

PM-BRACKET

FROM S. SIVASELVAM

SEOUL, AUG. 9 (BERNAMA): MALAYSIA PREFERS TO BE BRACKETED TOGETHER WITH SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN AND SINGAPORE IN BEING KNOWN AS A MEMBER OF THE GROUP TERMED AS NEW INDUSTRIALISING COUNTRIES, SAYS (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD.

HE HOWEVER CALLS SUCH LABELLING AS UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE +THE MOMENT YOU RECEIVE THIS KIND OF LABEL, THE OLD INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES TEND TO GANG UP AGAINST YOU.+ +BUT IF YOU NEED A CLASSIFICATION, THAT WOULD BE THE KIND OF CLASSIFICATION THAT WOULD FIT US--WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK), TAIWAN AND SINGAPORE,+ HE ADDS IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT IN TODAY'S EDITION OF THE KOREA HERALD NEWSPAPER.

HE HAD BEEN ASKED WHETHER, THINKING IN BROAD ECONOMIC TERMS, THERE IS A +BRACKET+ INTO WHICH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL PEOPLE SHOULD MENTALLY FIT MALAYSIA.

BOTH THE HERALD AND THE OTHER ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER HERE, THE KOREA TIMES, CARRIED FULL COLOUR, MULTI-PAGE SUPPLEMENTS TO MARK THE PRIME MINISTER'S WEEK-LONG VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA FROM YESTERDAY.

THE ARTICLES INCLUDED A PROFILE OF DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, EXPLAINING IN DETAIL MALAYSIA'S +LOOK EAST+ POLICY, THE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND INCENTIVES AVAILABLE IN MALAYSIA, AND THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT IN VARIOUS FIELDS OVER THE YEARS.--MORE

-- 1853/MD

ZCZC N11B (F/S)
PM-BRACKET 2 SEOUL

IN THE INTERVIEW THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAYS THAT BY THE FIFTH MALAYSIA PLAN (1986-1990) MALAYSIA WILL HAVE SOME OF THE MAJOR INDUSTRIES GOING--STEEL, ENGINES, PAPER AND METAL INDUSTRIES--AND THE MAIN THRUST WILL BE TO EXPAND THEM.

+WE WILL ALSO BE GOING INTO HIGHER TECHNOLOGY AREAS, AND LOOKING INTO PRODUCTION OF MORE SOPHISTICATED GOODS,+ HE ADDS.

+AT THE MOMENT WE ARE PRODUCING THE BASIC COMPONENTS (IN THESE AREAS), AND WE NEED TO GO FURTHER INTO THE PRODUCTION OF THE COMPLETED PRODUCTS.+

HE EXPECTS MALAYSIA IN 10 YEARS TO BE FAIRLY WELL ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING AN INDUSTRIALISED NATION--WELL CERTAINLY BE VERY WELL DIVERSIFIED IN TERMS OF SOURCES OF REVENUE, AND THE LIKE.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO EXPLAINS THE REASONS FOR THE +LOOK EAST+ POLICY AND THE STRIVE TOWARDS A CLEAN, EFFICIENT AND TRUSTWORTHY GOVERNMENT.

ASKED WHETHER LOOKING EAST ALSO ENTAILS A REORIENTATION IN MALAYSIA'S BORROWING PRACTICES AND MARKETING METHODS, HE SAYS MALAYSIA HAS ALREADY BEEN HAVING A +VERY USEFUL+ LINE OF CREDIT FROM JAPAN AT VERY LOW RATES FOR MANY YEARS NOW, AS WELL AS A POSITIVE TRADE BALANCE AGAINST JAPAN.

