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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 6 (BERNAMA) -- JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER YASUHIRO NAKASONE HAS ASSURED THAT HE WILL LOOK CLOSELY INTO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD'S SUGGESTIONS ON HOW THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESSMEN CAN HELP IMPROVE MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ENCIK NAKASONE ASSURED THAT HE WOULD DIRECT JAPANESE MINISTERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS IN DETAIL.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS UPON ARRIVAL AT THE SUBANG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NEAR HERE FROM TOKYO WHERE HE STOPPED OVER ON HIS WAY HOME FROM THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK.

HE SAID ENCIK NAKASONE GAVE THE ASSURANCE IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THEM AT A LUNCHEON IN TOKYO ON SATURDAY.

THE DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND MALAYSIA AS WELL AS THE ROLE THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESSMEN COULD PLAY IN HELPING TO OVERCOME MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, HE SAID. -- MORE

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+I FOUND THAT ENCIK NAKASONE SYMPHATISES WITH PROBLEMS FACED BY MALAYSIA,+ THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED.

HOWEVER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DECLINED TO ELABORATE ON THE PROPOSALS FORWARDED TO HIS JAPANESE COUNTERPART.

+APART FROM ASKING JAPAN TO INCREASE ITS INVESTMENTS IN MALAYSIA, IT IS NOT YET TIME FOR ME TO ELABORATE ON THE PROPOSALS,+ HE ADDED.

+THESE ARE JUST TENTATIVE SUGGESTIONS AND I THINK IT IS BETTER IF THE PROPOSALS REMAINED A SECRET FOR THE TIME BEING,+ HE SAID.

WHILE IN NEW YORK, THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO MET SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL LEADERS INCLUDING ZIMBABWE PRIME MINISTER ROBERT MUGABE AND UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ.

HE DESCRIBED AS FRUITFUL HIS MEETINGS WITH THESE LEADERS. --
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