

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 9 (BERNAMA) — DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DESCRIBED AS +NORMAL BUSINESS APPREHENSION+ THE CAUTIOUSNESS OF CERTAIN FOREIGN INDUSTRIALISTS TO INVEST IN MALAYSIA.

+IT IS NOT BECAUSE OF NATIONAL POLICIES,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE, ENCIK JOHN SMITH, AND HIS TRADE DELEGATION.

TOLD THAT SOME INDUSTRIALISTS WERE STILL +JITTERY+ OVER FEARS OF NATIONALISATION DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCES AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION CAMPAIGNS, HE SAID THESE FEARS WERE NORMAL.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, SAID THE BRITISH TEAM ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE MOVE BY THE MALAYSIAN-BASED MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANY, SIME DARBY HOLDINGS, TO ACQUIRE THE LONDON-BASED GUTHRIE CORPORATION.

HE SAID HE EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT MALAYSIA HAD NO INTENTION TO NATIONALISE ANY FOREIGN COMPANY, BUT THIS DID NOT PREVENT A COMPANY FROM TAKING OVER OTHER COMPANIES.

+WE DON'T STOP OTHER COMPANIES FROM ACQUIRING MALAYSIAN COMPANIES,+ HE ADDED. +RECENTLY AN AMERICAN COMPANY BOUGHT OVER A COMPANY IN MALAYSIA.+ — BERNAMA MORE 1610/YF

MAHATHIR-NATIONALISATION 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID SUCH ACQUISITIONS WERE NOT NATIONALISATION BUT NORMAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS — +MERGERS AND TRANSACTIONS ARE NORMAL IN THE BUSINESS WORLD.+

+OF COURSE THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT IS HAPPY IF MALAYSIAN COMPANIES ACQUIRE COMPANIES WHOSE ASSETS ARE LARGELY IN MALAYSIA,+ HE ADDED.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID ALL COMPANIES WORRY ABOUT BEING TAKEN OVER BY BIGGER COMPANIES, AND IT WAS THE BRITISH GROUP OF SLATER WALKER THAT STARTED TAKING OVER OTHER COMPANIES, SUCH AS HAW PAR, TO STRIP THEM OF THEIR ASSETS.

+EVEN WHEN THIS HAPPENED, INVESTORS FIRST THOUGHT THAT IT WAS A NORMAL THING,+ HE SAID.

+HERE (SIME DARBY'S BID) THE TAKE-OVER IS LEGITIMATE, WHERE THEY WANT TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF THE SHAREHOLDERS, AND NOT GOING IN FOR ASSET-STRIPPING.+

ON INVESTMENT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID BRITAIN WAS LAGGING IN THIS BUT THE BRITISH HAD NOW SHOWN THAT THEY WERE VERY KEEN ON INVESTING MORE IN MALAYSIA, AND WERE EQUALLY KEEN ON THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO MALAYSIA SUCH AS THROUGH PROVIDING TRAINING FACILITIES. — BERNAMA MORE 1615/YF

EE

NO48

(F)

MAHATHIR-NATIONALISATION 3 KUALA LUMPUR 全'全'全'

HE SAID HE ALSO DISCUSSED THE BILATERAL TRADE BALANCE WITH THE BRITISH TRADE TEAM, AND HE TOLD THEM THAT WHILE MALAYSIA WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE BUYING FROM THE BRITISH, BRITAIN TOO SHOULD CONTINUE TO BUY FROM MALAYSIA, INCLUDING GOODS WHICH HAD BEEN RESTRICTED FOLLOWING BRITAIN'S ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET (EEC).

THIS MATTER OF ENABLING THESE MALAYSIAN PRODUCTS TO BE IMPORTED BY BRITAIN WAS DISCUSSED YESTERDAY WHEN ENCIK SMITH MET PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN ONN.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO DISCLOSED THAT HE WOULD BE IN COLOMBO ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY FOR THE ASIAN GROUP PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE UNCTAD V CONFERENCE IN MANILA IN MAY.

HE WOULD ALSO ATTEND THE UNCTAD MEETING AS WELL AS THE ASEAN/EEC DIALOGUE IN JAKARTA NEXT MONTH.

IN APRIL HE WILL LEAD AN INVESTMENT MISSION TO SOUTH EUROPE, INCLUDING THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND ALSO VISIT VIETNAM, HONG KONG, SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA, AND POSSIBLY INDIA LATER IN THE YEAR.

LATER, ENCIK SMITH MET FINANCE MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH AND AMONG THE ITEMS DISCUSSED WERE BRITISH FINANCIAL AID, IMPORTING MORE CAPITAL GOODS FROM BRITAIN, AND OTHER ASPECTS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. — BERNAMA 1625/YF