

NO54 (F)
INTERVIEW

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 26²¹ (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) GRANTED AN INTERVIEW, LASTING MORE THAN TWO HOURS, TO BERNAMA AND REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO LEADING NEWSPAPER GROUPS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH DAY IN OFFICE AS PRIME MINISTER RECENTLY. FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT:

JOURNALISTS: DATUK, WHENEVER (THE LATE U.S. PRESIDENT) KENNEDY WENT THROUGH 100 DAYS, THERE WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT EVENT. WELL, I THINK THE MEDIA IN THE COUNTRY WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF YOUR 100 DAYS AS WELL. WHEN YOU HAVE A NEW REGIME WHICH IS VERY ACTIVE AND VERY FORCEFUL.....A LOT CAN BE DONE IN 100 DAYS.

PM: (LAUGHS) GO ON WITH WHAT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT 100 DAYS

JOURNALIST: YES. WHEN YOU HAVE A VERY ACTIVE GOVERNMENT, 100 DAYS IS A VERY LONG TIME. CAN WE ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR FIRST 100 DAYS -- WHAT ARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE DONE AND WHAT ARE THE THINGS YOU THINK YOU HAVE TO DO THAT YOU HAVE ONLY STARTED OR BEGUN TO DO?

-- BERNAMA MORE 1730/AZ

INTERVIEW 2 KUALA LUMPUR

PM: IT'S VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO ASSESS WHAT I'VE DONE. I KNOW WHAT INSTRUCTIONS I'VE GIVEN. WHETHER THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT, WHETHER THEY ARE EFFECTIVE OR NOT, IT'S EASIER FOR PEOPLE OUTSIDE TO ASSESS. SITTING IN THIS ROOM, GIVING DIRECTIVE, MAKING DECISIONS AND ALL THAT DOES NOT GIVE ME A PERSPECTIVE FROM OUTSIDE AS TO HOW THOSE DIRECTIVES HAVE BEEN SEEN. IT'S DIFFICULT FOR ME TO SAY. PEOPLE KEEP ON SAYING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN GIVING THESE ORDERS, THOSE ORDERS, WHAT ARE THE RESULTS? I REALLY DON'T KNOW. THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE AFTER A YEAR, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE DIFFERENCES. BUT WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE ANY DIFFERENCES IN THE FIRST 100 DAYS, IT'S FAIRLY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO SAY.

JOURNALIST: BUT DATUK, DON'T YOU FEEL THAT SOCIETY HAS IN FACT AWAKENED TO SOMETHING NEW. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE. THIS HAS PARTLY BEEN CALLED THE TWO 'M' (MAHATHIR-MUSA) TRANSFORMATION AND THEY CONSIDER THE TWO 'M'. TRANSFORMATION HAS BEGUN. THERE IS A NEW SENSE OF DIRECTION TOWARDS A CLEAN, EFFICIENT AND DISCIPLINED SOCIETY. SOME PEOPLE HAVE CALLED THIS THE C, D AND E FORMULA. DO YOU THINK IT'S FAIR FOR PEOPLE TO SAY THAT THERE IS THE BEGINNING OF A TRANSFORMATION PROCESS?

-- BERNAMA MORE 1734/AZ
 N056 (F)
 INTERVIEW 3 KUALA LUMPUR

PM: WELL, I HOPE SO. BUT WHETHER IT IS SO OR NOT IS SOMETHING ELSE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE WHAT YOU SAY DONE. THIS IS WHAT I THINK BOTH MUSA AND I LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN IN THIS COUNTRY. BUT HAVE WE BEEN ABLE TO DO IT? IT IS FAIRLY EASY TO SAY.....WELL, LET'S DO BETTER. BUT IS IT REALLY BETTER? I DON'T KNOW.

JOURNALIST: SO FAR, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER AS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU HAVE FACED, DATUK?

PM: THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE HAS BEEN TO MOTIVATE THE PEOPLE, NOT ONLY (GOVERNMENT) OFFICERS BUT ALL CITIZENS TO REALISE WHAT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, THEIR ROLES, ARE TOWARDS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT -- DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS NOT CONFINED TO MATERIALISTIC DEVELOPMENT BUT ONE WHICH PROVIDES FOR SPIRITUAL ACHIEVEMENTS. AFTER ALL, MAN CANNOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE. WE MUST HAVE A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AS A RACE SO THAT WE CAN BE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH OTHER PEOPLES AND NOT BE LOOKED DOWN UPON. TO ME, THIS IS IMPORTANT. I DON'T LIKE TO HEAR WHETHER I GO AND WHENEVER I SAY THAT I'M A MALAYSIAN, PEOPLE WILL TURN THEIR FACES AND SAY: AH, THE LAZY MALAY. THIS IS WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING. I DON'T WANT THIS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1738/AZ

MAHATHIR - KESELAMATAN 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MENEGASKAN CABARAN DALAM DEKAD LAPAN PULUHAN ITU CUMA BOLEH DIATASI OLEH NEGARA DENGAN MENJADI BERDIKARI DALAM SEBERAPA BANYAK BIDANG YANG MUNGKIN.

+INI ADALAH SATU HAKIKAT YANG TERPAKSA DITERIMA KERANA PADA AKHIRNYA KEMAMPUAN SESEBUAH NEGARA MEMPERTAHANKAN KESEBASANNYA SENDIRI YANG MENENTUKAN MASA DEPANNYA, + TEGAS BELIAU.

