

MAHATHIR-FUKUDA FROM ANNE KOH

TOKYO, NOV. 2 (BERNAMA) — JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER TAKEO FUKUDA HAS ASSURED MALAYSIA THAT THE RECENT CHINA-JAPAN ACCORD WILL NOT IMMEDIATELY AFFECT MALAYSIA'S TRADE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.

THIS ASSURANCE WAS CONVEYED TO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, WHEN HE CALLED ON THE JAPANESE LEADER AT HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE HERE THIS AFTERNOON.

DURING THE TALKS WHICH LASTED 30 MINUTES, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH ENCIK FUKUDA ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE EXPANSION OF JAPANESE-CHINESE TRADE FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE SINO-JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP TREATY RECENTLY.

MALAYSIA, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID, WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING THE CHANGES IN THE TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN AS A RESULT OF THIS TREATY AND HOW THIS MIGHT AFFECT HER TRADE WITH JAPAN.

ENCIK FUKUDA TOLD DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR THAT THIS TREATY WITH CHINA WAS +AN ON-GOING THING+ AND HE EXPECTED NO RADICAL CHANGES IN TRADE RELATIONSHIPS IMMEDIATELY.

THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MODERNISATION OF CHINA WAS NOT GOING TO CONVERT IT INTO A MAJOR INDUSTRIAL POWER THAT WOULD IMMEDIATELY CHANGE THE PATTERNS OF TRADE. — BERNAMA MORE 1812/1

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LATER IN AN INTERVIEW WITH BERNAMA AND RTM CORRESPONDENTS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE ALSO BRIEFED ENCIK FUKUDA ON THE RECENT VISIT TO MALAYSIA OF THE VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG.

+I CONVEYED TO HIM ENCIK DONG'S STATEMENT THAT VIETNAM'S POLICIES ARE INFLUENCED BY VIETNAMESE NATIONALISM THAN BY ANY OTHER INFLUENCE FROM OUTSIDE,+ HE SAID.

+IN MALAYSIA, WE ACCEPT HIS STATEMENT IN GOOD FAITH,+ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS HERE LEADING A MALAYSIAN INVESTMENT PROMOTION MISSION, SAID HE ALSO BROUGHT UP WITH ENCIK FUKUDA THE QUESTION OF JAPAN FINANCING OF THE LNG PLANT IN BINTULU ON A SOFT-TERM BASIS.

THE BINTULU PLANT IS EXPECTED TO COST US\$1.2 BILLION (ABOUT M\$2.6 BILLION).

THE QUESTION OF INCREASING MAS FLIGHT FREQUENCIES INTO JAPAN WAS ALSO DISCUSSED.

UNDER THE PRESENT AIR AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN, MALAYSIA'S CARRIER IS ALLOWED THE EQUIVALENT OF SEVEN BOEING 707 LANDINGS PER WEEK.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE MALAYSIA USES THREE FLIGHTS OF DC 10 AND TWO OF 707, THE FLIGHT LOAD IS EQUIVALENT TO ONLY 6-1/2 707 LANDINGS PER WEEK.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID AS MALAYSIA WOULD BE PURCHASING BIGGER JETS, INCLUDING THE AIRBUS 300, SHE NEEDED TO INCREASE ITS FLIGHT FREQUENCIES USING WIDE-BODIED RANGE OF AIRCRAFTS. — BERNAMA MORE 1818/LK

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THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER GAVE HIS ASSURANCE THAT HIS MATTER WOULD BE LOOKED INTO.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HAD LUNCH WITH THE JAPANESE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY, ENCIK TOSHIO KOMOTO.

THIS WAS THE SECOND MEETING BETWEEN ENCIK KOMOTO AND THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SINCE HE ARRIVED ON OCT. 28.

IT WAS LEARNED THAT DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TALKED AT LENGTH WITH ENCIK KOMOTO ON THE POSSIBILITY OF JAPAN LEASING MALAYSIA'S LNG TANKERS.

MALAYSIA'S FIRST LNG TANKER WILL BE DELIVERED BY NEXT YEAR. HOWEVER, MALAYSIA'S LNG PLANT WILL ONLY COME ON-STREAM IN 1982.

TONIGHT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WILL BE ENTERTAINED TO DINNER BY SUMITOMO HEAVY INDUSTRY LIMITED AND SUMITOMO CORPORATION.  
— BERNAMA 1821/LK