

NO19: (F)
MAHATHIR-TIN *'π'π'

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 27 (BERNAMA) -- (P) DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED THE UNITED STATES TO BEHAVE 'LIKE A BIG BROTHER SO THAT SMALLER NATIONS COULD CONTINUE TO LOOK UP TO HER.'

CRITICISING THE U.S. OVER ITS PROPOSAL TO SELL ITS GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION'S STOCKPILED TIN ON THE WORLD MARKET, THE PRIME MINISTER CHARGED THAT THE MOVE WOULD DAMAGE THE ECONOMIES OF PRODUCER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY MALAYSIA, BEING THE WORLD'S BIGGEST EXPORTER OF THE COMMODITY.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS HERE, HE SAID: 'THE U.S. BY SELLING ITS STOCKPILED TIN ON THE WORLD MARKET IS TRYING TO DEPRESS PRICES AND THIS WOULD BE VERY DAMAGING TO US.'

HE SAID DEPRESSED TIN PRICES WOULD BE A FURTHER SETBACK TO THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY PARTICULARLY WHEN IT WAS ALREADY EXPERIENCING THE PAINFUL EFFECTS OF LOWER EXPORT EARNINGS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE MALAYSIAN VERSION OF THE 'SOGOSHONA' (JAPANESE TRADING HOUSES) WOULD BE FORMALLY LAUNCHED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

HE DID NOT ELABORATE. -- BECNAMA 1235/A1