

REAGAN-MALAYSIA

FROM EFFENDIARIFFIN

WASHINGTON, JAN. 19 (BERNAMA)-- PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN HAS COMPLIMENTED MALAYSIA FOR PLAYING A VITAL ROLE IN MAINTAINING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE SOUTH-EAST ASIAN REGION.

SPEAKING AT A DEPARTURE CEREMONY AFTER MEETING PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AT THE WHITE HOUSE, YESTERDAY THE UNITED STATES LEADER SAID:

+MALAYSIA DESERVES THE WORLD'S RESPECT FOR ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF MANY REFUGEES WHO ARE FLEEING COMMUNIST PERSECUTION.*

PRESIDENT REAGAN ALSO PRAISED MALAYSIA'S VIBRANT ECONOMY, WHICH, COMPLEMENTED BY BALANCED SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND AN ENTRENCHED DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION, SHOULD SERVE AS AN INSPIRATION TO DEVELOPING NATIONS.

ON HIS TALKS WITH DATUK SER DR. MAHATHIR, HE SAID THEY WERE IN AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL ISSUES TO REMARKABLE DEGREE. +

+WE BOTH ATTACH THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND BELIEVE A MORE OPEN SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT IS ESSENTIAL,* HE ADDED. -- MORE 1704/PA

REAGAN-MALAYSIA 2 WASHINGTON

IN THIS RESPECT, THE ECONOMIC UPSURGE IN THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HELP SPARK OFF A NEW ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE WORLD.

THE PRESIDENT SAID HE AND DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO BELIEVED IN SEEKING AN END TO THE TURMOIL IN WEST ASIA ALTHOUGH THEY DIFFERED IN THEIR VIEWS ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION THERE.

HE WAS CONFIDENT OF STRONG AND FRIENDLY TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MALAYSIA AND EXPECTED INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTACT AT BOTH THE OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL LEVELS BETWEEN AMERICANS AND MALAYSIANS.

THE PRIME MINISTER, IN RESPONDING TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S REMARKS, SAID MALAYSIA WELCOMED THE POSITIVE SIGNS OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE UNITED STATES, SAYING THE HEALTHIER THE U.S. ECONOMY, THE BETTER IT WOULD BE FOR NOT JUST THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT ALSO THE ENTIRE DEVELOPING WORLD.

ON THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES, HE SAID HE WAS GRATIFIED TO NOTE WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE U.S. TO FORGE BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION WITH MALAYSIA. -- MORE 1740/PA

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REAGAN-MALAYSIA 3 WASHINGTON

HE SAID THE U.S AND MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENTS RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF BOTH INDUSTRIALLY ADVANCED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MAKING PROGRESS ON MAJOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN THE INTERESTS OF WORLD PEACE AND STABILITY.

HOWEVER? MALAYSIA EXPECTED NO HANDOUTS IN ITS SEARCH FOR A BETTER TOMORROW BUT NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION, PARTICULARLY IN TRADE AND ECONOMY; TO HELP IT ACHIEVE ITS GOAL OF BECOMING A SELF-RELIANT AND PROGRESSIVE NATION.

HE THANKED THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET FOR THE FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE SIDES. -- BERNAMA 1744/PA