

MAHATHIR

84 FROM EFFENDIARIFFIN

NEW YORK, JAN. 17 (BERNAMA) -- ~~DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD~~ SAID MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA FACE AN ECONOMIC DILEMMA IN THEIR EFFORTS TO INDUSTRIALIZE AND CALLED FOR UNDERSTANDING BY THE DEVELOPED WORLD.

+THEIR CRY, FOR A PLACE IN THE SUN SHOULD NOT GO UNHEEDED; THE DEVELOPED WORLD WILL NOT LOSE BY UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM, THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD A SEMINAR ON THE MALAYSIAN BUSINESS CLIMATE AND PROSPECTS HERE YESTERDAY,

THE SEMINAR WAS ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY THE ASIA SOCIETY, THE AMERICAN-ASEAN TRADE COUNCIL AND THE FAR EAST AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE DILEMMA FACED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS THE DENIAL TO MARKETS EVEN BEFORE THEY EMBARKED ON, THEIR MODEST INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAMMES.

HE SAID THE SUCCESSFUL INDUSTRIALIZATION OF SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD INSPIRED OTHERS. -- MORE 1120/MK

ZCZC N008 (F/S)
MAHATHIR 2 NEW YORK

IT WOULD SEEM THAT COMPETITION WITH GOODS OF THE ESTABLISHED INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WAS POSSIBLE AND BY GOING INTO MANUFACTURING IN A BIG WAY THEIR CHEAPER LABOUR AND RAW MATERIALS COULD GIVE THEM SUFFICIENT COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE, HE SAID.

+BUT THEN, TO THEIR DISMAY, THEY SEE THE DOORS TO THE MOST LUCRATIVE MARKETS BEING CLOSED BEFORE THEY EVEN HAVE A CHANGE- TO KNOCK AND ASK TO BE-ALLOWED IN,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT MALAYSIA, WHICH WAS SHARING THE DILEMMA, WAS CONVINCED THAT THE COUNTRY COULD INDUSTRIALIZE WITH ITS VAST RESOURCES OF RAW MATERIALS? ENERGY AND MANPOWER.

HE SAID THAT IN COPING WITH SUCH AN ECONOMIC DILEMMA, MALAYSIA HAD GONE IN RAPID SUCCESSION THROUGH THE VARIOUS PHASES FROM THE MANUFACTURING OF IMPORT SUBSTITUTES TO LABOUR-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES AND ON TO PROCESSING ITS OWN MATERIALS.

+NOW WE WANT TO GO INTO HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND THE PRODUCTION OF SMALL ENGINES AND MOTORCARS,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE 1124/MK

ZCZC N009 (F/S)
MAHATHIR 3 NEW YORK

DATUK SEMI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA INVITED FOREIGN COMPANIES TO START LABOUR-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES IN SPECIAL FREE TRADE ZONES; AND TO WOO INVESTORS, TAX HOLIDAYS WERE ALSO GIVEN.

HE ALSO SAID THAT MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NEEDED AID, BUT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER -- AND MALAYSIA WAS ONE -- DID NOT CARE FOR IT. WHAT THEY WANTED WAS FAIR TRADE, HE STRESSED.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO THE PHENOMENON WHICH HAD MADE COUNTRIES LIKE SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN, HONG KONG AND BRAZIL COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY IN GOODS PRODUCED BY THE OLD INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD MARKET AS WELL AS IN THE DOMESTIC MARKETS OF THOSE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES.

THEIR SUCCESS WAS, HOWEVER, SEEN AS A DANGEROUS THREAT BY, THE OLD INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AFTER THEY HAD SEEN JAPAN'S ECONOMIC MIRACLE, HE ADDED. -- MORE 1130/MK

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EUROPE HAD ALREADY FORMED A COMMON MARKET WHILE AMERICA AT FIRST, SANGUINE, SOON REALISED THE THREAT, HE SAID.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT MALAYSIA WAS NOT THE BEST KNOWN COUNTRY IN AMERICA.

AMERICANS KNEW THAILAND BECAUSE OF +THE KING AND I+, SINGAPORE, BECAUSE BOB HOPE AND BING CROSBY TOOK THE +ROAD TO SINGAPORE+, INDONESIA, BECAUSE THE AMERICANS HAD TROUBLE WITH SUKARNO: AND THE PHILLIPPINES BECAUSE THEY HAD RULED THE COUNTRY ONCE.

+BUT MALAYSIA IS A NEW COUNTRY AND HAS NOT DONE THOSE THINGS SO LOVED BY THE SENSATIONLIST WESTERN PRESS,+ HE SAID.

+HEAD HUNTING WENT OUT OF FASHION IN THE EARLY PART OF THIS CENTURY AND THE BIGGEST TREE IS NO LONGER RESERVED FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AS HISHOUSE,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE 1123/SA

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT NOT BEING KNOWN IN AMERICA WAS ACTUALLY A GOOD THING FOR MALAYSIA AS IT MEANT THAT THE COUNTRY WAS PEACEFUL AND STABLE.

THE SEMINAR, WHICH INCLUDED PANEL DISCUSSIONS, WAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 200 LEADING AMERICAN AND MALAYSIAN BUSINESSMEN.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION ARRIVED HERE SUNDAY NIGHT FROM TORONTO FOR A FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

THEY WILL FLY TO WASHINGTON LATER FOR THE OFFICIAL WELCOMING CEREMONY AT THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT GROUNDS.

IN TORONTO, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TOURED THE COAL-FIRED GENERATING STATION AT LAKEVIEW WHICH HAS A CAPACITY OF 240,000 KW.

HE ALSO VISITED THE ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE AND WENT UP THE CN TOWER, THE HIGHEST FREE STANDING 1353 METRES STRUCTURE IN THE WORLD. -- BERNAMA 1130/SA