BELIAU BERKATA NEGARA INI PERLU MELENGKAPKAN KEMAMPUAN DARI SEGI KETENTERAAN SUPAYA DAPAT MENGAMBIL TANGGUNGJAWAB SEPENUHNYA UNTUK PERTAHANAN NEGARA.

BAGAIMANAPUN, KATANYA, PEMBESARAN PASUKAN KESELAMATAN TANPA KEKUATAN EKONOMI TIDAK AKAN MEMBERI MAKNA KERANA AKAN MEINGKATKAN PERGANTUNGAN KEPADA KUASA-KUASA BESAR YANG MEMPUNYAI KEPENTINGAN BERBEDA.

+PEMBANGUNAN EKONOMI KITA TIDAK AKAN DAN TIAK HARUS TERJEJAS DENGAN SEBARANG TAMBAHAN PERBELANJAAN UNTUK PERTAHANAN.

+SEBALIKNYA IA HARUS MENJADI DORONGAN KE ARAH PEMBANGUNAN EKONOMI YANG LEBIH PESAT, + UJAR BELIAU.

BELIAU MENEGASKAN FAKTOR UTAMA DALAM KETAHANAN NEGARA ADALAH PERANAN DAN PENGLIBATAN RAKYAT SECARA MENYELURUH HASIL DARI KESEDARAN TERHADAP MASALAH YANG DIHADAPI OLEH NEGARA.

—BERSAMBUNG 1641/AH

B563

MAHATHIR - KESELAMATAN 4 KUALA LUMPUR

KEBANGKITAN SEMANGAT KENEGARAAN ATAU PATRIOTISMA PERLU DITINGKATKAN DI KALANGAN RAKYAT NEGARA INI SUPAYA MEREKA CINTA DAN KASIHKAN NEGARA HINGGA SANGGUP MEMPERTAHANKANNYA DENGAN NYAWA SEKALIPUN.

+SEMANGAT YANG MELETAKKAN KEUTAMAAN KEPADA NEGARA DAN AKAN MERASAKAN BAHWA SETIAP SEORANG DARI KITA DI MANA KITA BERADA ADALAI LAMBANG DAN IMEJ NEGARA, + TAMBAHNYA.

+KITA PERCAYA SEKIRANYA SEMANGAT INI BERJAYA DISEMAIKAN DAN TUMBUH DENGAN SUBURNYA DI HATI RAKYAT, KITA JUGA AKAN DAPAT MUNCUL SEBAGAI SATU BANGSA YANG BERJAYA DAN DIHORMATI DI DUNIA. +

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR KESAL KERANA TERDAPAT SEGOLONGAN RAKYAT YANG MASIH BELUM MEMPUNYAI SEMANGAT INI MALAH TIDAK MAHU MENYAMAKAN DIRI MEREKA DENGAN NEGARA SEOLAH-OLAH TANGGUNGJAWAB TERHADAP NEGARA ADALAH SEMATA-MATA TANGGUNGJAWAB KERAJAAN.

MEREKA INI SANGGUP MEMBURUK-BURUKAN NAMA DAN IMEJ NEGARA SENDIRI BUKAN SAHAJA DI DALAM NEGERI MALAH DI LUAR NEGERI DALAM FORUM-FORUM ANTARABANGSA DAN SEBAGAINYA.

DI DALAM NEGERI PULA, SERING KALI TENTANGAN YANG DITUJUKAN KEPADA KERAJAAN DATANG DARI KALANGAN RAKYAT YANG BERADA DI KAWASAN DI MANA PEMBANGUNAN TELAH DILAKSANAKAN.

PERSIDANGAN TIGA HARI ITU DIHADIRI OLEH 92 ORANG PEGAWAI DAERAH DARI SELURUH MALAYSIA.

—BERNAMA 1645/AH

NO57 (F)

INTERVIEW 4 KUALA LUMPUR

PM (CONTINUED): I'VE BEEN BROUGHT UP IN THIS KIND OF ATMOSPHERE. TO CERTAIN EXTENT, THE SO-CALLED WEAKNESSES OF THE MALAYS ARE RUBBED OFF ON THE OTHER RACES IN THIS COUNTRY. I REALLY CANNOT STAND THIS. I WANT PEOPLE TO RESPECT MALAYSIA.

JOURNALIST: SO FAR HAVE WE NOT GAINED RESPECT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY?

PM: IF WE COMPARE WITH THE PAST, OF COURSE WE HAVE NOW GAINED MORE RESPECT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE YET TO REACH AN EQUAL STATUS WITH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ADOPTING A PATRONISING ATTITUDE TOWARDS US. AS SUCH WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF STAGES TO GO THROUGH.

-- BERNAMA REPORT

N0758 (F)
INTERVIEW 5 KUALA LUMPUR

JOURNALIST: DATUK, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, COULD YOU TELL US WHAT IS YOUR DREAM OF MALAYSIA?

PM: I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MALAYSIA EMERGING AS A DEVELOPED COUNTRY WITHOUT LOSING ITS GOOD CULTURE, SPIRITUAL VALUES. THE GOOD VALUES THAT WE HAVE WE MUST RETAIN WHILE WE TAKE OUR PLACE AMONG OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS. THAT'S MY DREAM.

