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MAHATHIR-TRADE
BM

trip overseas

SUBANG, NOV 28⁸⁵ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD IS CONFIDENT TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND CHINA WILL IMPROVE FURTHER TO BRING ABOUT A BALANCE IN THEIR TRADE WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN CHINA'S FAVOUR.

HE SAID THE FACT THAT HIS DELEGATION TO CHINA COMPRISED LARGELY BUSINESSMEN SHOWED THE IMPORTANCE MALAYSIA PLACED ON TRADE AND COMMERCE WITH THE COUNTRY

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE ON HIS RETURN AFTER A NINE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHINA, HE SAID TRADE AGREEMENTS TO THE TUNE OF \$57 MILLION HAD BEEN SIGNED DURING THE VISIT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE AGREEMENTS COVERED COUNTER TRADE AND NORMAL TRADE.

SEVERAL AGREEMENTS HAD ALSO BEEN NEGOTIATED LIKE THE SALE OF 220,000 TONNES OF HOT BRIQUETTED IRON FROM LABUAN TO CHINA, HE ADDED.

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MAHATHIR-TRADE 2 SUBANG

ON COUNTER TRADE, HE SAID CHINA HAD PROPOSED MORE OF SUCH TRADE WITH MALAYSIA AS THAT COUNTRY WAS CURRENTLY HAVING A FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROBLEM.

ASKED WHEN THIS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED, HE SAID IT DEPENDED ON THE BUSINESS SECTOR.

ON SHIPPING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES SHARE SHIPPING SPACE IN TRADE SO THAT SHIPS PLYING BETWEEN THEM WOULD NOT HAVE EMPTY HOLDS ON THE RETURN TRIP.

THE MATTER WAS STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION BY OFFICIALS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, HE ADDED.

HE SAID ANOTHER MATTER RAISED WAS THE OVER-PRODUCTION OF TIN BY CHINA, WHICH CHINA ITSELF HAD ADMITTED, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF IT JOINING THE INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-TRADE 3 SUBANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS OF THE OPINION THAT HIS VISIT TO CHINA, THE THIRD BY A MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER, AFTER TUN ABDUL RAZAK AND TUN HUSSEIN ONN, WAS AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS.

+THIS VISIT HAS STRENGTHENED RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND CHINA WHICH WILL BRING ABOUT MUTUAL BENEFIT,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID CHINESE PREMIER ZHOU ZIYANG HAD CONVERSED WITH HIM BY TELEPHONE FROM BEIJING THIS MORNING AND HE TOOK THIS TO BE A SIGN THAT ENCIK ZHOU HAD HIGH REGARD FOR HIS VISIT.

(DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS THEN IN KWANGTUNG ON THE LAST LEG OF HIS VISIT).

HE SAID HE HAD INVITED ENCIK ZHOU AND THE OTHER CHINESE LEADERS TO VISIT MALAYSIA.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S DELEGATION INCLUDED FOREIGN MINISTER TENGGU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN, WORKS MINISTER DATUK S.SAMY VELLU, SEVERAL DEPUTY MINISTERS AND POLITICAL LEADERS INCLUDING DAP DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL LEE LAM THYE. -- BERNAMA

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