

1983

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 MAC (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD MEMBERITAHU DEWAN RAKYAT BAHAWA KERAJAAN MUNGKIN MENARIK BALIK ARAHAN SUPAYA AGENSI-AGENSI KERAJAAN JANGAN MENERIMA TAWARAN MEMBELI BARANG BRITISH JIKA TAWARAN YANG DIBUAT SAMA HARGANYA DENGAN NEGARA-NEGARA LAIN.

KATANYA LANGKAH ITU ADALAH MEMANDANGKAN SIKAP BRITAIN TERHADAP MALAYSIA YANG SUDAH BERUBAH TERUTAMA DI BIDANG PERDAGANGAN DAN MEMBERI PELUANG PELAJARAN KEPADA RAKYAT MALAYSIA.

PERDANA MENTERI MENYATAKAN DEMIKIAN KETIKA MENJAWAB SOALAN TAMBAHAN ENCIK SHAMSURI SALLAH (BN-BALIK PULAU) SEMASA SOAL JAWAB.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR BERKATA BELIAU AKAN MEMBINCANGKAN LANGKAH ITU DENGAN RAKAN-RAKAN KEBINETNYA UNTUK BERBALIK KEPADA SISTEM LAMA IAITU JIKA BRITAIN MEMBERI TAWARAN YANG BAIK MEREKA AKAN DIBERI LAYANAN YANG SAKSAMA SEPERTI NEGARA-NEGARA LAIN.

BELIAU TELAH MENGARAHKAN SUPAYA AGENSI-AGENSI KERAJAAN MENGUBAH SISTEM DAN TRADISI LAMA ITU APABILA BRITAIN MENGAMBIL LANGKAH PERUNDANGAN BAGI MENYEKAT SYARIKAT-SYARIKAT BRITAIN DI MALAYSIA DARIPADA DIAMBILALIH OLEH SYARIKAT MALAYSIA DI PASARAN SAHAM LONDON DAN LANGKAH MENAIKKAN YURAN PELAJARAN BAGI RAKYAT-RAKYAT ASING.

-- LAGI 1713/MD

PARLIAMENT-BRITAIN

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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 24 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT MAY WITHDRAW THE +BUY BRITISH LAST+ DIRECTIVE TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR FOLLOWING A CHANGE OF BRITAIN'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS MALAYSIA.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT THAT BRITAIN HAD ADOPTED A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS MALAYSIA, PARTICULARLY IN TRADE AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN BRITAIN FOR MALAYSIANS.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM ENCIK SHAMSURI SALLEH (BN-BALIK PULAU) DURING QUESTION TIME.

THE DIRECTIVE ISSUED IN OCTOBER 1981 REQUIRES ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS NOT TO BUY BRITISH GOODS OR SERVICES IF THERE IS AN EQUAL CHOICE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH HIS CABINET REVERSION TO THE PREVIOUS SYSTEM UNDER WHICH BRITISH OFFERS WERE GIVEN EQUAL TREATMENT WITH OTHER OFFERS. -- MORE 1819/PA

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THE GOVERNMENT HAD ISSUED THE DIRECTIVE AFTER COUNCIL OF THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY IN BRITAIN AMENDED RULES GOVERNING LARGE SHARE ACQUISITION AND TAKEOVERS ON THE UNITED KINGDOM STOCK MARKET FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL BID BY MALAYSIA'S PERMODALAN NASIONAL BERHAD TO ACQUIRE CONTROL OF GUTHRIE CORPORATION.

THE DIRECTIVE ALSO CAME AFTER BRITAIN IMPOSED FULL COST FEES FOR FOREIGNERS STUDYING IN BRITAIN.

TO THE ORIGINAL QUESTION FROM WAN MOHAMAD NAJIB WAN MOHAMAD (BN-PASIR PUTIH), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMED TH

BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO INJECT FUNDS INTO THE SUBSIDY FOR MALAYSIA STUDENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

BRITISH FIRMS AND SOME UNIVERSITIES IN BRITAIN HAD MADE OR PLANNED TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUBSIDY AND OFFERED TO TRAIN MALAYSIAN OFFICERS IN EFFORTS TO HELP BRING ABOUT AIMS OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

+ALL THESE ARE INDICATIONS OF A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE TOWARDS OUR COUNTRY,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID OFFERS OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE WERE NOT ENOUGH TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

-- MORE 1835/PA

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+WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT IS A COMPREHENSIVE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE AND THINKING OF BRITAIN TOWARDS MALAYSIA AS A SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT COUNTRY,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS IN LONDON RECENTLY, BRITISH PREMIER MARGARET THATCHER HAD ENTERTAINED HIM TO DINNER, GIVING HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH HER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND BILATERAL RELATIONS.

HE SAID THE IMPRESSION HE GOT FROM THE DISCUSSIONS WAS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED WITH IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH MALAYSIA AND WITH CHANGING ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THIS COUNTRY.

+THESE FACTORS POINT TO POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN,+ HE SAID.

TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM HAJI AZHARUL ABIDIN HAJI ABDUL RAHIM (BN-BATANG PADANG), DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID PUAN THATCHER AND HER MINISTERS HAD EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE FOR BETTER ECONOMIC TIES AND TRADE WITH MALAYSIA AND INCREASED BRITISH INVESTMENT IN THIS COUNTRY.

HE TOLD ENCIK YEW FOO WENG (BN-MENGLERBU) THAT HE COULD NOT GIVE A GUARANTEE THAT THIS NEW ATTITUDE WOULD LAST IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A CHANGE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITAIN THROUGH ELECTIONS. -- MORE 1915/PA

ZCZC N174 (F/S)

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TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM DR. KOH TSU KOON (BN-TANJUNG) HE SAID THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

SHE RECOGNISED THE NEED FOR RE-STRUCTURING OF BRITISH COMPANIES IN MALAYSIA UNDER THE POLICY AND ACCEPTED THE ASSURANCE THAT MALAYSIAN POLICES WOULD NOT ENDANGER INTERESTS OF BRITISH COMPANIES OPERATING IN MALAYSIA.

ON THE SUGGESTION BY HAJI NIK AZIZ NIK MAT (PAS-PENKALAN CEPAN) THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAKE KNOWN ITS REQUIREMENTS WITH REGARD TO ECONOMIC TIES WITH BRITAIN, DATUK SER DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS NOT NECESSARY.

HE SAID THAT BEING A COUNTRY THAT WAS ALWAYS WELL-INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD, BRITAIN WAS FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE SENTIMENTS OF NOT JUST MALAYSIA BUT ALL OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAD ECONOMIC TIES WITH HER.

HE SAID THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME BRITAIN EXPERIENCED DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND THE COUNTRY SHOULD HAVE BY NOW IDENTIFIED THE CAUSES THAT COULD LEAD TO SUCH A DETERIORATION

-- BERNAMA 1920/PA