

U E419 AAE
MAHATHIR-CAR' .

'84

P

KUALA LUMPUR , 'OCT. 16 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA MAY USE A NEW TECHNOLOGY BURROWED FROM ITALY FOR THE **MALAYSIAN CAR** -- THROUGH USING POWDER METALLURGY IN BUILDING GEARS AND OTHER **COMPONENTS**, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR **MOHAMAD** SAID TONIGHT.

THE **PRIME MINISTER** SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THIS TECHNOLOGY DURING HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO ITALY LAST MONTH AND WOULD DISCUSS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE HEAVY INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF MALAYSIA (**HICOM**) ON THE **POSSIBILITY OF** INTRODUCING IT FOR THE PROTON SAGA WHICH WILL ROLL OFF THE ASSEMBLY LINE NEXT YEAR.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ON HIS RETURN HOME AFTER BEING AWAY FOR NEARLY THREE WEEKS, WHICH INCLUDED A FOUR-DAY UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO TOKYO, A THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO ITALY AND A FIVE-DAY STAY IN THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID THERE WERE CERTAIN INDUSTRIES WHICH WERE SUPPORTIVE OF THE MOTOR-INDUSTRY. THE TECHNOLOGY OF WHICH THE ITALIANS WERE QUITE WILLING TO TRANSFER TO MALAYSIA.

+ONE OF THE INDUSTRIES OF REAL INTEREST IS POWDER METALLURGY -- TO FORM GEARS AND OTHER COMPONENTS USING METALLIC POWDER FOR HIGH COMPRESSION.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT DURING HIS HOLIDAY IN FRANCE, HE VISITED THE MOTORCAR AND MOTORVEHICLES EXHIBITION AND HAD SEVERAL IDEAS IN MIND WHICH HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH **HICOM** FOR THE PROTON SAGA. -- MORE

2226MST 16 10 84 . . .

D980

U E420 AAE
MAHATHIR-CAR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE ITALIANS WERE ALSO KEEN TO IMPART TO MALAYSIA ANOTHER NEW TECHNOLOGY NOT USED BY OTHER COUNTRIES -- THE BUILDING OF FIBRE-GLASS SHIPS BY USING A SPECIAL MACHINE.

HE ALSO LEARNT ABOUT THE ITALIAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY WHICH HE TERMED AS **+QUITE ADVANCE+** AND WHICH HAD RELEVANCE TO THE PROBLEMS FACED IN THIS COUNTRY.

HE SAID MALAYSIA HAD BOUGHT SOME MILITARY AIRCRAFT FROM ITALY AND MALAYSIA WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE SKILLS OF THE ITALIANS IN THE MAINTENANCE OF AIRCRAFT.

+THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS WE CAN DO TOGETHER WITH THEM, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF REFURBISHING THE AIRCRAFT AND STARTING A JOINT VENTURE WITH THE AIRCRAFT OVERHAUL DEPOT (AIROD) HERE.+

HE SAID THAT THESE WERE THE **POSSIBLE AREAS** WHERE MALAYSIA COULD LEARN FROM ITALY. -- BERNAMA

2230MST 16 10 84