

NO51 (F)
MAHATHIR-KOREA

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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 17³⁰ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ASKED SOUTH KOREA TO CONSIDER SETTING UP JOINT VENTURES FOR PRODUCING INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS FROM PETROLEUM IN THIS COUNTRY.

VISITING SOUTH KOREAN TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER ENCIK SUK JOON SUK HAD TOLD HIM AT A MEETING HERE THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS INTERESTED IN PRODUCING INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS FROM PETROLEUM AND WAS LOOKING TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR RAW MATERIALS.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT TO ENCIK SUK THAT SOUTH KOREA WAS CLOSER TO MALAYSIA THAN SAUDI ARABIA, AND SAID IT WOULD BE WISER FOR THE KOREANS TO SET UP JOINT VENTURES IN THIS COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, TOLD REPORTERS LATER THAT HE SUGGESTED THE KOREANS CONSULT PETRONAS ON THE MATTER.

HE HOWEVER DECLINED TO SAY SPECIFICALLY WHICH INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS OF PETROLEUM MALAYSIA WAS INTERESTED IN. -- BERNAMA MORE 1650/SZ

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW THINKING IN TERMS OF THE ASSOCIATED GAS FOUND IN ABUNDANCE IN TRENGGANU.

IF THE KOREANS WERE INTERESTED, SPECIAL PIPELINES WOULD BE DESIGNED TO BRING THE GAS ASHORE TO THE INDUSTRIES CONCERNED.

HE STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST KNOW FIRST WHAT THE GAS WOULD BE USED FOR.

AS REGARDS THE PRODUCTION OF POLY VINYL CHLORIDE, HE SAID MALAYSIA MUST FIND A MARKET OUTSIDE AS LOCAL CONSUMPTION WAS +MINUTE.+

+WE NEED TO FIRST LINE UP THE MARKET BEFORE WE START THE INDUSTRY, AND CAREFUL PLANNING IS NECESSARY TO AVOID HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY BEING WASTED,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA MORE 1653/SZ

MAHATHIR-KOREA 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID MALAYSIA WAS INTERESTED IN EXPORTING MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS TO SOUTH KOREA INSTEAD OF JUST SELLING RAW MATERIALS.

HE TOLD ENCIK SUK THAT IF SOUTH KOREA WANTED TO EXPAND ITS RUBBER-BASED INDUSTRIES, IT SHOULD INVEST IN MALAYSIA.

HE GAVE SEVERAL REASONS WHY THEY SHOULD DO THIS, INCLUDING THE PLENTIFUL AND CHEAP SUPPLY OF RUBBER AND THE FAIRLY LOW LABOUR COST

HE ALSO INVITED SOUTH KOREA TO TAKE PART IN THE LOCAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY BY PROVIDING SKILLED PERSONNEL.

-- BERNAMA 1655/SZ