

D289

B E314 AAE
MAHATHIR-RELATIONS
BM

FROM AMIN HUSAINI HARUN

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, MARCH 31⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR

MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND BRUNEI DARUSSALAM WILL BE ENHANCED WITH EXPANDED AIR SERVICES BETWEEN THEM AND COMPLETION OF THE TRANS-BORNEO HIGHWAY.

NEGOTIATIONS TO STEP UP FLIGHT FREQUENCY BY MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL CARRIER MALAYSIAN AIRLINE SYSTEM (MAS) AND THE SULTANATE'S ROYAL BRUNEI AIRLINES (RBA) WOULD TAKE PLACE IN TWO WEEKS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

SPEAKING AT A MEETING WITH LOCAL BUSINESSMEN ORGANISED BY THE BRUNEI MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AT ABDUL RAZAK PLAZA HERE, HE SAID THE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FLIGHTS BETWEEN BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN AND KUALA LUMPUR WOULD ALSO MAKE THE KLANG VALLEY THE COMMERCIAL CENTRE FOR BRUNEI BUSINESSMEN.

THE TRANS-BORNEO HIGHWAY LINKING BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND SABAH AND SARAWAK IN MALAYSIA, WHEN COMPLETED, WOULD FACILITATE VISITS BETWEEN PEOPLE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

EVEN NOW, HE SAID, MALAYSIANS VISITED BRUNEI TO BUY OIL WHICH WAS CHEAPER IN THE SULTANATE WHILE THE PEOPLE OF BRUNEI VISITED MALAYSIAN TOWNS TO BUY FRUITS. -- MORE

1829MST 31 03 87

D291

B E315 AAE
MAHATHIR-RELATIONS 2 BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

+I INVITE THE PEOPLE OF BRUNEI, ESPECIALLY THE BUSINESSMEN, TO MAKE KUALA LUMPUR THEIR MAIN STOP AS THE GOODS THERE, PARTICULARLY ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, ARE CHEAPER THAN IN SINGAPORE, + HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE HIGHER PRICES IN SINGAPORE AND THE DROP IN THE RINGGIT'S VALUE HAD MADE MALAYSIAN GOODS CHEAPER AND MORE COMPETITIVE.

HOWEVER, HE REALISED IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CHANGE ONE'S PREFERENCE FROM A BIG CITY LIKE SINGAPORE TO KUALA LUMPUR WHICH WAS SMALLER IN TERMS OF AREA AND POPULATION.

HE HOPED THE VARIOUS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN MALAYSIA ESTABLISHED MORE CONTACT WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN BRUNEI DARUSSALEM TO ATTRACT BRUNEI INVESTORS INTO PUTTING THEIR CAPITAL INTO MALAYSIA.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO HELP BRUNEI BUSINESSMEN INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN MALAYSIA AND VARIOUS AGENCIES AND BODIES HAD BEEN SET UP TO EXTEND THEM THE NECESSARY COOPERATION. -- MORE
1831MST 31 03 87

0305

B E324 AAE
MAHATHIR-RELATIONS 3 BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MORE VISITS AT MINISTERIAL AND OFFICERS LEVELS WOULD BE HELD BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, NOT ONLY ON AN OFFICIAL BUT ALSO ON A PERSONAL FOOTING.

IN A SHORT PRESS CONFERENCE AT ISTANA EDINBURGH WHERE HE IS STAYING DURING HIS TWO-DAY VISIT HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA ALWAYS WELCOMED BRUNEI DARUSSALAM INVESTMENTS IN THE LABUAN FEDERAL TERRITORY.

LABUAN COULD BECOME THE BUSINESS CENTRE FOR BRUNEI BUSINESSMEN, EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR IN JOINT VENTURES WITH LOCAL BUSINESSMEN TO MANUFACTURE DUTY-FREE GOODS.

HOWEVER, THE CLOSED-DOOR DISCUSSION HE HAD WITH THE BRUNEI INVESTMENT AGENCY THIS MORNING DID NOT TOUCH ON THE SPECIAL FIELDS TO BE DEVELOPED, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BEGAN THE SECOND DAY OF HIS VISIT HERE TODAY BY ATTENDING A BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT AT THE BRUNEI ISLAMIC MISSIONARY CENTRE. -- MORE
1855MST 31 03 87

MAHATHIR-RELATIONS 4 BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

IN THE BRIEFING ON BRUNEI DARUSSALAM'S FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, THE DIRECTOR OF THE ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT OF THE BRUNEI FINANCE MINISTRY, DATIN HAJAH JUSNANI LAWIE, SAID 56 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S IMPORTS FROM MALAYSIA LAST YEAR CONSTITUTED FOOD AND BEVERAGES.

MALAYSIA'S EXPORTS TO THE SULTANATE ROSE FROM \$50 MILLION WORTH IN 1980 TO \$70 MILLION WORTH LAST YEAR.

THE BRUNEI DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY'S PERMANENT SECRETARY (TECHNICAL), ENCIK MALAI ALI MALAI OTHMAN, SAID BRUNEI DARUSSALAM WELCOMED INVESTMENTS BUT SO FAR HAD NOT SENT ANY PROMOTION MISSION TO LURE INVESTORS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR RETURNED TO KUALA LUMPUR AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

AMONG THE LOCAL DIGNITARIES TO SEE HIM OFF WAS FINANCE MINISTER PENGIRAN JEFRI BOLKIAH, WHO IS BROTHER OF THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI, SULTAN HASSANAL BOLKIAH.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S DELEGATION INCLUDED TRANSPORT MINISTER DATUK DR LING LIONG SIK, WORKS MINISTER DATUK S. SAMY VELLU, FEDERAL TERRITORY MINISTER DATUK HAJI ABU HASSAN OMAN, CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES JEN TAN SRI GHAZALI CHE MAT AND INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE TAN SRI HANIFF OMAR. -- BERNAMA
1948MST 31 03 87