JOURNALIST: DO YOU HAVE A DREAM OF THIS COUNTRY BECOMING AN INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRY OF THE NORTH?

PM: WELL, IT'S NOW A DREAM. IT IS SOMETHING I HOPE TO WORK TOWARDS. WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS WHILE I'M STILL LIVING OR WHILE I'M PRIME MINISTER BUT THE PROCESS MUST BE STARTED. THIS PROCESS OF ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT WE MUST START NOW. WHETHER OR NOT WE SUCCEED WHILE I'M PRIME MINISTER IS IRRELEVANT.

-- BERNAMA MORE 1743/AZ

N070: (F)
INTERVIEW 6 KUALA LUMPUR

JOURNALIST: DATUK, MOST OF THE THINGS WE SEEK TO ACHIEVE WOULD LARGELY DEPEND ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY IN THE COUNTRY. TO HAVE THIS STABILITY, IT IS VITAL THAT WE HAVE NATIONAL UNITY. WHAT ARE YOUR VIEW ON THE STATE OF NATIONAL UNITY AT PRESENT? ARE WE MORE UNITED, MORE COHESIVE, THAN WE WERE DURING THE PRE-MAY 13 PERIOD, FOR EXAMPLE?

PM: AGAIN, MATTERS SUCH AS THESE ARE RELATIVE. IF WE COMPARE WITH THE PAST, THE SITUATION NOW WOULD BE BETTER. HOWEVER, IF WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND AT THE SITUATION NOW, PERHAPS WE HAVE NOT ACHIEVE WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE ACHIEVED. IF WE COMPARE THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY WITH THAT IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE ALSO OF VARIOUS RACES, THAN MAYBE THE SITUATION HERE IS MUCH BETTER. NOW, IF WE COMPARE OURSELVES WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE REALLY UNITED, FOR EXAMPLE THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE HOMOGENOUS, WE HAVE YET TO REACH THEIR STATUS. THESE ARE ALL RELATIVE. -- BERNAMA MORE 1847/ZCM

NO71: (F)
INTERVIEW 7 KUALA LUMPUR

PM (CONT.): IF WE SAY THE SITUATION HERE IS NOT GOOD, WE WOULD NOT BE ACCURATE. IF IT'S NOT GOOD, THEN WE WOULD NOT HAVE ACHIEVED THE SUCCESS THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR.

JOURNALIST: THE MANNER IN WHICH CERTAIN QUARTERS HAVE BEEN MAKING DEMANDS, CAN THIS NOT DESTROY THE UNITY THAT WE ARE NURTURING?

PM: WELL, ANYBODY CAN MAKE DEMANDS. WHEN WE SET A CERTAIN GOAL, SAY 30 PER CENT, PEOPLE WILL SAY WHY NOT 50 PER CENT? IF WE SET 50 PER CENT AS THE TARGET, THERE'LL BE OTHERS WHO'LL SAY WHY NOT 70 PER CENT? DEMANDS SUCH AS THESE CANNOT BE AVOIDED. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THE MANNER IN WHICH THESE PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED. IF WE HAVE A MECHANISM WHICH WE CAN USE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS, THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE DEMANDS MADE. -- BERNAMA MORE 1854/ZCM

NO72: (F)
INTERVIEW 8 KUALA LUMPUR

PM (CONT.): IF WE ARE MORE SENSITIVE TO THE PROCESS OF MAKING DEMANDS THAN TO ACHIEVEMENT -- WHEN ACHIEVEMENT IS NOT THERE AND DEMANDS ARE ALREADY GREAT -- I THINK WE CAN NEVER HAVE STABILITY OF PEACE IN THE COUNTRY. THAT'S WHY I SAY THIS MATTER SHOULD NOT BE MADE AN ISSUE.

JOURNALIST: DATUK, ON YOUR STATEMENT THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF A SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CANNOT BE CONSIDERED FOR THE PRESENT. THE WORLD +PRESENT+ HAS GIVEN RISE TO CONJECTURE.

PM: I SAID +IN THE PRESENT SITUATION,+ NOT +FOR THE PRESENT+. THE +PRESENT SITUATION+ MAY CHANGE TOMORROW. IT MAY NOT CHANGE IN THE NEXT 30 YEARS, OR EVEN 50 YEARS. IF THE SITUATION DOES NOT CHANGE, THEN THE +PRESENT SITUATION+ REMAINS. THUS, THE DEMAND IS NOT APPROPRIATE NOR TIMELY. --

BERNAMA MORE 1854/ZCM

NO73 (F)
INTERVIEW 9 KUALA LUMPUR

PM (CONTINUED) : HOWEVER, ONE DAY 30 YEARS HENCE OR EVEN TOMORROW, WHEN THE PEOPLE OF ALL RACES IN THE COUNTRY ARE REALLY UNITED, THEN THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE CHANGED. THEN IT MAY BE CONSIDERED, PERHAPS BY ME IF I'M STILL AROUND, PERHAPS BY SOMEONE ELSE.

JOURNALIST: PERHAPS THE QUESTION OF HAVING OF A SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FROM THE CHINESE COMMUNITY WILL THEN NO LONGER ARISE. PERHAPS EVEN THE PRIME MINISTER CAN BE FROM THAT COMMUNITY. IS THIS WHAT YOU MEAN?

