

PM-ARRIVE

FROM S. SIVASELVAM

SEOUL, AUG. 8 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD RECEIVED THE KEY TO THIS CITY TODAY ON HIS ARRIVAL FOR A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA THAT IS TO SET THE PACE FOR AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP BRIDGING TWO NATIONS 5,500 KM APART.

WHILE THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO THE KOREANS IS +HELP US TO HELP OURSELVES,+ FOR THE HOSTS THE VISIT SYMBOLISES MALAYSIAS STEADFASTNESS IN ITS FRIENDSHIP AND GOODWILL TOWARDS THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK).

THE KEY, PRESENTED BY SEOUL MAYOR KIM SUNG-BAE AT THE KIMPO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, IS IN APPRECIATION OF DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S PERSONAL EFFORTS IN FORGING CLOSE TIES, ESPECIALLY THROUGH HIS +LOOK EAST+ POLICY OF GETTING MALAYSIANS TO EMULATE THE WORK ETHICS AND MENTAL OUTLOOK TOWARDS INDUSTRIOUSNESS THAT IS THE HALLMARK OF KOREANS AND JAPANESE. -- MORE 1855/MB

PM - ARRIVE 2 SEOUL

THE MALAYSIAN LEADER ARRIVED AT ABOUT 5.15 P.M. (ABOUT 4.15 P.M. MALAYSIAN TIME) TO A WARM WELCOME BY HIS KOREAN COUNTERPART, ENCIK KIM SANG-KYUP, THAT BELIED THE DOWNCAST SKY.

A HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CHOIR GAVE A DELIGHTFUL RENDITION OF +ENJET-ENJET SEMUT+ AT THE RED CARPET CEREMONY WHICH INCLUDED INSPECTING AN HONOUR GUARD OF ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE UNITS, A GUN SALUTE AND THE PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT TO BID WELCOME TO THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION WERE MALAYSIAN WORKERS UNDERGOING TRAINING AT KOREAN INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES, MALAYSIAN STUDENTS HERE, AND FAMILIES OF THE MISSION STAFF. -- MORE 1900/MB

PM - ARRIVE 3 SEOUL

TWO CHILDREN PRESENTED BOUQUETS TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND DATUK SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED THE KEY TO THE CITY.

THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION, WHICH INCLUDES THE MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI, AND DATIN HENDON, WERE THEN DRIVEN THROUGH THE CITY STREETS BEDECKED WITH BUNTING TO THE SHILLA HOTEL WHERE THEY ARE STAYING.

OTHERS IN THE DELEGATION INCLUDE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, DATUK MON JAMALUDDIN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MALAYSIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MIDA), TAN SRI ISHAK PATEH AKHIR, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HEAVY INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF MALAYSIA (HICOM), TAN SRI JAMIL JAN.

FORTY-FIVE MALAYSIAN BUSINESSMEN, LED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DR. NAWAWI MAT AWIN,

IS ACCOMPANYING THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION FOR THE BUSINESS-ORIENTED VISIT.

IN FACT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WILL SPEND ONLY ONE DAY, TOMORROW, FOR TALKS WITH ENCIK KIM AND PRESIDENT CHUN DOO HWAN WHILE THE OTHER DAYS WILL SEE A HECTIC PROGRAMME OF TALKS WITH KOREAN CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY AND INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES THAT HAVE A BEARING ON MALAYSIA'S STEPPED-UP INDUSTRIALISATION PROGRAMME.

-- MORE 1913/MB

ZCZC N147 (S)

PM - ARRIVE 4 SEOUL

THESE INCLUDE AUTOMOBILE COMPONENTS MANUFACTURING, SHIP BUILDING, STEEL MILLS, A FURNITURE FACTORY AND THE KOREAN HEAVY INDUSTRIES CORPORATION AT THE CHANGWON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX ON THE SOUTHEAST COAST.

THE PRIME MINISTER WILL HAVE DISCUSSIONS NOT ONLY WITH FIRMS THAT ARE ALREADY ACTIVE IN MALAYSIA OR ARE KEEN TO COME THERE BUT ALSO WITH COMPANIES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT FEELS SHOULD COME TO MALAYSIA AND BRING ALONG WITH THEM THEIR EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE.

ALTHOUGH SOUTH KOREAN FIRMS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKING SEVERAL MAJOR CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN MALAYSIA FOR SOME TIME NOW, THE TRADE BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS ALL ALONG BEEN IN MALAYSIA'S FAVOUR, DUE MAINLY TO ITS PRIMARY COMMODITIES.

BOTH SIDES WANT TO SEE A CHANGE IN THIS PATTERN. WHILE MALAYSIA WANTS MORE OF ITS MANUFACTURED AND PROCESSED PRODUCTS TO BE EXPORTED TO SOUTH KOREA, IT IS ALSO AMENABLE TO KOREAN EFFORTS TO BREAK INTO THE MALAYSIAN CONSUMER PRODUCTS MARKET.

LAST YEAR MALAYSIA EXPORTED \$1.4 BILLION WORTH OF GOODS TO ROK AND IMPORTED \$538 MILLION WORTH FROM THAT COUNTRY, GIVING IT AN EDGE OF \$862 MILLION. -- MORE 1920/MB

ZCZC N148 (S)

PM - ARRIVE 5 SEOUL

MORE THAN HALF OF THE MALAYSIAN EXPORTS COMPRISED SAWN LOGS, THE OTHERS BEING CRUDE PETROLEUM, NATURAL RUBBER, PALM OIL AND TIN.

KOREAN EXPORTS TO MALAYSIA INCLUDED FABRICS, IRON AND STEEL SHEETS, ELECTRICITY-DISTRIBUTING EQUIPMENT AND RAILWAY VEHICLES AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT. -- BERNAMA 1927/MB