

MAHATHIR-RELATIONS
FROM MUSA SCULLY 85

(P)

TRIP Overseas

BEIJING, NOV 20; (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED FOR A CHANGE IN THE PATTERN OF MALAYSIA-CHINA TIES IN FAVOUR OF A MORE DYNAMIC MECHANISM FOR ONGOING IMPROVEMENTS IN RELATIONS.

URGING BOTH COUNTRIES TO TAKE +FRANK AND DISPASSIONATE+ STOCK OF THEIR RELATIONS TO RESOLVE EXISTING PROBLEMS, HE SAID FUTURE RELATIONS SHOULD HAVE +SUBSTANCE+, ADDING THAT ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE OFFERED EXCITING POSSIBILITIES.

HE REASSURED CHINESE LEADERS OF MALAYSIA'S COMMITMENT TO SEEK GOOD RELATIONS WITH CHINA ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.

HE HOPED ECONOMICS WOULD DOMINATE RELATIONS OF THE NEXT DECADE, JUST AS POLITICS HAD DOMINATED THE FIRST DECADE OF RELATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING AT A WELCOMING BANQUET HOSTED BY CHINESE PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG AT THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE IN TIANANMEN SQUARE. HE IS ON A NINE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHINA LEADING A 200-MEMBER ENTOURAGE CONSISTING LARGELY OF BUSINESSMEN. -- MORE

MAHATHIR-RELATIONS 2 BEIJING

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO RESOLVE CERTAIN +CORE BILATERAL ISSUES+ WHICH IMPEDED THE OVERALL GROWTH OF RELATIONS. +AS WE MOVE TO RESOLVE EXISTING PROBLEMS, OUR THOUGHTS SHOULD BE ON THE FUTURE AND HOW WE CAN ADD SUBSTANCE TO OUR RELATIONS.+

+MALAYSIA AND CHINA MUST FACE SQUARELY THE INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION THAT OUR INABILITY TO COMPLETELY RESOLVE CERTAIN CORE BILATERAL ISSUES TO MUTUAL SATISFACTION HAS HAD THE EFFECT OF IMPEDING THE OVERALL GROWTH OF RELATIONS.P

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD RETURNED TO CHINA (HE MADE A HALF-DAY STOPOVER IN 1979 AFTER A VISIT TO NORTH KOREA WHEN HE WAS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER) WITH +CAPTAINS OF MALAYSIAN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE+ WHO WERE KEEN ON GIVING MORE SUBSTANCE TO RELATIONSHIPS WITH FULL SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THE BUSINESSMEN WOULD LIKE TO SERIOUSLY EXPLORE EVERY AVENUE FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, +ADDING STRONGER MOMENTUM+ TO AND INCREASING THE VALUE OF BILATERAL TRADE. CALLING FOR MORE BALANCED TRADE AND GREATER DIRECT TRADE, HE POINTED OUT THAT BILATERAL TRADE HAD DECLINED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE 80S.

+WE MUST ENSURE THAT PIOUS STATEMENTS FOLLOWED BY INACTION OR INDIFFERENCE, WHICH HAVE CHARACTERISED OTHER BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS, DO NOT ALSO COME TO CHARACTERISE MALAYSIA-CHINA TRADE.+
-- MORE

MAHATHIR-RELATIONS 3 BEIJING

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA AND CHINA SHOULD NOT ALLOW HISTORY TO HOLD THE PROGRESS OF THEIR RELATIONS TO HOSTAGE.

+IN A COUNTRY WHERE TIME AND HISTORY GO BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS IT IS QUITE NATURAL TO TAKE A LONGER PERSPECTIVE -- BUT GIVEN CONTEMPORARY COMPULSIONS AND NEEDS A COUNTRY CANNOT AFFORD TO BE MIRED IN AND SHACKLED TO HISTORICAL LEGACIES AND FIDELITIES.+

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS REFERRING TO PAST ASSURANCES BY CHINESE LEADERS THAT SOME BILATERAL ISSUES WERE +LEFT-OVERS FROM HISTORY AND THAT TIME WILL RESOLVE THEM.+

HE SAID MUCH MORE COULD BE DONE AND NEEDED TO BE DONE +TO REALISE THE HIGH EXPECTATIONS+ BOTH COUNTRIES HAD AT THE ONSET OF FORMAL RELATIONS.

HE ADDED THAT THE TASK AHEAD WOULD NOT BE EASY +BUT A WORTHY ENDEAVOUR FOR OUR PEOPLE AND THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE REGION.+
-- BERNAMA

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