WHAT MALAYSIA LIKES TO DO, THOUGH, IS TO SELL MORE OF ITS MANUFACTURED GOODS TO JAPAN, PERHAPS THE KIND OF PRODUCTS THAT NEED A LOT OF LABOUR INPUT AND MANUAL EXTERITY. --MORE 1912/MD

PM-BRACKET 3 SEOUL

HE ALSO EXPLAINS WHY THE TIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION IS A VIABLE PROPOSAL AND SAYS THAT WITH THE PROPER MARKET INFORMATION, +PROVIDED WE'RE NOT GREEDY,+ WE CAN MAKE THE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION WORK--NOT TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE WORLD BUT TO THE PRODUCERS BENEFIT IN THAT THEY DO CAN STOP HAVING TO SUFFER THE FREQUENT FLUCTUATIONS IN THE COMMODITIES MARKET.

TOLD THAT THE ALUMINIUM PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION WAS FREQUENTLY CITED TO BACK THE ARGUMENT THAT PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS HARDLY EVER WORK, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAYS THE ALUMINIUM SITUATION IS NOT ONE IN WHICH A FEW COUNTRIES PRODUCE 80 PER CENT OF ALL THE METAL MINED.

+IT'S A VERY MESSY SORT OF THING, WHEREAS TIN IS VERY NEAT= IT'S FOUND ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN FOUR COUNTRIES, THE MARKET IS KNOWN

AND WE CAN GAUGE THE PRICE THAT WILL KEEP TIN COMPETITIVE,+ HE ADDS.

ASKED HOW MALAYSIA EXPECTS TO MAINTAIN THE STRONG RATES OF GROWTH, AROUND EIGHT PER CENT A YEAR IN REAL TERMS, TO MEET THE GOALS OF THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN, IN VIEW OF THE WORLD RECESSION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAYS THE COUNTRY IS LOOKING TO INTERNAL GROWTH MUCH MORE THAN TO GROWTH FROM INDUSTRIES RELATED TO EXPORT TRADE.

HE EXPLAINS THE +VERY BIG+ POTENTIAL FOR INTERNAL GROWTH, INCLUDING THE FACT THAT THE FIELD FOR IMPORT SUBSTITUTION HAS NOT BEEN EXHAUSTED YET.

HE ALSO STRESSES THAT THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN BECAUSE OF THE RECESSION, BUT THERE WILL HOWEVER BE A POSTPONEMENT OF A LOT OF PROJECTS, AND MINISTRIES WERE NOW STUDYING THEIR PROJECTS AND PRODUCING LISTS OF PRIORITIES. --MORE 1917/MD
NNNN

ZCZC N120 (F/S)
PM-BRACKET 4 SEOUL

ASKED WHAT FEATURES OF MALAYSIA AND ITS ECONOMY TODAY THAT MOST SURPRISES FOREIGN BANKERS AND FINANCIERS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT, AMONG OTHERS, IT IS THAT MALAYSIA CAN DO ALL THE THINGS THAT NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO DO, INCLUDING MAINTAINING POLITICAL STABILITY AND PRACTISING DEMOCRACY.

THE COUNTRY ALSO HAS BEEN ABLE TO SUSTAIN GROWTH OVER THE WHOLE PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE-- AND DO SO AT A RATE HIGHER THAN THAT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES GENERALLY.

IN FOREIGNERS' MISCONCEPTIONS OF MALAYSIA, WHAT DISTURBS HIM MOST IS THAT +SOME PEOPLE CONTINUE TO HAVE THESE MISCONCEPTIONS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THEY PREDICTED.+

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO POINTS OUT THE MAIN FACTORS WHY MALAYSIA IS ABLE TO OBTAIN SYNDICATED LOANS WHOSE MARGINS ARE AMONG THE SLINDEST PAID BY ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, WITH MANY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES PAYING FATTER ONES:

+THE FACT OF THE SOUNDNESS OF OUR ECONOMY, AND THE FACT THAT WE'RE VERY GOOD PAYMASTERS. WE'VE NEVER DEFAULTED, AND WE HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED A VERY CONSERVATIVE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

+WE DON'T PLAY AROUND WITH MONEY. WE DON'T OVERSPEND, AND WE KEEP OUR WORD IN TERMS OF OUR UNDERTAKINGS.+-
BERNAMA 1925/MD