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MAHATHIR-INDIA R R R R R R R

BM

SUBANG, FEB 1⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE WITH INDIA IN THE MANUFACTURE OF AUTOMOBILE COMPONENTS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A JOINT VENTURE RESULTED FROM HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIAN PRIME MINISTER RAJIV GANDHI DURING HIS VISIT TO INDIA.

INDIA HAD THE CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE SEVERAL AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENT PARTS, SOME OF WHICH WERE EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD REPORTERS ON ARRIVAL AT THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE AFTER ATTENDING THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC) SUMMIT IN KUWAIT AND MAKING A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO INDIA.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THERE WAS AVENUE FOR THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO HAVE A JOINT VENTURE IN THIS AREA.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MALAYSIAN NATIONAL CAR, PROTON SAGA, WAS NOT DIRECTLY DISCUSSED WITH ENCIK GANDHI BUT WAS MENTIONED IN THEIR TALKS ON THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-INDIA 2 SUBANG R R R R R R R

HE SAID THAT LIKE MALAYSIA, INDIA TOO COOPERATED WITH JAPAN IN THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY AND HAD A POLICY TO PRODUCE ITS OWN CARS FOR DOMESTIC USE EXCEPT FOR CARS FOR USE BY DIPLOMATS.

ON TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, HE SAID MALAYSIA WOULD FIND MEANS OF IMPORTING MORE FROM INDIA INCLUDING HAVING JOINT VENTURES WITH THAT COUNTRY TO NARROW THEIR TRADE IMBALANCE CURRENTLY IN MALAYSIA'S FAVOUR.

TRADE BETWEEN BOTH NATIONS HAD BEEN INCREASING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, ESPECIALLY ON THE PART OF MALAYSIA WHICH WAS EXPORTING LARGE AMOUNTS OF PALM OIL TO INDIA AS ITS PRIMARY EXPORT TO THAT COUNTRY.

ON MALAYSIA AGREEING TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOLIDARITY FUND CHAIRED BY ENCIK GANDHI, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE FORM OF AID TO BE GIVEN WITH THE CABINET.

HE ALSO SAID INDIA, APART FROM CONTRIBUTING US\$400,000 (ABOUT M\$1.4 MILLION) TO THE SOUTH-SOUTH COMMISSION, HAD ALSO OFFERED TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES OF AN ECONOMICS SPECIALIST FOR THE COMMISSION.

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MAHATHIR-INDIA 3 SUBANG

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SELECTION OF THE COMMISSION'S COMMITTEE MEMBERS DEPENDED ON THE DECISION OF ITS CHAIRMAN DR JULIUS NYERERE.

HE DESCRIBED HIS VISIT TO INDIA AS A SUCCESS, SAYING HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET SEVERAL OTHER INDIAN LEADERS AND VISIT AN EXPOSITION OF INDIAN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.

ON INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BELIEVED THE RELATIONS WOULD IMPROVE IN VIEW OF INITIATION OF TALKS BETWEEN THEIR LEADERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAD ALSO CONVEYED A MESSAGE FROM PAKISTANI PRESIDENT ZIA UL-HAQ TO ENCIK GANDHI.

HE SAID THE MESSAGE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, STRESSED THAT PAKISTAN HAD NO +EVIL INTENTION+ TOWARDS INDIA. -- BERNAMA

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