

MAHATHIR-PROTECTIONISM

83
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 9 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY TOOK ANOTHER SWIPE AT THE INDUSTRIAL POWERS FOR BOWING TO DOMESTIC PRESSURES FOR PROTECTIONISM, PARTICULARLY DURING THE CURRENT ECONOMIC RESSION.

DESCRIBING IT AS A 'PITY' THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE CONSIDERED THE MOVE AS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS THREATS TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY AND TRADE.

IT ALSO CONSTITUTED A REAL SETBACK FOR THE ARLY REALISATION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER, HE SAID AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED IN HIS HONOUR BY THE VISITING JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER ENCIK YASUHIRO NAKASONE.

HE SAID: + IT IS REGRETABLE THAT THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH PROCLAIM TO BE THE STANDARD BEARERS OF FREE TRADE HAVE THEMSELVES BECOME WHAT I CALL FREE TRADERS OF CONVENIENCE. +

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR POINTED OUT THAT MALAYSIA HAD ON MANY OCCASIONS SPOKE AGAINST THE RISING TIDE OF PROTECTIONISM AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM IN + WHICH WE PLACE OUR FAITH. +

--MORE. 1355/WS

ZCZC NO3D

MAHATHIR-PROTECTIONISM 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER WELCOMED ENCIK NAKASONE'S STATED DETERMINATION TO MAKE EFFORTS TO PREVENT PROTECTIONISM AND SAID HE WAS GRATIFIED THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT MALAYSIA'S NEED FOR GREATER ACCESS TO JAPANESE MARKET.

HE SAID AS GROUPING, ASEAN WAS JAPAN'S SECOND LARGEST TRADING PARTNER AND IT WAS ONLY LOGICAL THAT SHE SHOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO FURTHER OPENING ITS MARKET TO ASEAN EXPORT ITEMS.

THE RESULTING PROSPERITY OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES, HE POINTED OUT WOULD BENEFIT JAPAN IN TERMS OF ASEAN BEING AN EVEN BETTER PARTNER FOR JAPAN.

+PERHAPS IF JAPAN WOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN THIS REGARD, THE OTHER DEVELOPED INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES OF THE WEST MAY BE COMPELLED TO FOLLOW SUIT,+ HE ADDED.

--BERNAMA. 1400/WS