

0265

B E642 AAE

MAHATHIR - U.K. (EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 11 PM TODAY, APRIL

5)

-85 (P)

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 5 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS STRESSED THE NEED FOR MALAYSIA AND BRITAIN TO REDRESS THEIR TRADE IMBALANCE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN POSITIVE EFFORTS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS TO IMPROVE TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE CHANGE IN MALAYSIA'S SHARE OF THE BRITISH MARKET.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER IN HONOUR OF HIS BRITISH COUNTERPART, PUAN MARGARET THATCHER, HERE TONIGHT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN 1983 BRITAIN RANKED AS MALAYSIA'S EIGHTH LARGEST TRADING PARTNER, ACCOUNTING FOR 3.1 PER CENT OF MALAYSIA'S GLOBAL TRADE.

BRITAIN ACCOUNTED FOR 2.7 PER CENT OF MALAYSIA'S TOTAL EXPORT AND 3.5 PER CENT OF THE IMPORTS.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE QUESTION OF INVISIBLES TRADE AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF INVISIBLES TRADE TO THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY.-- MORE

2214MST 05 04 85

D277

U E648 AAE

MAHATHIR - U.K. 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

+ WE DO NOT EXPECT TRADE TO BE BALANCED BETWEEN EVERY COUNTRY BUT CONTINUOUS AND SUBSTANTIAL IMBALANCES SHOULD BE CORRECTED, + HE ADDED.

HE HOPED THAT THE RECENTLY-INAUGURATED MALAYSIA BRITISH SOCIETY HERE AND THE BRITISH SOCIETY IN LONDON WOULD BE ABLE TO PLAY A ROLE IN OVERCOMING +GLITCHES AND HICCUPS+ THAT MIGHT OCCUR IN PROMOTING GREATER INTERACTION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, WOULD NOT BE DETERRED BY ADVERSE CRITICISM OF ITS INDUSTRIALISATION PROGRAMME OR ITS POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ECONOMIC POLICIES.

+ WE HAVE FOUND THAT DESPITE UNFAVOURABLE REPORTS ABOUT US, THERE IS NO DEARTH OF FOREIGN ENTREPRENEURS TO INVEST OR BANKERS TO LEND, + HE SAID.

THE BANKS WERE FOREVER ASKING MALAYSIA TO BORROW AND THERE WERE NOT TOO MANY GOOD BORROWERS THESE DAYS.--MORE

2247MST 05 04 85

D278

U E649 AAE

MAHATHIR - U.K. 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

ON EDUCATION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO NOTE THAT SOME BRITISH UNIVERSITIES HAD RESPONDED FAVOURABLY TO MALAYSIA'S SCHEME TO LESSEN THE NUMBER OF MALAYSIAN STUDENTS IN THEIR INSTITUTION.

THEY WERE RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA OF RECOGNISING COURSES FOR EARLY YEARS OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION TO BE CONDUCTED IN MALAYSIA -- LESSENING THE BURDEN BOTH TO THE BRITISH AND THE MALAYSIAN TAXPAYERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR APPRECIATED PUAN THATCHER'S SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT OF MALAYSIA'S POSITION ON THE ISSUE OF VIETNAMESE OCCUPATION OF KAMPUCHEA.

+ IF VIETNAM CAN INVADE, SUBJUGATE AND OCCUPY A WEAK NEIGHBOUR WITH IMPUNITY AND RETAIN THE PRIZE OF ITS AGGRESSION, THEN THE SECURITY OF COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WILL BE GREATLY THREATENED, + HE SAID.

MALAYSIA WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT VIGOROUSLY ALL EFFORTS TO RESTORE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THIS REGION, A PRE-REQUISITE OF WHICH WAS RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS AND ASPIRATION OF THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE.--MORE

2251MST 05 04 85

D279

U E650 AAE

MAHATHIR - U.K. 4 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

ON AFGHANISTAN, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA FIRMLY ENDORSES THE SUCCESSIVE UN RESOLUTIONS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN THE COUNTRY.

HE ALSO SPOKE OF MALAYSIA'S CONCERN ON THE INTRANSIGENCE AND INCREASING BRUTALITY OF ISRAEL IN WEST ASIA.

DESPITE REPEATED KILLING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE BY ISRAELI SOLDIERS, THE PALESTINIANS WERE STILL BEING PICTURED AS +VILLAINS OF THE PIECE+.

THE WEST SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WAS NOT OF THEIR OWN MAKING. IT WAS NOT THEIR CHOICE TO BE REFUGEES OVER AND OVER AGAIN AND IT WAS BECAUSE THEIR PLIGHT WAS IGNORED THAT THEY WERE FORCED TO TAKE TO ARMS AND VIOLENCE.

+ THE WEST SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT JUSTICE AND FAIR PLAY WOULD DO MORE PEACE THAN THE DESIRE TO ATONE FOR PAST ANTI-SEMITISM, + HE SAID.--MORE

2255MST 05 04 85

D280

U E651 AAE

MAHATHIR - U.K. 5 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

ON ANTARCTICA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS MALAYSIA'S VIEW THAT ALL MANKIND HAD A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN THAT CONTINENT.

IT WAS UNJUST THAT A SMALL GROUP OF COUNTRIES SHOULD ARROGATE TO THEMSELVES THE MANAGEMENT AND EXPLOITATION OF THE CONTINENT, HE SAID

MALAYSIA WAS READY TO COOPERATE WITH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED IN FINDING AN ACCEPTABLE SCHEME IN WHICH ALL NATIONS COULD JOIN HANDS IN PEACEFUL ADMINISTRATION OF ANTARCTICA, HE SAID.--BERNAMA

2255MST 05 04 85