

79 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, FEB. 5 (BERNAMA) +DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD MADE CLEAR TODAY THAT MALAYSIA WOULD NOT BE +COWED+ BY THE PRACTICE OF SOME COUNTRIES TO USE ITS POLICY ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT AS +A MEANS TO TWIST MALAYSIAN ARMS.+

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID SOME FOREIGNERS WOULD THREATEN NOT TO INVEST IN MALAYSIA IF THEY WERE +THE SLIGHTEST BIT UNHAPPY ABOUT ANYTHING,+ AND WOULD EVEN CARRY OUT PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS TO DISCREDIT MALAYSIA, AIDED BY THEIR PRESS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, CITED A RECENT CASE WHERE THE ATTEMPT BY A MALAYSIA-BASED COMPANY TO ACQUIRE A BRITISH-OWNED COMPANY GAVE RISE TO +YET ANOTHER BOUT OF VILIFICATION.+

HE SAID A VICIOUS CAMPAIGN WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE BRITISH NEWSPAPERS ACCUSING MALAYSIA OF BACKDOOR NATIONALISATION AND URGING INVESTORS NOT TO INVEST IN MALAYSIA.

+I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HERE AND NOW THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE COWED BY THIS VICIOUS HABIT,+ HE SAID AT THE OPENING OF A TWO-DAY CITY OF LONDON SEMINAR HERE.

THE SPEECH WAS READ BY THE EDUCATION MINISTER DATUK MUSA HITAM. — BERNAMA MORE 1100/SZ

MAHATHIR-SEMINAR 2 KUALA LUMPUR 金'金'金'

THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID, +WILL NOT BE BULLIED BY THE MEDIA IN BRITAIN.+

HE CONCEDED THAT FOREIGN INVESTMENT WAS IMPORTANT TO MALAYSIA, BUT ADDED: +THREATENING TO STOP INVESTMENT IS NOT GOING TO FORCE US TO FORBID THE LEGITIMATE ACQUISITION OF COMPANIES AND MERGERS.+

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID: +WE WILL NOT NATIONALISE — THAT IS A PROMISE WE HAVE MADE TO THE WORLD — BUT LEGITIMATE ACQUISITIONS OR MERGERS CARRIED BY BUSINESSMEN ARE SOMETHING ELSE. WE ARE NOT GOING TO STOP THEM.

+WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE PRESSURED BY ANY ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE OUR INVESTMENT EFFORTS. WE ARE NOT GOING TO SUBMIT TO ANY FORM OF ECONOMIC IMPERIALISM.+

REFERRING TO THE LONG DRAWN MULTI-LATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, HE SAID THAT THE OFFERS THAT MALAYSIA HAD RECEIVED FELL FAR SHORT OF EXPECTATION. — BERNAMA MORE 1200/SZ

MAHATHIR-SEMINAR 3 KUALA LUMPUR 金'金'金'

HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT BRITAIN DID NOT ENDEAVOUR TO INFLUENCE THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ENABLE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA TO DERIVE MORE SIGNIFICANT OFFERS FROM THE EEC.

HE CRITICISED THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THEIR FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE KIND OF ECONOMIC POLICIES AND STRATEGIES THAT WOULD STABILISE THEIR INTERNAL ECONOMY, CONTROL THEIR INFLATION AND CORRECT PAYMENT IMBALANCES.

INSTEAD, HE SAID, THEY HAD SOUGHT TO REVIVE THEIR OLD PROTECTIONIST POLICIES BY CLOSING THEIR MARKETS FOR EVEN THOSE GOODS WHICH THEY COULD NO LONGER MANUFACTURE ECONOMICALLY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PRESENT ATTITUDE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD NOT SERVE TO BANISH MEMORIES, STILL FRESH IN FORMER COLONIAL TERRITORIES, OF PLAYING CAPTIVE MARKETS TO METROPOLITAN POWERS.

HE SAID MALAYSIA HAD COME TO REALISE THAT +THE RINGING AND GRANDIOSE+ DECLARATIONS OF INTENT TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MADE BY DEVELOPED NATIONS AT NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL FORA WERE +RATHER HOLLOW AND DEVOID OF SERIOUSNESS+ THE MOMENT NEGOTIATIONS STARTED. — BERNAMA MORE 1208/SZ

MAHATHIR-SEMINAR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID MALAYSIA'S GROWTH RATE HAD REMAINED +QUITE IMPRESSIVE+ WITH REAL GROWTH OVER THE LAST TWO OR THREE YEARS AVERAGING AROUND EIGHT PER CENT IN SPITE OF THE FLUCTUATING DEMANDS OF AN ECONOMICALLY SICK WORLD FOR MALAYSIAN PRODUCTS.

PRIVATE INVESTMENT, WHICH WAS SLUGGISH IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN, HAD NOW BEGUN TO SHOW SIGNS OF PICKING UP.

MALAYSIA'S EXPORT COMMODITIES HAD DONE QUITE WELL IN THE LAST TWO YEARS OR SO, RESULTING IN AN INCREASE IN THE COUNTRY'S EXPORT EARNINGS.

IT WAS OBVIOUS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID, +THAT IN THE FACE OF A RATHER UNCERTAIN AND SOMETIMES TURBULENT WORLD ECONOMIC SCENE, THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY CAN REMAIN STABLE AND STRONG AND CAN EVEN GROW.+

AS REGARDS BRITAIN'S TIES WITH MALAYSIA, HE SAID THEY HAD BEEN FURTHER STRENGTHENED THROUGH INVESTMENTS.

BY DECEMBER 1977, BRITISH INVESTMENT IN PIONEER COMPANIES IN MALAYSIA AMOUNTED TO ABOUT \$122 MILLION, MAKING BRITAIN THE THIRD LARGEST INVESTOR IN SUCH COMPANIES. -- BERNAMA 1230/SZ