

MAHATHIR-VISIT (SPECIAL REPORT)

BY HASHIM HAKARUDDIN

83 (P)  
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 24 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHANAD'S RECENT NINE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA, ROMANIA AND TURKEY WAS SIGNIFICANT FOR AT LEAST THREE REASONS.

IT STRENGTHENED SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION, ENHANCED BILATERAL AND DIRECT TIES AND PAVED THE WAY FOR INCREASED TRADE WITH THE THREE COUNTRIES.

IT WAS ALSO A REFLECTION OF MALAYSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY OF DEVELOPING FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH ALL COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGY AND SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSER RELATIONS AND COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.

SINCE BECOMING PRIME MINISTER HE HAS BEEN ADVOCATING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOR CLOSER RAPPORT AMONG THE LEADERS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT HE HAD EARLIER VISITED FIJI, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, WESTERN SAMOA, TONGA, BANGLADESH, SRI LANKA AND THE MALDIVES. -- MORE 0800/ZCM

MAHATHIR-VISIT 2 KUALA LUMPUR (SPECIAL REPORT)

AS AN EXTENSION OF THIS POLICY, IT WAS NO SUPRISE THAT WHEN HE VISITED YUGOSLAVIA, ROMANIA AND TURKEY FROM MAY 10 TO 19, SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION WAS ONE OF THE MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION.

DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN BUCHAREST, ROMANIA, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE FORSAW NO PROBLEM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO COOPERATE DESPITE THEIR IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES (REFERRING TO YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA WHICH BELONG TO THE COMMUNIST BLOC).

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, DURING TALKS WITH LEADERS OF THE THREE COUNTRIES, STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BECAUSE THEY COULD NO LONGER DEPEND ON THE DEVELOPED NATIONS TO BAIL THEM OUT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC MALAISE DUE TO WORLD RECESSION.

BELIEVING THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE TRADING AMONG THEMSELVES, HE STRESSED THAT THEY SHOULD LEARN TO LESSEN THEIR DEPENDENCE ON THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

AS ONE TOP MALAYIAN OFFICIAL SAID: +THERE IS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN AREAS PREVIOUSLY UNEXPLORED AND NEGLECTED.+ -- MORE

0803/ZCM

ZCZC NO12 (F/S)

MAHATHIR-VISIT 3 KUALA LUMPUR (SPECIAL REPORT)

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID, WHILE PLEDGING TO LIBERALISE WORLD TRADE, HAVE AT THE SAME TIME IMPOSED PROTECTIONIST MEASURES TO KEEP OUT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND MANIPULATED COMMODITY MARKETS TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

+WE HAVE YET TO SEE MORE HONEST AND SINCERE EFFORTS BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO BRING ORDER BACK TO THE WORLD ECONOMY AFTER YEARS OF RHETORIC AT NUMEROUS FORA, HE TOLD HIS HOST, CONSTANTIN DES-CALESCU, AT AN OFFICIAL DINNER HOSTED BY THE ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER IN BUCHAREST.

FOR MALAYSIA, THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRIP HAS OPENED THE WAY FOR EXPANDED TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE THREE COUNTRIES.

CURRENTLY, MALAYSIA'S TRADE WITH YUGOSLAVIA, ROMANIA AND TURKEY ARE AT AN INSIGNIFICANT LEVEL AND THESE COUNTRIES IMPORT MOST OF THEIR RUBBER, PALM OIL AND TIN FROM MALAYSIA VIA THIRD COUNTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADMITTED TO MALAYSIAN JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING HIM THAT THE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASING TRADE AND COOPERATION IN THE INDUSTRIAL FIELD WAS BEYOND MALAYSIA'S EXPECTATION.

AMONG ITEMS IDENTIFIED FOR POSSIBLE IMPORT BY MALAYSIA ARE MANUFACTURED GOODS, FERROUS METALS, PAPER, MACHINERY, FERTILISERS AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE. -- MORE PIPYXZCM

CORRECTION:

35

IN ITEM NO13 SLUG +MAHATHIR-VISIT 4 KUALA LUMPUR (SPECIAL REPORT) PLS READ FIRST PARA: .... COULD BE POPULAR AND ENJOY (RPT) ENJOY ...

CORRECTED RPTN

MAHATHIR-VISIT 4 KUALA LUMPUR (SPECIAL REPORT)

IN ANKARA, AT A DINNER GIVEN BY THE MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY'S TRADE MISSION WHICH WAS IN TURKEY TO COINCIDE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TOLD MEMBERS OF THE MISSION THAT HE HAD TASTED TURKISH DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS AT THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE WHERE HE WAS STAYING AND THOUGHT THEY COULD BE POPULAR AND ENJOY A DEMAND IN MALAYSIA.

AT THE END OF THE DINNER ONE MISSION MEMBER QUIPPED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S SUGGESTION WOULD DEFINITELY BE TAKEN UP.