PM: I CAN'T SAY. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION, THIS IS POSSIBLE. THERE'S NO SPECIFIC RESTRICTION. HOWEVER, THE SITUATION NOW DOES NOT PERMIT AND THIS HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE MCA YOUTH. IF THE SITUATION CHANGES IN THE FUTURE, THAT'S ANOTHER QUESTION. -- BERNAMA MORE 1849/HM

NO74 (F)

INTERVIEW 10 KUALA LUMPUR

JOURNALIST: ON THE MATTER OF ACHIEVING TRUE UNITY, WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS? WHAT ARE THE STEPS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN?

PM:

COMMUNAL FEELINGS CAN ONLY BE ELIMINATED IN A SITUATION WHERE GAPS NO LONGER EXIST IN THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY, WHERE A COMMUNITY IS NO LONGER IDENTIFIED WITH A CERTAIN VOCATION. IN SUCH A SITUATION, THERE'LL BE NO FEELINGS OF SUSPICION THAT ONE COMMUNITY WILL CEASE TO BE OR BE OPPRESSED. PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED NOW WILL THEN NO LONGER BE ENCOUNTERED. THAT'S WHY UNDER THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY WE SEEK TO RESTRUCTURE SOCIETY SO THAT IDENTIFICATION OF RACE WITH OCCUPATION WILL BE ERADICATED. AT PRESENT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS STILL EXIST. WHEN WE TALK OF GOING TO THE SHOP, EVEN IN OUR PROVERBS, WE TALK OF GOING TO A CHINESE SHOP, AS IF SHOPS MUST NECESSARILY BE CHINESE-RUN.

ONE DAY, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SAY WE'RE GOING A MALAYSIAN SHOP, NOT CHINESE, INDIAN OR MALAY.

--BERNAMA MORE 185/HM

NO85: (F)
INTERVIEW 11 KUALA LUMPUR

PM (CONTINUED): WHEN WE TALK OF THE WORKERS OR THE TOWKAYS, WE SHOULD NOT CARE WHETHER THEY ARE MALAYS OR CHINESE OR SOME MALAYS AND SOME CHINE. THE WORKERS, IF THEY ARE CAPABLE, SHOULD BE TAKEN IN, REGARDLESS OF RACE. SUCH A SITUATION HAS YET TO EMERGE. WE HAVE NOT REACHED THIS LEVEL, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE RACIAL QUESTION AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF OTHER PROBLEMS. IF WE ARE ALL DILIGENT, CAPABLE AND WILLING TO WORK HARD, BEING MALAY OR CHINESE SHOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM. THIS WAS WHAT I'D EXPLAINED TO THE MCA YOUTH ON THE QUESTION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS. WHETHER A DISTRICT OFFICER IS A MALAY OR A CHINESE IS NOT THE QUESTION. THE QUESTION IS, THE OFFICER MUST BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, IF HE IS ACCEPTED, THE QUESTION OF RACE SHOULD NOT ARISE. FOR EXAMPLE, ENCIK SAW CHEE LENG HAS BEEN THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION IN PAHANG, TRENGGANU AND KELANTAN FOR 18 YEARS. THE PEOPLE IN KELANTAN REFUSE TO RELEASE HIM. THEY LIKE HIM SO MUCH THAT EVEN IF WE WANT TO SEND A MALAY OFFICER THERE, THEY WOULD NOT AGREE TO IT. -- BERNAMA MORE
2018/1B

NO86: (F)
INTERVIEW 12 KUALA LUMPUR

PM (CONTINUED): THE QUESTION THEREFORE IS NOT RACE BUT THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PERSON. IF A CHINESE IS ABLE TO ADAPT HIMSELF IN A COMMUNITY OR IF A MALAY IS ABLE TO ADAPT HIMSELF AMONG THE TOWKAYS, THE QUESTION OF MAKING A SELECTION ON THE BASIS OF RACE DOES NOT ARISE.

JOURNALIST: DATUK, DON'T YOU FEEL THAT THERE IS NOW A TENDENCY FOR RACIAL POLITICS TO BE ENHANCED, WITH THE EROSION OF THE OLD POWER OF THE ALLIANCE. NOW YOU HAVE PERHAPS THREE COMPONENT PARTIES VYING FOR CHINESE VOTES-- THE MCA, GERAKAN AND PERHAPS TO A LIMITED EXTENT, THE PPP. SIMILARLY WITH THE INDIAN VOTES--THE MIC AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, THE PPP. SO THEY TEND TO PLAY RACIAL POLITICS BY APPEALING FOR COMMUNAL UNITY TO MAINTAIN THEIR OWN STRENGTH IN THE BARISAN. IN FACT WE ARE ENCOURAGING MORE OF THIS KIND OF RACIAL BALANCING. -- BERNAMA MORE 2022/1B

