

MAHATHIR

FROM ANNE KOH

78
TOKYO, NOV. 6² (BERNAMA) — MALAYSIA HAS INDICATED TO JAPAN THE URGENT NEED TO EXAMINE AND RESOLVE THE CURRENT PROBLEM AFFECTING ITS TRADE WITH JAPAN ARISING FROM THE RISING VALUE OF THE YEN VIS-A-VIS THE RINGGIT AND THE AMERICAN DOLLAR.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID TODAY THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE DEPRECIATING RINGGIT AND THE DOLLAR AGAINST THE YEN WAS ADVERSELY AFFECTING MALAYSIA'S TERMS OF TRADE WITH JAPAN SINCE EXPORTS TO JAPAN WERE DENOMINATED IN AMERICAN DOLLARS.

HE SAID THIS PROBLEM ALSO AFFECTED BI-LATERAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WITH JAPAN WHERE PAYMENTS WERE MADE IN YEN.

"I HAVE INDICATED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN THE URGENT NEED TO EXAMINE AND RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM SO THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY JAPAN WILL NOT BE IMPAIRED BY THE PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF THE INCREASED VALUE OF THE YEN," DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IN A STATEMENT AT A NEWS CONFERENCE HERE.

LATER, ANSWERING QUESTIONS, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA HAD SEVERAL IDEAS ON HOW THIS PROBLEM OF YEN APPRECIATION COULD BE SOLVED.

HOWEVER, AS THE PROBLEM CONCERNED MALAYSIA'S EXPORTS TO JAPAN, WHICH WERE IN AMERICAN DOLLARS AND "OUR CREDITS FROM JAPAN WHICH ARE IN YEN, THE MATTER INVOLVES SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH EXPERTS," HE SAID.

THE DPM THAT HE EXCHANGED USEFUL VIEWS ON VARIOUS TOPICS RELEVANT TO BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND MALAYSIA WITH PRIME MINISTER TAKEO FUKUDA, FOREIGN MINISTER SUNAO SONADA AND THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY, TOSHIO KOBAYASHI.

"I PARTICULARLY STRESSED THAT WITH OUR INCREASINGLY CLOSE LINKS THERE SHOULD IN FACT BE A GREATER INTERFLOW OF PEOPLE AND EXCHANGE OF VISITS IN ORDER FOR THE TWO NATIONS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, PARTICULARLY AT THE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE LEVEL.

"FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE THEREFORE, THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO EVALUATE FACILITIES EXISTING FOR SUCH TRAVEL AND TO ASSESS THE NEED TO INCREASE AND EXPAND THEM TO ENABLE EASIER AND MORE FREQUENT VISITS." HE SAID —BERNAMA MORE 1992/RY

MAHATHIR 2, TOKYO

HE ADDED THAT POLITICALLY, HE EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH THE JAPANESE LEADERS ON THE RESPECTIVE PERCEPTIONS ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC, IN PARTICULAR, THE VERY RAPID CHANGES THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE THIS YEAR.

"I AM PARTICULARLY GLADIFIED TO NOTE AND LEARN FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER THE REITERATION OF JAPAN'S COMMITMENT TO ITS ROLE DEDICATED TO THE PURSUIT AND MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY," DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

ON HIS INVESTMENT MISSION TO JAPAN WHICH HE IS LEADING, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS VERY ENCOURAGED BY THE RESPONSE FROM THE JAPANESE PRIVATE SECTOR TO THE SEMINAR THAT WAS HELD HERE LAST WEDNESDAY AND TO THE SEMINAR ON RUBBER INDUSTRIES HELD TODAY.

AT THESE SEMINARS, HE PRESENTED TO THE PARTICIPANTS A COMPREHENSIVE BACKGROUND ON THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARDS FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND THE VARIOUS MEASURES ADOPTED TO FACILITATE INVESTMENT VENTURES IN MALAYSIA.

DATUK SERI MAHATHIR SAID HE ALSO MET PRIVATELY AND INDIVIDUALLY WITH CERTAIN GROUPS OF POTENTIAL INVESTORS AND HAD BEEN TOLD OF THEIR INTEREST TO INVEST IN CERTAIN NEW INDUSTRIES AND THE EXPANSION OF CAPACITY OF CERTAIN ON-GOING VENTURES ALREADY IN MALAYSIA.

HE SAID THAT TWO MISSIONS FROM JAPAN WOULD BE VISITING MALAYSIA SHORTLY TO SURVEY PROSPECTS FOR JAPANESE CO-OPERATION.

THESE ARE FROM THE JAPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND FROM THE JAPANESE RUBBER INDUSTRY.

IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID "MALAYSIA CONTINUES TO WELCOME FOREIGN INVESTMENTS INTO THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THOSE FROM JAPAN."

ON THE BUMIPUTRA POLICY, HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS NECESSARY IN A MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY TO REMOVE ONE CAUSE OF SOCIAL ANTAGONISM, THAT IS, ECONOMIC DISPARITY.

HE SAID WHEN IMPLEMENTING THIS POLICY, SEVERAL PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES AROSE.

THEREFORE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FLEXIBLE AND WAS PREPARED TO ALLOW FOREIGN COMPANIES TO CARRY ON UNTIL SUCH TIME WHEN THEY COULD COMPLY WITH THE POLICY. --BERNAMA 19/10/87