THE THREE COUNTRIES IN RETURN EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BUYING MORE MALAYSIAN RUBBER, TIN AND PALM OIL DIRECTLY.

THAT MALAYSIA IS KEEN TO SELL AS WELL AS BUY MORE FROM THESE COUNTRIES CAN BE SEEN IN HER WILLINGNESS TO CARRY OUT COUNTER OR BARTER TRADING TO OVERCOME THE LACK OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE IN THESE COUNTRIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER, IN PROMOTING BILATERAL TRADE, HAS ALWAYS ENCOURAGED PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION AND FOR THIS REASON ACCOMPANYING HIM WERE SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

ONE SUBSTANTIVE OUTCOME OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S VISIT WAS THE AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN MOIC, THE MALAYSIAN OVERSEAS INVESTMENT COMPANY, AND ENKA, A TURKISH CONGLOMERATE, TO COOPERATE IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND SALES OF GOODS AND COMMODITIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. -- MORE 0809/ZCM

MAHATHIR-VISIT 5 KUALA LUMPUR (SPECIAL REPORT)

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MADE FULL USE OF HIS TRIP TO VISIT IN TURKEY AN ARMS AND AMMUNITION FACTORY IN KIRIKKALE, NEAR ANKARA AND THE OTOMARSAN FACTORY MANUFACTURING LUXURY PASSENGER BUSES NEAR ISTAMBUL, AND IN ROMANIA A PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX IN PLOJESTI NEAR BUCHAREST.

HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE ROMANIAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND SAID THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF MALAYSIA AND ROMANIA WORKING CLOSELY ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN THIS FIELD.

HIS TRIPS TO THESE INDUSTRIES WERE USEFUL AS IT AFFORDED HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A FIRST HAND LOOK AT THEM.

IT REFLECTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S KEEN INTEREST IN ENSURING THAT MALAYSIA'S OWN HEAVY INDUSTRIES WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED SUCCESSFULLY.

MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS SAID THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ROMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA AND TURKEY HAD ALSO ENHANCED BILATERAL TIES BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THESE COUNTRIES.

AS ONE OFFICIAL PUT IT: +THE VISIT GAVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS AND EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE THREE COUNTRIES AND IN THE PROCESS TO GET TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER.+ -- MORE 0812/ZCM

ZCZC NO26:

CORRECTED RPTN ITEM NO15 SLUG +MAHATHIR-VISIT 6+

MAHATHIR-VISIT 6 KUALA LUMPUR (SPECIAL REPORT)

THIS IS IN LINE WITH MALAYSIA'S POLICY OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS RATHER THAN MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

AS DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HIMSELF TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF HIS VISIT, THAT MALAYSIA WAS NOT TOO ENTHUSIASTIC ON MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE WHEN +TOO MANY COUNTRIES HOLD TALKS TOGETHER, IT BECOMES A FORUM.+

WHILE A FORUM WAS A GOOD PLATFORM FOR MAKING STATEMENTS, THE RESULTS OF MULTILATERAL CONFERENCES WERE LIMITED. ONLY STATEMENTS WERE MADE AND NO REAL RELATIONSHIP WAS ESTABLISHED.

AS SUCH IT WAS MORE FRUITFUL TO DEVELOP AND ESTABLISH BILATERAL LINKS.

THE WARM AND CORDIAL RECEPTION ACCORDED TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DURING THE VISIT REFLECTED THE HIGH REGARD AND ESTEEM OF THE THREE COUNTRIES FOR MALAYSIA UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP.

IT MANIFESTED ALSO THEIR KEEN DESIRE TO DEVELOP THE EXISTING GOOD RELATIONS WITH MALAYSIA.

IN TURKEY, HIS COUNTERPART, BULEND ULUSU, HOSTED TWO DINNERS FOR DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND HIS DELEGATION, ONE IN ANKARA AND THE OTHER IN ISTANBUL. -- MORE 0815/ZCM

CORRECTED RPTN ITEM NO16 SLUG +MAHATHIR-VISIT+

MAHATHIR-VISIT 7 KUALA LUMPUR (SPECIAL REPORT)

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO INSISTED THAT DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND HIS DELEGATION FLY TO ISTANBUL BY A SPECIAL TURKISH AIRLINE PLANE ALTHOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER HAD COME IN A SPECIAL MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT.

IN ROMANIA ALSO, PRESIDENT NINOLAE CEAUSESCU HAD A SPECIAL +FOUR-EYES+ MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT HIS PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, HIS SUMMER RETREAT HOME ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BUCHAREST.

THE TWO LEADERS MET AT THE PALACE GARDEN AND WEST IN FOR DISCUSSIONS AFTER BRIEFLY WALKING ROUND THE GARDEN. -- BERNAMA 0817/ZCM