NO87: (F)
INTERVIEW 13 KUALA LUMPUR

PM: NOT ONLY THE CHINESE AND THE INDIANS BUT THE MALAYS ALSO. HOWEVER, IF WE TAKE THE MAJORITY, THE SILENT MAJORITY WHO ARE ACTUALLY THE DECIDING FACTOR, THESE MATTERS HAVE NO EFFECT. THE CHOICE OF THE SILENT MAJORITY IS NOT BASED ON EXTREMISM, MORE ON STABILITY. THAT'S WHY UP TILL NOW MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD PARTIES, -- IF COMPARATIVELY SPEAKING MCA CAN BE CALLED ONE COMPARED WITH THE DAP FOR EXAMPLE, UMNO WITH PAS AND MIC WITH OTHER CHAUVINISTIC INDIAN GROUPS -- ARE STILL MAJORITY. EXTREMISM WILL BE THERE IN ANY COMMUNITY AND AT ANY TIE. WE CANNOT AVOID THIS IN ANY COUNTRY. IF IT'S NOT EXTREMISM BASED ON RACE, THEN IT'LL BE EXTREMISM BASED ON CLASS OR IDEOLOGY. -- BERNAMA MORE 2020/ZCM

NO88: (F)
INTERVIEW 14 KUALA LUMPUR

JOURNALIST: DATUK, DO YOU THINK YOUR VIEWS ON MALAYSIA-BRITISH RELATIONS ARE MISUNDERSTOOD INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY?

PM: I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY MUST BE MINSUNDERSTOOD. I WAS VERY CLEAR ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS BRITAIN, VERY, VERY CLEAR. WE ARE NOT CUTTING OFF TRADE RELATIONS WITH THEM. WE ARE NOT CARRYING OUT A GENERAL BOYCOTT OF BRITISH GOODS. ALL WE ARE SAYING IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BUY BRITISH IF WE CAN HELP IT. BUT WE WILL STILL BUY IF WE CANNOT HELP IT.

JOURNALISTS: SOME FOREIGN INTERESTS HAVE EXPANDED THESE EVENTS TO SAY NOW THAT WHAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS DOING IS SHAKING AND WILL SHAKE THE CONFIDENCE OF INVESTORS AS A WHOLE, NOT ONLY FROM BRITAIN BUT ALSO FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

PM: THE FOREIGN INTEREST IS LARGELY BRITISH INTEREST. THAT'S WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN SAYING ALL THE TIME. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THESE OPINIONS WERE FIRST BROUGHT OUT DURING THE SIME DARBY PROBLEM, A LONG TIME BEFORE THIS IDEA OF A DAWN RAID. THEN WE WERE BUYING OPENLY IN THE MARKET. -- BERNAMA MORE 2027/ZCM

NOR9: (F)
INTERVIEW 15 KUALA LUMPUR

PM (CONT.): WE WERE CONFORMING TO THE RULES PREVAILING THEN. IN FACT, TUN TAN SIEW SIN MADE A CLEAR STATEMENT THAT HE WANTED TO BUY GUTHRIE. THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO AND ALREADY WE WERE BEING ACCUSED OF BACK-DOOR NATIONALISATION. EVEN THE ACT OF SIMPLY BUYING WHAT IS BEING SOLD IN THE MARKET BECOMES NATIONALISATION. WHAT IS THIS?

JOURNALIST: AND WE ARE AS COMMITTED AS EVER TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT?

PM: YES, EVEN IF THE BRITISH WANT TO INVEST HERE, THEY ARE STILL WELCOME. BRITISH COMPANIES WHICH HAVE INVESTED IN THIS COUNTRY AND ARE PRODUCING GOODS HERE ARE NOT SUBJECTED TO THE NEW RULING. --
BERNAMA MORE 2032/ZCM

NO99: (F)
INTERVIEW 16 KUALA LUMPUR

JOURNALIST: ON THIS DIRECTIVE NOT TO GIVE PRIORITY TO BRITISH FIRMS, HOW DO YOU SEE THIS BEING EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED IN VIEW OF THE VAST BRITISH INTERESTS IN OUR ECONOMY?

PM: I DON'T SEE THEIR INTERESTS IN OUR ECONOMY BEING THAT BIG. ACTUALLY, IT'S ENTIRELY UP TO US, WHETHER WE WANT TO BUY FROM BRITAIN OR NOT. WE HAVE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES TO MAKE OUR PURCHASES, BE BE THEY MOTORCARS OR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. WE CAN ALSO STILL BUY FROM BRITAIN IF WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE. THIS IS NO PROBLEM. THE BALANCE OF PAYMENT IS NOW IN FAVOUR OF BRITAIN. IT IS BETTER FOR US TO BUY LESS FROM THEM SO THAT THE BALANCE OF PAYMENT WILL BE IN OUR FAVOUR. WE NO LONGER ENJOY SPECIAL TREATMENT NOW THAT BRITAIN IS A MEMBER OF THE EEC. THERE'S NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD ACCORD BRITAIN SPECIAL TREATMENT. -- BERNAMA MORE 2145/ZCM

N100: (F)
INTERVIEW 17 KUALA LUMPUR

PM (CONT.): THE BRITISH SAY THEY ARE THE THIRD LARGEST INVESTOR IN MALAYSIA, IN REALITY, THEIR INVESTMENTS ARE OLD INVESTMENTS. IF WE WERE TO LOOK BACK OVER THE YEARS, WE'LL FIND BRITISH INVESTMENT HAS BEEN DECLINING AS AGAINST AMERICAN, JAPANESE OR EVEN SINGAPOREAN INVESTMENT.

