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MAHATHIR-CANADA

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85 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 12 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY TOOK TO TASK THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH HE SAID ARE NOT INTERESTED IN SEEING FREE TRADE FLOW WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT MALAYSIA STILL FELT THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE INSINCERE AND NOT KEEN IN ENCOURAGING A FREE FLOW OF TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DATUK MON JAMALUDDIN, WHO WAS BRIEFING REPORTERS ON THE MEETING BETWEEN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND CANADIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ENCIK JOE CLARK AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HERE.

ACCORDING TO DATUK MON, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ON THE PROTECTIONIST ATTITUDE AND THE TRADE BARRIERS IMPOSED BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND TOLD ENCIK CLARK THAT MALAYSIA SUBSCRIBED TO THE FREE TRADE CONCEPT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO PROPOSED THAT TRADE BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND CANADA BE STEPPED UP. TRADE BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES WAS AT PRESENT NEGLIGIBLE.

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CANADA WAS ALSO URGED TO INVEST MORE IN MALAYSIA AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID THAT HE HOPED CANADA WOULD TRANSFER ITS TECHNOLOGY TO THE COUNTRY, DATUK MON SAID.

ENCIK CLARK HAD INDICATED CANADA'S WILLINGNESS TO HOLD A TRADE SEMINAR IN MALAYSIA AS PART OF EFFORTS TO STEP UP TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

DATUK MON SAID THAT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, AT THE HOUR-LONG MEETING, HAS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CANADA WOULD TAKE IN MALAYSIAN STUDENTS WHO HAD COMPLETED THEIR FIRST TWO YEARS IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN MALAYSIA TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES IN CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES.

CANADA HAD AGREED TO STUDY THE PROPOSAL, HE ADDED.

DATUK MON SAID THAT ENCIK CLARK WAS ALSO KEEN TO LISTEN TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENT IN ASEAN. -- BERNAMA

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