

FROM HASHIM MAKARUDDIN

STOCKHOLM, OCT. 16 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS TOLD SWEDISH INVESTORS THAT MALAYSIA AND OTHER ASEAN PARTNERS DO NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THE DOMINO THEORY WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS +UTTER RUBBISH.+

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE THEORY WAS NO LONGER VALID AS THE THINKING HAD CHANGED. COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA AND THAILAND WOULD CERTAINLY PUT UP A FIGHT IF ATTACKED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING AT A DIALOGUE SESSION OF THE INVESTMENT SEMINAR HERE YESTERDAY.

HE WAS ASKED BY A PARTICIPANT IF IT WAS STILL SAFE TO INVEST IN MALAYSIA IN VIEW OF THE COMMUNIST VICTORY IN INDOCHINA. THE PARTICIPANT WANTED TO KNOW MALAYSIA'S VIEW ON THE DOMINO THEORY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT VIETNAM WOULD ATTACK THAILAND, MALAYSIA, INDONESIA OR THE PHILIPPINES — THE CONCEPT OF CONQUERING ANOTHER COUNTRY WITH MILITARY FORCE WAS ALSO OUT OF DATE. —BERNAMA MORE 1240/AH

HE SAID IT WOULD ALSO BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR VIETNAM TO STIMULATE THE PEOPLE WITHIN THESE COUNTRIES TO OVERTHROW THEIR PRESENT GOVERNMENTS AND SET UP GOVERNMENTS FAVOURABLE TO HER AS THE PEOPLE IN THESE COUNTRIES DID NOT WANT TO BE RULED BY THE COMMUNISTS FURTHERMORE, THESE COUNTRIES WERE IN A POSITION TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.

ON COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN MALAYSIA, HE SAID, THE COUNTRY WAS ABLE TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM.

+WE HAVE COMMUNIST TERRORISTS BUT YOU CAN TRAVEL ANYWHERE SAFELY IN MALAYSIA — IT IS PROBABLY SAFER IN MALAYSIA THAN IN MOST COUNTRIES IN EUROPE,+ HE ADDED.

—BERNAMA MORE 1243/AH

ON ASEAN, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION HAD MADE A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN THE FIELD OF COOPERATION. HE INVITED SWEDISH INDUSTRIALISTS TO INVEST IN THE ASEAN REGION IN VIEW OF ITS POTENTIALS.

HE SAID ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS TO ABOUT 2,300 EXPORT ITEMS WITHIN ASEAN.

HE CITED THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY AS ONE AREA WHERE SWEDISH INVESTORS COULD COME IN.

ON THE LACK OF PROGRESS BY ASEAN AS SOME QUARTERS CLAIMED, DR. MAHATHIR SAID ASEAN HAD MADE REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN VIEW OF THEIR DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS.

+IT IS NOT THE KIND OF PROGRESS AS MADE BY THE EEC, BUT THE EEC IS NOT A COMPLETE SUCCESS EITHER,+ HE STRESSED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE MALAYSIAN MISSION AT THE SEMINAR WERE ALSO ASKED ON THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND THE SITUATION IN REGARD TO INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN THE COUNTRY.

EARLIER, ENCIK LARS EDMARK, SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT MARKETING OF L.M. ERICSSON WHOSE COMPANY HAS A FACTORY IN SHAH ALAM, SAID MALAYSIA HAD A 100 PERCENT WORKERS EFFICIENCY BY SWEDISH STANDARDS.

HE SAID THE WORKERS RATE OF ABSENTISM WAS VERY LOW ABOUT THREE PERCENT WHICH WAS IN GREAT CONTRAST TO SWEDEN.

HE SAID THE COUNTRY HAD LOW LABOUR COSTS COMPARED TO SWEDEN AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

HE SAID BECAUSE OF THE GOOD INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN MALAYSIA THE COMPANY PLANNED TO INCREASE ITS SHARE CAPITAL FROM \$3 MILLION TO \$20 TO \$25 MILLION IN THE FUTURE.

THE RESPONSE TO THE SEMINAR WAS DESCRIBED BY MIDA OFFICIALS HERE AS ENCOURAGING WITH MORE THAN 80 REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS RECEIVED BY THE ORGANISING SECRETARIAT. —BERNAMA 1254/AH