JOURNALIST: WILL THIS DECISION BE PERMANENT AND WHAT SORT OF RESPONSE WILL WE BE HAPPY WITH BEFORE WE CAN CHANGE IT?

✓ 15

PM: WELL, AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, IT IS GOING TO BE THERE FOR A VERY LONG TIME BECAUSE I DON'T SEE ANY ACCOMMODATION ON THE PART OF THE BRITISH, SO IT WILL STAY THAT WAY UNLESS OF COURSE THERE ARE SOME VERY STRONG MITIGATING FACTORS CREATED BY THEM. -- BERNAMA MORE 2149/ZCM

JOURNALIST: RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN TALK OF THE BRITISH FURTHER INCREASING FEES FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS. WHAT WOULD BE OUR MOVE?

PM: (LAUGHS) NEVER MIND, NEVER MIND.

JOURNALIST: DATUK, ARE YOU NOT WORRIED OR CONCERNED THAT THIS (RULING AGAINST THE BRITISH) WILL AFFECT THE SENTIMENTS OF OTHER FOREIGN INVESTORS? PERHAPS THEY WILL BECOME SLIGHTLY HASISTANT NOW. THEY WANT TO SEE WHAT IS OUR NEXT MOVE. SO WHAT SORT OF ASSURANCE HAVE YOU FOR THESE PEOPLE?

PM: IN 1978 WHEN I BECAME MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THERE WAS PRACTICALLY NO FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THIS COUNTRY SAID TO BE BECAUSE OF THE INDUSTRIAL CO-ORDINATION ACT. BUT WE TOOK ACTION TO EXPLAIN WHAT WE WERE DOING WITHOUT CHANGING OUR ATTITUDE, OR OUR POLICY. WE EXPLAINED WHAT THE POLICY WAS ALL ABOUT AND FOLLIWNG THIS, WE HAD MORE INVESTMENTS, SO MUCH SO THAT WE HAD TO PICK AND CHOOSE. --

BERNAMA MORE 2153/ZCM

102: (F)
INTERVIEW 19 KUALA LUMPUR

JOURNALIST: DATUK, ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. OF LATE THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING OF MALAYSIA'S PERCEPTION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. PERHAPS THIS CAME ABOUT FOLLOWING YOUR DECISION NOT TO ATTEND THE COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT IN MELBOURNE AND ALSO ALSO THE DIRECTIVE AGAINST BRITISH FIRMS.

PM: I HAVE STATED MY STAND ON FOREIGN RELATIONS IN TERMS OF PRIORITIES. OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS ASEAN. SECOND, OUR RELATIONS WITH THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, THIRD, THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS AND FOURTH, THE COMMONWEALTH. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE THESE PRIORITIES, 1, 2, 3 AND 4, THEY ARE NOT EQUI-DISTANT. THE COMMONWEALTH MAY BE NUMBER FOUR BUT BE FAR BEHIND. THIS MAY BE THE CASE AT PRESENT. HOWEVER IF THE COMMONWEALTH WERE TO PROVE THAT IT IS REALLY FUNCTIONING AS +COMMON WEALTH+, THAT IS THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH, WE MAY REVISE OUR PRIORITIES. SO FAR, WE HAVE FOUND THAT THE POLICIES OF CERTAIN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES DO NOT BENEFIT MALAYSIA IN PARTICULAR AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN GENERAL. --- BERNAMA MORE 2200/ZCM

N103: (F)
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PM (:CONT.): ALSO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE THE HOLDING OF A CONFERENCE OF COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. THE COMMONWEALTH MAY BE IMPORTANT BUT THE CONFERENCE IS NOT IMPORTANT. IN ASEAN, FOR EXAMPLE, WE SOMETIMES HAVE A HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING, SOMETIMES NOT. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT ASEAN IS NOT IMPORTANT.

JOURNALIST: DATUK, ON THE CLOCK-IN SYSTEM. A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE THINK THAT THIS IS A DIFFICULT THING.

PM: WELL, IN ANY COMMUNITY THERE WILL BE PEOPLE WITH DIFFERING VIEWS. SOME WILL FIND THIS THING AN IMPOSITION BUT TO ME WAKING UP AT 6.30, 7 OR 8 IN THE MORNING IS A MATTER OF HABIT. TIME IS A VERY ARTIFICIAL THING. I'M THINKING RIGHT NOW THAT MAY BE WE SHOULD HAVE ONLY ONE TIME ZONE FOR THE WHOLE OF MALAYSIA. AT PRESENT WE HAVE TWO TIME ZONES. THIS IS A DIVISIVE FACTOR. -- BERNAMA MORE 2205/ZCM

N106: (F)
INTERVIEW 21 KUALA LUMPUR

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JOURNALIST: WOULD YOU EXPLAIN WHY THE CLOCK-IN SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL?

PM: EVERYBODY ACCEPTS THAT PUNCTUALITY IS GOOD. FOR EXAMPLE, IF I WANT TO MEET YOU AT A CERTAIN TIME AND I DON'T TURN UP AT THAT TIME, IT CAUSES A WASTE OF TIME AND A LOT OF INCONVENIENCE FOR YOU. THEREFORE, IF I'M ON TIME, EVERYTHING FALLS INTO THE RIGHT SLOTS. THE SAME WITH OFFICIALS. IF YOU ARE ON TIME, OBVIOUSLY YOU CAN DO MORE WORK. WHAT I WANT IS NOT 8 O'CLOCK BUT BEING ON TIME.

