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 KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 22 (BERNAMA) — ECONOMIC MINISTERS FROM THE FIVE ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF EFFECTING FURTHER TARIFF REDUCTIONS FOR VARIOUS PRODUCE LISTED UNDER THE GROUPING'S PREFERENTIAL TRADING ARRANGEMENT.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD NEWSMEN HERE TODAY THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING BEGINNING IN BANGKOK ON FRIDAY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, WILL LEAVE FOR THE THAI CAPITAL TOMORROW TO LEAD MALAYSIA'S DELEGATION TO THE MEETING.

HE SAID +MORE EFFECTIVE TARIFF CUTS+ FOR ASEAN PRODUCTS WOULD HELP BOOST INTRA-ASEAN TRADE.

THE TWO-DAY MEETING IS ALSO EXPECTED TO APPROVE MORE PRODUCTS TO BE LISTED UNDER THE PTA BESIDES REVIEWING THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED SO FAR TOWARDS THE SETTING UP OF THE VARIOUS ASEAN INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS.

TWO OF THE PROJECTS— THE MALAYSIAN UREA PROJECT AND THE INDONESIAN UREA PROJECT— HAD ALREADY BEEN FORMALISED.

THE OTHER PROJECTS YET TO BE FORMALISED ARE THE SODA ASH PROJECT TO BE LOCATED IN THAILAND, THE PAPER AND PULP PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE DIESEL ENGINE PLANT IN SINGAPORE. — BERNAMA MORE 1858/1B

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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HINTED THAT SINGAPORE MIGHT REQUEST FOR THE DIESEL ENGINE PROJECT TO BE DROPPED AS THE PROPOSED PLANT WAS SUPPOSED TO PRODUCE ENGINES WITH THE CAPACITY OF 400 HORSE POWER AND ABOVE WHICH WAS THOUGHT TO BE HAVING A LIMITED MARKET.

COMMENTING ON THE RECENT ATTACK ON THE BATU PAHAT DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS BY A MISLED MUSLIM GROUP, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE INCIDENT WOULD NOT SCARE AWAY POTENTIAL INVESTORS FROM THE COUNTRY.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY TAKEN MEASURES TO PREVENT SUCH AN INCIDENT FROM RECURRING, HE SAID.

HE CONFIRMED A NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES HAD DIRECTED THE MALAYSIAN MUSLIM YOUTH MOVEMENT (ABIM) TO SEVER TIES WITH FOREIGN ORGANISATIONS.

HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS ORDER WAS NOT ONLY DIRECTED TO ABIM ALONE BUT OTHER ORGANISATIONS AS WELL.

+IF YOU REMEMBER, WE HAVE ALSO ORDERED TRADE UNIONS TO BREAK OFF THEIR CONNECTIONS WITH FOREIGN TRADE UNIONS,+ HE SAID.

+THIS IS JUST TO ENSURE THAT EXISTING PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS ARE FOLLOWED. WE ARE NOT AGAINST ANY PARTICULAR ORGANISATIONS.+ — BERNAMA MORE 1903/1B

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UNDER SECTION 13A(B) OF THE SOCIETIES ACT, LOCAL SOCIETIES
COULD ONLY ESTABLISH TIES WITH FOREIGN ORGANISATIONS WITH PERMISSION
FROM THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS.

EARLIER, OPENING THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COURSE
FOR 174 UMNO DIVISIONAL LEADERS AT THE UMNO HEADQUARTERS HERE,
JATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE
PARTY, URGED UMNO MEMBERS TO ALWAYS ADHERE TO THE PROVISIONS OF
THE PARTY CONSTITUTION.

THIS WAS TO ENSURE UMNO'S CONTINUED STRENGTH AND STABILITY.

HE SAID UMNO HAD BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS NATIONAL CHARACTER
BECAUSE IT HAD AN EFFECTIVE CONSTITUTION.

+WITHOUT AN EFFECTIVE CONSTITUTION, UMNO COULD NEVER MAINTAIN
ITS NATIONAL CHARACTER. WITHOUT A NATIONAL PARTY, DEMOCRACY WILL
NOT WORK IN THE COUNTRY, + HE SAID. — BERNAMA 1906/13