

MAHATHIR - AUSTRALIA

83 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 2 (BERNAMA) (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT ASKED AUSTRALIA TO RECONSIDER ITS IMMIGRATION POLICY ON ADMITTING +ONLY QUALIFIED+ MALAYSIANS FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT THERE.

+THE POLICY OF TAKING ONLY HIGHLY QUALIFIED MALAYSIANS IS UNFAIR TO A LOT OF UNQUALIFIED MALAYSIANS WHO WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MIGRATE TO AUSTRALIA,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE DINNER IN HONOUR OF HIS AUSTRALIAN COUNTERPART ENCIK MALCOLM FRASER, THE PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT AS THE RESULT OF SUCH POLICY MALAYSIA HAD A FEW MISFITS AND LIABILITIES LEFT BEHIND FOR THE PEOPLE TO PUT UP WITH.

+THESE PEOPLE REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY AND ARE CONSTANTLY CREATING ISSUES AND INSTIGATING FOREIGNERS WHO ARE NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE TRUE FACTS TO BLACKEN THE IMAGE OF MALAYSIA,+ HE SAID.

+WE DO HOPE YOU WILL RECONSIDER YOUR POLICY AND TAKE THEM ALSO,+ HE ADDED.

+EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT WHAT THEY VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE IN MALAYSIA THEY WILL ACCEPT MEEKLY IN AUSTRALIA AND OTHER WESTERN SOCIETIES,+ HE SAID AND POINTED OUT THAT BASICALLY THEIR PROBLEM WAS ONE OF AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX.--MORE 2255/HM

N144 (F)

MAHATHIR - AUSTRALIA 2 KUALA LUMPUR

IN WELCOMING THE INCREASING INTEREST AMONG AUSTRALIANS TO INVEST IN MALAYSIA, HE POINTED OUT THAT SOME AUSTRALIANS AND THEIR INSTITUTIONS WERE RATHER PATRONISING.

+WE WELCOME THIS PATRONAGE AND THAT IT DOES NOT AFFECT OUR THINKING ABOUT AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALIANS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WAS GLAD THAT AUSTRALIA WAS AGAINST PROTECTINISM. HOWEVER, ITS STAND HAD NOT YET RESULTED IN A FREER FLOW OF MALAYSIAN GOODS INTO THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET.

IN THE MEANTIME MALAYSIA WAS BUYING HUGE QUANTITIES OF AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTS AND WOULD BE BUYING MORE WHEN ITS STEEL-MILL AND COAL-FIRED POWER STATIONS GO ON STREAM.

HE STRESSED THAT SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE TO CORRECT THE IMBALANCE OF TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH CURRENTLY MUCH IN THE FAVOUR OF AUSTRALIA.

+WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT INDUSTRIALIZING COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA SHOULD BE GIVEN THE CHANGE TO TAKE OVER THE LOWER TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES WHERE WE WOULD BE ABLE TO REDUCE COST, WHILE THE ADVANCE COUNTRIES CONCENTRATE ON HIGH VALUES ADDED HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES,+ HE SAID.

+THEY WAY THERE WILL BE AN INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOUR WHICH WILL BENEFICIAL TO ALL,+ HE ADDED.--MORE 2303/HM

N151 (F)
MAHATHIR - AUSTRALIA 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MALAYSIA HAD BECOME LESS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE COMMONWEALTH SINCE THERE WERE ALL KINDS RESTRICTIONS SO THAT IT COULD NO LONGER ENJOY PRIVILIGES AS EARLIER MEMBERS.

+AS A COUNTRY THAT WAS ONCE A PART OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, WE HAVE BEEN A PREFERENTIAL MARKET FOR GOODS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH,+ HE SAID.

+ABOUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE MOMENT WE BECAME AN INDEPENDENT COMMONWEALTH COUNTRY, THE COMMONWEALTH HAD CEASED TO BE A PREFERENTIAL MARKET FOR COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID, ALTHOUGH THE COMMONWEALTH HAD BEEN RELEGATED TO A LESS EXALTED POSITION, MALAYSIA WOULD STILL MAINTAIN ITS LINKS WITH THE COMMONWEALTH.

IN THE CASE OF AUSTRALIA, IT WAS NOT SO MUCH OF THE COMMONWEALTH AS IT WAS THE PROXIMITY OF AUSTRALIA THAT INFLUENCED THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, HE ADDED.--BERNAMA 2309/HM/