JOURNALIST: DATUK, THE QUESTION OF CORRUPTION. COULD YOU RELATE TO US WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE EXTENT OF CORRUPTION IN THE COUNTRY AND WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MAJOR CAUSES OF IT AND WHAT ARE THE STEPS WHICH YOU THINK WILL BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE IN CHECKING IT? -- BERNAMA MORE.

2220/ZCM

N107: (F)
INTERVIEW 22 KUALA LUMPUR

PM: I DIVIDE CORRUPTION INTO TWO STAGES. ONE IS THE UNDER THE TABLE STAGE AND THE OTHER IS OVER THE TABLE. WHEN IT IS UNDER THE TABLE, IT IMPLIES SOCIETY ITSELF DOESN'T ACCEPT CORRUPTION, REGARDS IT AS A CRIMINAL ACT OR AT LEAST AN ACT THAT IS DEGRADING. WHEN IT IS IN THIS STAGE, YOU CAN REVERSE THE PROCESS. BUT ONCE CORRUPTION GETS OVER THE TABLE, ABOVE THE TABLE, WHEN IT IS DONE OPENLY AND A MATTER OF COURSE, YOU CANNOT REVERSE. IN MALAYSIA, WE HAVE NOT COME TO THE ABOVE THE TABLE STAGE. SO WE CAN STILL REVERSE THE PROCESS. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER WE HAVE GONE FAR IN THE UNDER THE TABLE STAGE. I DON'T THINK WE ARE THAT BAD REALLY. WE HAVE TO HAVE A CORE OF PEOPLE WHO ARE DEDICATED TO ERASING CORRUPTION AND OBVIOUSLY THIS CORE OF PEOPLE MUST BE INCORRUPTIBLE THEMSELVES. IN THE PAST, CORRUPTION WAS ACKLED BY MAKING BUREAUCRATIC PROCESS MORE DIFFICULT. WHAT WE DO IS SLOW DOWN THE PROCESS OF DECISION - MAKING AND IN THE FINAL ENALYSIS, WE FIND THAT CORRUPTION IS STILL THERE. -- BERNAMA MORE 2230/ZCM

N108: (F)

INTERVIEW 23 KUALA LUMPUR

PM (CONT.): THERE WERE SO MANY LAYERS OF DECISION-MAKING TO AVOID CORRUPTION, YOU SLOW DOWN THE PROCESS AND IN THE END YOU PAY MORE BECAUSE TIME MEANS MONEY, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU ARE TENDERING FOR SOMETHING. SO MY IDEA IS LET PEOPLE MAKE DECISIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AT WHATEVER LEVEL. BUT WE MUST KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE PEOPLE MAKING THE DECISIONS. NATURALLY WE NEED A GOOD ANTI-CORRUPTION DEPARTMENT. WE ARE TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF CHANGING BACK THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS TO THE ANTI-CORRUPTION DEPARTMENT OR ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCY. I WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS OF CORRUPTION. ONCE WE KNOW THAT OFFICERS HAVE DECLARED THEIR ASSETS, THEN WE WILL BE ABLE TO COMPUTE THEIR WEALTH AT ANY GIVEN TIME AND AS YOU KNOW THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT CAN COMPUTE THE WEALTH OF A PERSON. WE HAVE INSTRUCTED THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT TO INSTRUCT THE BSN (NBI) ON HOW TO DO WEALTH COMPUTATION. SO ONCE WE HAVE GOT ALL THESE FORMS GATHERED AND KEPT, AT ANY TIME WE CAN ZERO IN ON A PERSON SUSPECTED OF BEING CORRUPT. -- BERNAMA MORE

2237/ZCM

N110: (F)

INTERVIEW 25 KUALA LUMPUR

JOURNALIST: YOU SAY YOU HAVE TO BUILD UP THE CORE OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BE DEDICATED TO FIGHTING CORRUPTION. WHO WILL BE THIS CORE. IS IT MERELY THE NBI OFFICERS, OR IS IT AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE THAT GOES BEYOND, THAT GOES TO THE POLITICAL FIELD AS WELL AS TO THE COMMON MAN IN THE STREET?

PM:

WELL, THERE WILL BE ENOUGH DEDICATED, HONEST PEOPLE FROM AMONG THE POLITICIANS, AMONG THE CIVIL SERVANTS, AMONG THE POLICE, THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO NEED TO BE IDENTIFIED AND BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT CORRUPT, THEY ARE NOT SCARED OF THE MEASURES THAT ARE TAKEN AND THEY ARE WILLING TO DO THINGS. THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED OR ARE BEING IDENTIFIED. I THINK WE HAVE SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF THEM, TO BE ABLE TO RELY ON THEIR CO-OPERATION. OF COURSE, I MAY BE WRONG IN MY ASSESSMENT OF PEOPLE BUT EVEN IF I'M WRONG, IT WILL NOT BE COMPLETELY WRONG. I WOULD SAY THAT ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE WILL BE A WRONG ASSESSMENT ON MY PART. -- BERNAMA

MORE 2248/ZCM

N109: (F)
INTERVIEW 24 KUALA LUMPUR

JOURNALIST: IF THERE IS NO GIVER, THERE WILL BE NO RECEIVER. SO, HOW WOULD YOU DEAL WITH THE OTHER END?

