

MAHATHIR - LOOK EAST

83 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 24 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA'S LOOK EAST POLICY IS AIMED AT SECURING THE BEST OF THE EAST AND WEST TO GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

"LOOKING EAST DOES NOT MEAN TOTAL JAPANIZATION OR A COMPLETE BREAK WITH THE WEST," THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN HIS KEY-NOTE ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE FIFTH JAPAN-ASEAN SYMPOSIUM, HERE.

"BUT IT CERTAINLY MEANS THAT THE ALMOST TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON THE WEST WILL BE REPLACED BY A MORE BALANCED ATTITUDE TOWARDS BOTH EAST AND WEST," HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE LOOK EAST POLICY DID NOT ALSO MEAN THAT MALAYSIA WOULD ONLY DO BUSINESSES WITH PARTICULAR COUNTRIES IN THE EAST BUT INSTEAD WOULD CONTINUE WITH ITS TRADITIONAL TRADING PARTNERS "AS LONG AS IT PAYS TO DO SO".

"IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT LOOKING EAST WILL NOT RESULT IN THE KIND OF LOP-SIZED POLICY THAT WE HAD WHEN WE USED TO 'LOOK WEST', HE SAID.

IN FACT IT WOULD MEAN A MUCH MORE EQUITABLE POLICY IN WHICH THE BEST OF THE EAST AND WEST WOULD GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF MALAYSIA. -- MORE 1830/MB

MAHATHIR - LOOK EAST 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THAT IN TIME TO COME, MALAYSIANS WOULD BE INCULCATED WITH THE SOME SENSE OF DEDICATION, RESPONSIBILITY AND LOYALTY TOWARDS WORK AS FOUND IN THE JAPANESE PEOPLE. WHICH HAD BEEN THE MAIN CONTRIBUTING JAPAN'S RAPID GROWTH AND INDUSTRIALISATION.

HE, HOWEVER, HOPED THAT THE COUNTRY'S LOOK EAST POLICY WOULD NOT JUST BE A ONE-WAY TRAFFIC.

HE CALLED FOR CLOSER COOPERATION, UNDERSTANDING AND ASSISTANCE NOT ONLY FROM THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO FROM THE JAPANESE PUBLIC TO MAKE THE POLICY A SUCCESS.

EARLIER, COMMENTING ON THE SAME SUBJECT, FORMER JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER TAKEO FUKUDA SAID MALAYSIA SHOULD MAKE ITS OWN INDEPENDENT JUDGEMENT ON WHAT SHOULD BE LEARNT FROM THE JAPANESE EXPERIENCE.

"JAPAN SHOULD NEVER MEDDLE IN THAT JUDGMENT," HE SAID.

HE WAS HAPPY WITH THE CLOSE COOPERATION EXTENDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN ARRANGING FOR THE TRAINING OF MALAYSIANS IN JAPAN. -- MORE 1835/MB

N160 (F)

MAHATHIR-LOOK EAST 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE JAPAN HELPING MALAYSIA IN ONE OF ITS MAJOR NATIONAL PROGRAMMES.

CONSIDERING THE EPOCH-MAKING SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROGRAMME, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD WATCHFULLY WAIT FOR ITS SUCCESS FROM A LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE, REGARDLESS OF ITS SHORT-TERM RESULTS," HE SAID.

TO RECIPROCATE MALAYSIA'S LOOK-EAST POLICY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ADOPT A "LOOK-ASEAN" POLICY, HE ADDED.

-- BERNAMA 1840/MB

195

PM-LOOK EAST 4 KUALA LUMPUR (REOPENS ITEM N160)

ENCIK FUKUDA ALSO SAID THAT JAPAN-ASEAN RELATIONS HAD SHOWN A STEADY GROWTH, NOT ONLY IN THE ECONOMIC AND TRADE FIELDS, BUT ALSO IN THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FIELDS, AND HAD COME TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD.

IN TRADE, THE VOLUME INCREASED 16 TIMES FROM US\$2.2 BILLION IN 1967 TO US\$36.2 BILLION LAST YEAR.

JAPAN'S OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) TOWARDS ASEAN COUNTRIES ALSO REGISTERED AN INCREASE OF FOUR TIME FROM US\$180 MILLION TO US\$800 MILLION.

IN TERM OF VISITORS, THE NUMBER OF JAPANESE VISITING ASEAN COUNTRIES HAD INCREASED BY 25 TIMES FROM 20,000 TO 510,000 WHILE THE FLOW OF ASEAN NATIONALS TO JAPAN INCREASED BY FIVE FOLDS FROM 27,000 TO 130,000.

HE STRESSED THAT THE MUTUAL COOPERATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND ASEAN SHOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED ON THE BASIS OF BRILLIANT ACHIEVEMENTS REALISED DURING THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS.

-- BERNAMA 1957/LK