

MAHATHIR

FROM WAN AHMAD HULAIMI

LONDON, MARCH 10<sup>83</sup> (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD CALLED ON BRITISH PRIME MINISTER PUAN MARGARET THATCHER AT DOWNING STREET YESTERDAY BARELY FOUR HOURS AFTER ARRIVING IN LONDON FROM NEW DELHI.

THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVED AT NUMBER 10 SPOT ON AT SEVEN IN THE EVENING TO KEEP HIS DINNER DATE WITH PUAN THATCHER, LOOKING NONE THE WORSE FOR WEAR AFTER THE LONG JOURNEY FROM THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MALAYSIA+S NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, ENCIK KASSIM BIN MOHD HUSSIN, WHO MET HIM EARLIER AT HEATHROW.

BOTH DATUK SERI MAHATHIR AND PUAN THATCHER POSED BRIEFLY FOR A BATTERY OF PRESS AND TELEVISION CAMERAMEN BEFORE PROCEEDING TO THE DINING ROOM OF NUMBER 10.

THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER+S ARRIVAL ON A PRIVATE VISIT TO LONDON WAS, AT HIS OWN REQUEST, A VERY LOW KEY AFFAIR.

BUT EVEN THEN, THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER WAS CLEARLY A MAN WHOSE PUBLIC REPUTATION HAD PRECEDED HIM. -- MORE 1705/PA

MAHATHIR 2 LONDON

HIS VISIT TO LONDON IS WATCHED WITH SOME INTEREST BY THE MEDIA IN THE LIGHT OF A COOLING OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND BRITAIN IN RECENT TIMES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, THE FIRST MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER WITH NO EDUCATIONAL TIES WITH BRITAIN, IS SEEN AS A NEW BREED OF NO NONSENSE MALAYSIAN LEADER.

THE CITY, AS LONDON+S FINANCIAL CENTRE IS KNOWN, REMEMBERS HIM WITH LITTLE ENDEARMENT FOR HIS RETALIATORY MEASURES AGAINST THE STOCK EXCHANGE+S REVISED RULES WHICH MADE IT DIFFICULT TO BUY BRITISH COMPANIES IN THE STOCK MARKET.

BRITISH INDUSTRIALISTS, STILL SMARTING FROM HIS +BUY BRITISH LAST+ POLICY, IS STILL RESENTFUL OF HIS LOOK EAST POLICY WHICH MEANT CONTRACTUAL LOSSES TO THEM TO THE TUNE OF SEVERAL MILLION POUNDS.

A LEADING NATIONAL NEWSPAPER +THE GUARDIAN+, PLAYED UP THE STORY OF DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR+S ARRIVAL YESTERDAY, AND SAID THAT THE FATE OF BRITISH INDUSTRIALISTS WHO SUFFERED FROM HIS POLICY DEPENDED ON WHETHER PUAN THATCHER+S POWERS OF PERSUASION WORKED DURING THEIR DINNER MEETING. -- MORE 1707/PA

ZCZC N097 (F/S)  
MAHATHIR 3 LONDON

IN SPITE OF THE RESENTMENT FELT BECAUSE OF HIS HARD HITTING POLICIES, IT IS GENERALLY FELT THAT THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING HOME SOME LONG STANDING GRUDGES FELT BY MALAYSIA AGAINST BRITISH POST COLONIAL ATTITUDES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR+S BRITISH HOSTS HAVE GONE SOME WAY TO SHOW THAT THEY REGARD HIS VISIT TO BRITAIN, ALBEIT A PRIVATE ONE, AS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES TO PATCH UP PAST MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

TODAY, THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE ENTERTAINED TO LUNCH BY THE CHAIRMAN DESIGNATE OF THE BRITISH OVERSEAS TRADE BOARD, LORD JELlicoe.

FOREIGN SECRETARY FRANCIS PYM, WHO WAS NOT ABLE TO MEET DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EARLIER DUE TO PRIOR ENGAGEMENTS, WILL CALL ON HIM AT THE MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSION TODAY. -- BERNAMA 1709/PA