

MAHATHIR - TALKS

FROM EFFENDI ARIFFIN

WASHINGTON, 19 JAN (BERNAMA) - PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) HAD A TWO-HOUR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN AT THE WHITE HOUSE HERE YESTERDAY DURING WHICH THEY DISCUSSED A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, TRADE AND OTHER BILATERAL MATTERS.

A SENIOR U.S. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL SAID THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY MUCH IMPRESSED WITH MALAYSIA'S POSITIVE RECORD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT UNDER ITS CAPABLE AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

"WE INTEND TO CONTINUE WORKING CLOSELY WITH MALAYSIA," HE TOLD ABOUT 30 NEWSMEN INCLUDING MALAYSIAN JOURNALISTS AT A PRESS BRIEFING AFTER THE TWO LEADERS HAD THEIR MEETING.

PRESENT AT THE PRESS BRIEFING HELD AT THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM WAS THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA T. SHOESMITH.

THE TWO LEADERS WHO EARLIER MET PRIVATELY WERE LATER JOINED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE SENIOR OFFICIALS AT AN EXTENDED MEETING.

THE MALAYSIAN SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATO SANUSI JUNID, THE MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, DATO LEW SIP HON, THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TAN SRI ZAKARIA MOHD. ALI, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, TAN SRI SALLEHUDDIN BIN MOHAMAD, THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY, TAN SRI RAMA IYER, THE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, ENCIK ASMAT KAMALUDDIN AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S POLITICAL SECRETARY ENCIK MEGAT JUNID BIN MEGAT AYOB.

THE US DELEGATION INCLUDED VICE-PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH, THE SECRETARY OF TREASURY DONALD REGAN, THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE KENNETH DAN AND THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA T. SHOESMITH.

--MORE 1550/HM

MAHATHIR - TALK 2 WASHINGTON

THEIR DISCUSSION ON THE INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID INCLUDED THE SOVIET UNION, CHINA, JAPAN AND WEST ASIA.

THEY ALSO TALKED ABOUT ASEAN AND OTHER REGIONAL MATTERS ESPECIALLY ON KAMPUCHEA.

THE OFFICIAL DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS A GOOD ONE AND PRESIDENT REAGAN HE SAID VALUED THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT AS IT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

BOTH LEADERS SHARED A SIMILAR VIEW ON THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND "OUR MUTUAL DESIRE TO CONSOLIDATE U.S. INVESTMENT IN MALAYSIA," THE OFFICIAL ADDED.

IN THIS CONNECTION THE U.S. CONSIDERED MALAYSIA AS THE MOST PROMISING LOCATION FOR INCREASED U.S. INVESTMENT AND COOPERATION.

THE OFFICIAL SAID PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS AWARE OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA AND SHARED WITH MALAYSIA THE OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING FREER TRADE, REDUCING TRADE AND INVESTMENT BARRIERS AND IN OPPOSING PROTECTIONISM.

HE SAID THE PRESIDENT ALSO RECOGNISED MALAYSIA AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY WHICH HAD BEEN ABLE TO CONDUCT ITS POLITICAL AFFAIRS DEMOCRATICALLY AND DISPLAYED WITH CREDIBLE SKILL ITS ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MALAYSIA WAS ONE OF THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAD NEVER BEEN A RECIPIENT OF THE AMERICAN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.

DURING THE DISCUSSION HELD AT THE CABINET ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO SEE FOREIGN AMERICAN INVESTORS COMING TO MALAYSIA. -- MORE 1605/YF

MAHATHIR - TALK 3 WASHINGTON

BEFORE THE TWO LEADERS ADJOURNED AFTER THEIR DISCUSSION THEY POSED FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AT THE OVAL OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE. ALSO PRESENT WAS VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH.

THE PRIME MINISTER, HIS WIFE DATIN DR. SITI HASMAH AND A 20 MEMBER OFFICIAL DELEGATION ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY FROM NEW YORK. ANOTHER GROUP OF 30 MALAYSIAN BUSINESSMEN WILL JOIN THE PARTY LATER.

IN THE EVENING THE PRIME MINISTER HAD AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY HERE.

HE ALSO HAD AN INTERVIEW WITH +BIZNET+, A PREMIER AMERICAN BUSINESS PUBLICATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD ECONOMIC DIALOGUE TODAY WITH THE SECRETARY OF TREASURY, DONALD R. REGAN, THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, LIONEL H. OLMER, THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COMMODITIES, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RICHARD AMSTUTZ AND UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM BROCK.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WILL ALSO HOLD A MEETING WITH THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE WASHINGTON POST AND ANOTHER INTERVIEW WITH THE VOICE OF AMERICA.

IN THE AFTERNOON, HE WILL ADDRESS THE FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION (FPA) AND THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL. --- MORE 1645/MB

ZCZC NO03 (S)

MAHATHIR - TALK 4 WASHINGTON

DATIN DR. SITI HASMAH WHO HAD A SEPARATE PROGRAMME HAD TEA WITH MRS. REAGAN AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

SHE ALSO HAD LUNCH WITH THE WIFE OF THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE MRS. KENNETH DAM BEFORE VISITING THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE RED CROSS.

THE MALAYSIAN BUSINESSMEN ALSO HAD AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS IN THE AFTERNOON. -- BERNAMA