

D894

B E370 AAE
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN
FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AT 4.30AM MALAYSIAN TIME TOMORROW (JULY 21)

(P) - overseas trips

LONDON, JULY 20⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, NOW ON A SIX-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRITAIN, TONIGHT URGED HIS HOST TO BE +MORE SENSITIVE TO MALAYSIA'S NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS+ WITH A PROMISE IN RETURN +TO LOOK AT BRITAIN ANEW.+ HE SAID MALAYSIA WOULD ALSO LIKE TO COME TO TERMS WITH BRITAIN'S NEW PRIORITIES AND TO GAIN IF POSSIBLE FROM EFFERVESCENT NEW IDEAS THAT MIGHT BE AFOOT IN ITS INDUSTRIES.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER IN HIS HONOUR HOSTED BY HIS BRITISH COUNTERPART, PUAN MARGARET THATCHER AT NO 10, DOWNING STREET HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID FOR HISTORICAL REASONS, BRITAIN HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE FAVOURED COUNTRY FOR MOST MALAYSIANS -- FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING, FOR TECHNOLOGY AND FOR HOLIDAYS TO NAME SOME.

+ABILITY TO USE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAS BECOME +DE RIGEUR+ FOR MOST MALAYSIANS. THE AVERAGE MALAYSIANS KNOWS MORE ABOUT BRITAIN THAN THE AVERAGE BRITONS DO OF MALAYSIA,+ HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT HE HAD UNDERTAKEN HIS VISIT WITH A POSITIVE MIND, CONVINCED THAT +OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS COULD BE RAISED TO A LEVEL THAT WOULD DO JUSTICE TO THE MANY TIES THAT HAD LONG CHARACTERISED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.+ -- MORE
2250MST 20 07 87

D898

B E371 AAE
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN 2 LONDON

URGING THAT MALAYSIA AND BRITAIN MUST MOVE FORWARD IN DEVELOPING THEIR RELATIONS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +LET'S ADD MEANING TO OUR EFFORTS, SUBSTANCE TO OUR INITIATIVES AND IMAGINATION TO OUR APPROACH.+

+LET US TOLERATE CRITICISM OF EACH OTHER, IF NECESSARY, AND YET REMAIN STRONG ON THE COMMONALTY OF INTEREST THAT BINDS US,+ HE SAID WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO MALAYSIA'S +BUY BRITISH LAST POLICY+ LAUNCHED DURING THE 1981-1985 PERIOD WHICH TOOK RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO ITS LOWEST EBB AND THE SUBSEQUENT EFFORTS AFTERWARDS BY BOTH TO IMPROVE IT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENTS TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND INFLUENCES BY COMPETING EXTERNAL FACTORS WERE BRINGING CONSIDERABLE CHANGES TO ALL THOSE WHICH +WE HAVE HITHERTO TAKEN FOR GRANTED.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN IN THE FINEST TRADITION OF BRITAIN TO RECOGNISE EARLY THE WINDS OF CHANGE.

WITH THAT RECOGNITION, CAME THE ABILITY TO ADJUST, ANTICIPATE AND FINALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESSES BROUGHT ABOUT BY CHANGE. -- MORE
2257MST 20 07 87

D903

B E375 AAE
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN 3 LONDON (EMBARGO)

+THIS IS AN INVALUABLE TALENT, A NATIONAL GENIUS, TO HAVE IT IS TO BE ABLE TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID MALAYSIA TOO HAD BEEN HONING ITS REFLEXES TO CHANGE, BELIEVING THAT IT HAD READ THE SIGNALS WELL.

+THE FALLING PRICE OF OUR COMMODITIES, RESTRICTIVE MARKETS, VOLATILE EXCHANGE RATES, ETC. THESE ARE STORM WARNINGS THAT WE MUST HEAD IN ORDER TO EFFECT THE PROPER RESPONSES,+ HE STRESSED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID, BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND BRITAIN MUST ADAPT WELL, ADDING THAT THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT TO LOOK BACK.

+THERE IS LITTLE TO GAIN FROM THAT. IN ORDER TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP, MALAYSIA AND BRITAIN MUST PROVIDE THE NECESSARY UNDERPINNING.

+IN THIS RESPECT, I CLEARLY SEE AN ACTIVE ROLE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF BOTH COUNTRIES, AS MUCH AS BOTH GOVERNMENTS MUST ALSO CONTRIBUTE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

2306MST 20 07 87

B E377 AAE
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN 4 LONDON (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND BRITAIN MUST BE THE FOCUS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

IDEALLY, THE RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE A MODEL OF A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FORMER COLONIAL POWER AND THE INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO MALAYSIA THAT IT HAD TO CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE A SUBSTANTIAL DEFICIT IN TERMS OF INVISIBLE TRADE WITH BRITAIN.

THE EFFORTS MADE BY MALAYSIA TO BRING ABOUT A MORE FAVOURABLE BALANCE IN THIS RESPECT HAD YET TO BEAR FRUIT.

HE SAID IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES URGENTLY RECTIFY THE PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED IN AREAS OF INSURANCE, EDUCATION, CONSULTANCY AND SHIPPING.

+THESE INDEED ARE THE MAJOR AREAS IN WHICH BRITAIN CAN PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE TOWARDS ACHIEVING A MORE EQUITABLE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP.

+IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT WE WISH TO SEE BRITAIN DIVERSIFYING ITS IMPORTS FROM MALAYSIA RATHER THAN CONFINING TO IMPORTING ONLY MALAYSIA'S PRIMARY COMMODITIES,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

2313MST 20 07 87

B E378 AAE
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN 5 LONDON (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS ALSO MALAYSIA'S WISH TO SEE AN INCREASE IN BRITISH INVESTMENTS IN MALAYSIA, ESPECIALLY NOW WHEN THE COUNTRY HAD GREATLY LIBERALISED CONDITIONS FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENTS.

IN HIS SPEECH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO TOUCHED ON THE NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS, THE DRUG PROBLEM, APARTHEID AND MALAYSIA'S LOOK EAST POLICY.

ON THE LOOK EAST POLICY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT SOME PEOPLE DECRIED THE POLICY, ACCUSING MALAYSIANS OF FORGETTING OLD FRIENDS FROM THE WEST.

HE ASSURED HIS BRITISH COUNTERPART THAT MALAYSIA HAD NOT FORGOTTEN HER OLD FRIENDS, QUOTING THE FACT THAT THERE WERE NOW ABOUT 100,000 MALAYSIAN STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE WEST AS THE TESTIMONY FOR THIS.

"WE HAVE ONLY ABOUT ONE THOUSAND STUDENTS IN JAPAN, KOREA AND TAIWAN. BUT WE NEED TO LEARN WHAT MAKES THESE COUNTRIES SUCCEED IN COMPETING WITH ESTABLISHED INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES IF WE ARE TO ENTER THE FRAY OURSELVES," HE EXPLAINED. -- MORE
2326MST 20 07 87

D916

B E379 AAE
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN 6 LONDON (EMBARGO)

ON NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT THE TECHNOLOGICAL BREAK-THROUGHS THAT HAD FIRED EVERYONE'S IMAGINATION WERE NOT ONLY GOING TO HELP MAKE QUALITATIVE CHANGES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD BUT MIGHT ALSO MAKE THE DISPARITY BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH EVEN GREATER.

ON THE DRUG PROBLEM, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED ALL COUNTRIES WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUGS AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING (ICDAIT) IN VIENNA TO FOLLOW UP ON THE COMMITMENTS MADE AT THE CONFERENCE. -- BERNAMA
2327MST 20 07 87