PM: WELL, HE MAN WHO GIVES IS JUST AS BAD AS THE MAN WHO RECEIVES. BUT SOMETIMES WE NEED THE MAN WHO GIVES IN ORDER TO FIND OUT THE MAN WHO RECEIVES. SO WHERE THE MAN WHO GIVES COOPERATE, HE CAN GET AWAY. BUT OF COURSE IF WE CATCH THE MAN WHO GIVES WITH THE PERSON WHO RECEIVES, BOTH ARE GOING TO GET IT. BUT IF THE MAN WHO GIVES IS PREPARED TO TURN STATE WITNESS WE CAN TAKE A LENIENT VIEW.

JOURNALIST: DATUK, SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT MANY GOVERNMENTS WILL START OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOTING AND ARE VERY COMMITTED AGAINST CORRUPTION. THE PROBLEM IS HOW THIS SUSTAINS IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULTY, IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION, BOTH INTERNAL TO THAT PARTICULAR GOVERNMENT AND EXTERNAL TO IT. WHAT IS YOU RESPONSE TO THAT?

PM: THIS IS A VERY BIG PROBLEM. ADMITTEDLY THERE WILL BE FORCES WHICH WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE CORRUPTION STAMPED OUT. BUT AS I SAID WE ARE NOT AT THAT EXTREME STAGE WHERE EVERYBODY IS INVOLVED, WHERE YOU TOUCH ONE PERSON, YOU ARE GOING TO INVOLVE A LOT OF PEOPLE. I THINK WE CAN STILL DO IT BUT I WILL ADMIT THAT I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STAMP OUT CORRUPTION. I MAY BE ABLE TO LIMIT IT TO A CERTAIN EXTENT. I WILL PUT THE FEAR OF GOD IN THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE CORRUPT, NOTHING ELSE. THEY WILL NOT LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

JOURNALIST: SOME CYNICS WILL SAY, IF YOU REALLY NAB ALL THE BIG FISH THAT ARE INVOLVED, YOU MIGHT FIND THAT YOU ARE LEFT WITHOUT SOME VERY VERY IMPORTANT SUPPORT TO YOUR GOVERNMENT.

PM: WELL, IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW THE PROCESS OF NABBING IS BEING CARRIED OUT. 5£343 -43 .-, 6 2-6' 9% .-??8, \$. THERE ARE WAYS OF OVERCOMING THAT PARTICULAR KIND OF PROBLEM. THE MAIN THING IS OF COURSE WHEN WE FIND EVIDENCE OF CORRUPTION AMONG SUPPORTERS, WE WILL HAVE TO BUILD SUPPORT FROM OTHER AREAS. -- BERNAMA MORE 2245/ZCM

N113: (F)
INTERVIEW 26 KUALA LUMPUR

JOURNALIST: DATUK, ARE YOU IN FAVOUR OF PAS COMING BACK TO BARISAN NASIONAL?

PM: AS I'VE SAID IN THE PAST, THE BARISAN NASIONAL IS AN ORGANISATION WHOSE OBJECTIVE IS TO POOL AS MUCH ENERGY AS POSSIBLE FOR THE POLITICAL INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY. OUR STRUGGLE HAS CERTAIN PRINCIPLES. WHOEVER SUBSCRIBES TO THESE PRINCIPLES CAN JOIN THE BN. PREVIOUSLY THE ALLIANCE WAS RATHER EXCLUSIVE, CONFINED TO ONLY THREE PARTIES. AFTER THAT WE HAD THE GRAND ALLIANCE INVOLVING PARTIES IN SABAH AND SARAWAK. AND THEN WE FORMED THE BARISAN NASIONAL TO GIVE A PLACE TO THE OTHER PARTIES WHICH WERE TOO SMALL TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. THESE PARTIES COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT.

I DON'T LIKE ANYONE TO BE DISAPPOINTED OR FEEL LEFT OUT. WITH THE EXISTENCE OF BARISAN NASIONAL--)) WHO SUBSCRIBE TO ITS PRINCIPLES, WHICH ARE NOT TOO RIGID, CAN JOIN. THERE IS HOWEVER ONE CONDITION. THE ENTRY OF ANY PARTY MUST BE UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO BY ALL COMPONENT MEMBERS. -- BERNAMA MORE 2300/ZCM

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N114: (F)
INTERVIEW 27 KUALA LUMPUR

JOURNALIST: WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THIS HAPPENING?

PM: I WOULD LIKE TO AVOID DISUNITY AND I WOULD WANT TO SEE OUR ENERGY DIRECTED AT PROMOTING THE WELL-BEING OF ALL.

JOURNALIST: WHAT DO YOU HOPE YOUR ADMINISTRATION AND YOUR PRIME MINISTERSHIP WOULD HAVE ACHIEVED WHEN YOU FINALLY DECIDE TO DO SOMETHING ELSE?

PM: IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE BEFORE I RETIRE, IT IS A CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE WHICH WILL MAKE THEM MUCH MORE SELF-RELIANT, MUCH MORE PRODUCTIVE AND MUCH MORE CAPABLE IN PROTECTING THEIR WON RIGHTS AND THE NATION. -- BERNAMA 2310/ZCM

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