

PARLIAMENT-VISIT  
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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 13 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY THAT HIS VISIT TO CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND LAST MONTH HAD BEEN AN +EYE-OPENER+ FOR INDUSTRIALISTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES ON THE ECONOMIC STABILITY AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MALAYSIA.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THOSE COUNTRIES IN THE TWO AREAS WOULD BE SEEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

REPLYING TO ENCIK LEE LAM THYE (DAP-KUALA LUMPUR BANDAR) ON THE VISIT, HE SAID THE PRESENCE OF WELL-KNOWN MALAYSIAN BUSINESSMEN IN THE DELEGATION WOULD FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE CLOSE TIES WITH THE FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN.

QUESTIONS ON THE VISIT WERE ALSO RAISED BY DATUK HAJI ABUBAKAR UMAR (INDEPENDENT-KOTA SETAR), DATUK MICHAEL CHAN (BN-BERUAS), ENCIK JESTINE JINGBUT (BN-ULU RAJANG), DATUK HAJI SAIDIN HAJI MAT PIAH, (BN-PADANG RENGAS), ENCIK GUAH WEE LIAM (BN-KELUANG), ENCIK FUNG KIT WING (DAP-BANDAKAN) AND HAJI DUBUKI HAJI AHMAD (BN-TUMPAT).

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD THEM THAT HE MET HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS AND EXCHANGED VIEWS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL AND TRADE MATTERS. -- MORE, 1727/H

ZCZC N093 (F/S)

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HE SAID THE PRIMARY AIM OF HIS VISIT WAS TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION AND RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED ESPECIALLY IN TRADE AND INVESTMENTS.

HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR A BALANCED TRADE BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THOSE COUNTRIES.

AT PRESENT, MALAYSIA'S EXPORTS TO THOSE COUNTRIES WERE LESS THAN ITS IMPORTS ALTHOUGH OVERALL TRADE HAD INCREASED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD RECEIVED POSITIVE REACTION ON THE MATTER.

HE SAID HE HAD EXPLAINED TO THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED THAT MALAYSIA WAS DEVELOPING ITS INDUSTRIES TO DIVERSIFY ITS ECONOMIC BASE. -- MORE 1730/HM

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HE HAD URGED THOSE COUNTRIES TO OPEN THEIR MARKETS TO MALAYSIAN MANUFACTURED GOODS AND PURCHASE MORE PRIMARY COMMODITIES FROM MALAYSIA FOR THEIR INDUSTRIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE UNDERSTANDING ACHIEVED BETWEEN HIM AND THE LEADERS OF THE COUNTRIES HE VISITED WOULD HELP IMPROVE THE TRADE RELATIONS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES.

HE SAID MISUNDERSTANDING AND DOUBTS ABOUT MALAYSIA AND ITS POLICIES HAD ALSO BEEN CLARIFIED.

HE SAID HE HAD EXPLAINED TO THE LEADERS THAT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN MALAYSIA WOULD BE GUARANTEED BECAUSE MALAYSIA PRACTISED AN OPEN-DOOR POLICY ON INVESTMENTS AND WAS POLITICALLY STABLE. -- MORE, 1923/8A

ZCZC N143

PARLIAMENT-VISIT 4 KUALA LUMPUR

TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM ENCIK LEE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE HAD ALSO RAISED THE ISSUE OF PROTECTIONISM TO THE LEADERS OF THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE AND HAD RECEIVED A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THEM.

THEY HAD AGREED THAT SUCH POLICIES WERE NOT BENEFICIAL TO ANY ONE BUT THAT THEY WERE FACING THE PROBLEM OF TOO MANY GOODS FROM THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

AS SUCH THEY HAD BEEN PRESSURED BY THEIR OWN MANUFACTURERS TO IMPLEMENT SUCH PROTECTIONIST POLICIES.

HOWEVER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, THE LEADERS OF THOSE COUNTRIES HAD GIVEN HIM A PLEDGE THAT SUCH PROTECTIONIST POLICIES WOULD BE REDUCED. -- BERNAMA 1927/8A