTERN OF INDUSTRY SO THAT IT COULD EXPORT SOME OF HER LABOUR-INTENSIVE AND LOW TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA.

THIS WAS BECAUSE MALAYSIA HAS THE SPACE, COMPARATIVELY LOW LABOUR COSTS AND ALSO LOW POWER COSTS.

+THE JAPANESE COULD PRODUCE THEIR PRODUCTS IN MALAYSIA CHEAPER AND THEY COULD THEN EXPORT THEM BACK HOME AS WELL AS THE WORLD MARKETS + ADDED DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR.

+IN THIS WAY, THEY CAN HELP US BY UPGRADING OUR TECHNICAL SKILL AND WE CAN HELP THEM TO REDUCE THEIR HUGE TRADE SURPLUSES+. —
BERNAMA MORE 1328/BY

JAPAN 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ONE OF THESE INDUSTRIES SUITABLE FOR EXPORT WOULD BE TEXTILE WHICH COULD BE PRODUCED IN MALAYSIA AND FINISHED IN JAPAN.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID MALAYSIA HAD ASKED FOR THE LOWERING OF THE FIVE PER CENT IMPORT DUTY ON SAWN TIMBER AND THE FOUR PER CENT IMPORT DUTY ON PALM OIL.

THE FIVE PER CENT IMPORT DUTY ON SAWN TIMBER HAD AFFECTED MILLING AND OTHER WOOD-BASED INDUSTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WAS TRYING TO LIMIT THE EXPORT OF LOGS BUT SINCE JAPAN DID NOT IMPOSE ANY DUTY ON LOGS, THE GOVERNMENT FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO DISCOURAGE SUCH EXPORTS.

ON PALM OIL, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID WHILE PALM OIL HAD TO BEAR A FOUR PER CENT DUTY, TALLOW WAS DUTY-FREE.

MALAYSIA HAS ALSO BEEN INFORMED BY JAPAN OF A BIGGER GLOBAL QUOTA FOR PINEAPPLE IMPORTS WHICH COULD BE USED TO MALAYSIA'S ADVANTAGE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID JAPAN HAS BECOME THE BIGGEST TRADING PARTNER AS WELL AS INVESTOR IN MALAYSIA IN RECENT YEARS.

MALAYSIA'S TRADE WITH JAPAN WAS EVEN BIGGER THAN THAT WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AS A GROUP NOW.

—BERNAMA MORE 1410/AH

NO36 (F)
JAPAN 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HOWEVER, THE MINISTER SAID THAT MALAYSIA WOULD SEEK A BIGGER MARKET FOR HER MANUFACTURED AND SEMI-MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS AS MORE THAN 85 PER CENT OF MALAYSIAN EXPORTS TO JAPAN NOW WERE STILL CONFINED TO PRIMARY COMMODITIES.

HE SAID JAPAN HAD PROMISED TO CONSIDER MALAYSIA'S REQUESTS.

ON THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, MALAYSIA EXPRESSED HER DISSATISFACTION THAT ONLY ONE OUT OF 30 ITEMS LISTED FOR TAX EXEMPTION WAS RELEVANT TO MALAYSIA.

THE SINGLE ITEM VALUABLE TO MALAYSIA WAS SHRIMP EXPORTS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID JAPAN HAD PROMISED TO TAKE UP MALAYSIA'S REQUESTS FOR TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR MORE TROPICAL PRODUCTS AT THE FORTHCOMING GATT NEGOTIATIONS.

ON THE RISKS OF BEING OVER-DEPENDENT ON JAPAN FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT MALAYSIA IN FACT ENCOURAGED DIVERSIFICATION OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

HOWEVER, THE JAPANESE HAD ACHIEVED THEIR PRESENT POSITION BECAUSE OF THEIR AGGRESSIVENESS IN TRADE.

HE HOPED OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WOULD, STEP UP THEIR PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS. — BERNAMA MORE
JAPAN 5 KUALA LUMPUR

+WE CANNOT FAVOUR ANY SINGLE COUNTRY OR ELSE WE WILL GET INTO TROUBLE,+ ADDED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

ENCIK KOHMOTO AND HIS 11-MEMBER MISSION FLEW IN YESTERDAY AND HAD AN HOUR'S TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN ONN.

HIS VISIT IS A FOLLOW-UP OF THE VISIT BY JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER ENCIK T. FUKUDA DURING THE LAST ASEAN SUMMIT.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, DATUK LEW SIP HON, PETRONAS CHAIRMAN TAN SRI ABDUL KADIR SHAMSUDDIN, CHAIRMAN OF FIDA DATUK JAMIL JAN WERE PRESENT AT THIS MORNING'S DISCUSSIONS.

HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT A HIGH-POWERED BUYING AND SALES MISSION WOULD VISIT THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

—BERNAMA 1215/87
JAPAN 6 KUALA LUMPUR (RE-OPENS ITEM 37)

LATER, ENCIK KOHMOTO AND HIS PARTY VISITED THE SIRIM COMPLEX IN SHAH ALAM WHERE HE WAS RECEIVED BY THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, TAN SRI ONG KEE HUI.

BEFORE GOING TO THE COMPLEX, ENCIK KOHMOTO TOURED THE SHAH ALAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WHERE SOME MALAYSIAN-JAPANESE JOINT VENTURES HAVE THEIR FACTORIES.

HIS VISIT COINCIDED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF JAPANESE EXPERTS WHO WILL HELP SIRIM IN THE SETTING UP OF A TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR METAL WORKING INDUSTRIES.

TAN SRI ONG SAID THE CENTRE, TO BE CALLED THE ELECTROPLATING, PRESS-WORKING, WELDING, DYE-MAKING CENTRE (EPWDC), WOULD PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS FOR THE METAL INDUSTRIES.

ENCIK KOHMOTO AND HIS PARTY WERE BRIEFED ON THE FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF SIRIM. THEY WERE LATER TAKEN AROUND THE COMPLEX. —
BERNAMA 1811/YF