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MAHATHIR - CHINA ^{DS}
FROM ZAINOOR SULAIMAN

(P)

OSLO , APRIL 24 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS WARNED THAT A MILITARILY STRONG CHINA COULD POSE A THREAT TO COUNTRIES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

MALAYSIA AND SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION FEARED THAT CHINA MIGHT MARCH SOUTH, AFTER ACQUIRING MILITARY STRENGTH FOLLOWING ITS CURRENT PROCESS OF MODERNISATION, HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT CHINA HAD ALWAYS BEEN A THREAT TO COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA.

+WE USED TO PAY TRIBUTE TO CHINA EVERY YEAR IN THE PAST,+ HE ADDED.

ON KAMPUCHEA, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT MALAYSIA AND ITS ASEAN PARTNERS WOULD CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION EVEN IF IT TOOK 100 YEARS. -- MORE
1511MST 24 04 85

MAHATHIR-CHINA 2 OSLO

+WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO BRING ABOUT A POLITICAL SOLUTION IN KAMPUCHEA WHEREBY THE PEOPLE OF KAMPUCHEA COULD DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT THEY WANT,+ HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT MALAYSIA WAS NOT SUPPORTING THE RETURN OF THE POL POT REGIME AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE KAMPUCHEANS WOULD NOT CHOOSE THE KHMER ROUGE IN A FREELY CONDUCTED ELECTION UNDER U.N. SUPERVISION.

THE KAMPUCHEANS COULD EVEN CHOOSE THE HENG SAMRIN REGIME IF THEY SO WISHED, HE SAID, ADDING HOWEVER THAT THEY WOULD MOST LIKELY ELECT A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT UNDER PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK -- THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA.

ON DISARMAMENTS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER POWERS -- THE UNITED STATES AND SOVIET UNION -- WAS NECESSARY TO END THE ARMS RACE. -- MORE
1513MST 24 04 85

MAHATHIR-CHINA 3 OSLO

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS HAD BEEN SPENT ON ARMS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS WHILE THE MONEY COULD HAVE BEEN SPENT TO ALLEVIATE SUFFERINGS AND POVERTY PARTICULARLY IN THE THIRD WORLD.

THE SALES OF ARMS TO RIVAL COUNTRIES WERE DISTORTING THEIR ECONOMIC STRUCTURE, HE SAID.

REFERRING TO HIS VISIT HERE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HIS MAIN TASK WAS TO INCREASE TRADE AND INVESTMENT FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

MALAYSIA WITH ITS ABUNDANCE OF RAW MATERIALS, GOOD LABOUR FORCE AND A STABLE POLITICAL CLIMATE PROVIDED A GOOD BASE FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS TO SET UP INDUSTRIES.

NORWAY HAD THE EXPERTISE IN WOOD-BASED, ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES, HE SAID. -- MORE

1514MST 24 04 85

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MAHATHIR-CHINA 4 OSLO

NORWEGIAN INVESTORS COULD SET UP PLANTS IN MALAYSIA FOR EXPORT TO OTHER SOUTH-EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, CHINA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WHO IS HERE ON A THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT THIS MORNING LEFT FOR STAANGER, 500 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF HERE, TO VISIT THE NORWEGIAN STATE OIL COMPANY +STATOIL+ BASE AT DUSAVIKA.

NORWAY STARTED PRODUCING OIL AND GAS FROM ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE NORTH SEA IN EARLY 70'S WITH INITIAL PRODUCTION OF 0.3 MILLION TONS OIL EQUIVALENT IN 1971 AND INCREASED IT TO 55 MILLIONS TON IN 1983.

PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO RISE TO ABOUT 70 MILLION TONS BY THE END OF 1980'S.

THE ENTIRE GAS PRODUCTION AND MOST OF ITS OIL PRODUCTION ARE EXPORTED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES.

THE PRODUCTION FROM NORWEGIAN FIELDS IN THE NORTH SEA IS DELIVERED THROUGH UNDERWATER PIPELINES TO WEST GERMANY AND TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. -- BERNAMA

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