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B E156 AAE
MAHATHIR-BRITAIN (CORRECTED REPETITION)
FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

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LONDON, JULY 25 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WHO IS NEARING THE END OF HIS SIX-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRITAIN IS HAPPY WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE TRIP WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS +VERY SUCCESSFUL+.

+GENERALLY, WE HAVE ACHIEVED WHAT WE WANTED TO ACHIEVE OUT OF THIS VISIT+ THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD MALAYSIAN REPORTERS HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, WHO ARRIVED HERE ON MONDAY, HAS HAD TALKS WITH HIS BRITISH COUNTERPART PUAN MARGARET THATCHER AND SENIOR BRITISH OFFICIALS, OPENED AN INVESTMENT SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE MALAYSIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MIDA), SPOKEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESTIGIOUS ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND HAD LUNCH WITH MEMBERS OF THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY (CB), REGARDED AS THE +VOICE OF BRITISH BUSINESS+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, HIS WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH AND MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION ALSO MET TOP BRITISH TOUR OPERATORS AND ATTENDED A GARDEN PARTY GIVEN BY QUEEN ELIZABETH AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE. -- MORE.
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THE PRIME MINISTER'S DELEGATION INCLUDES WORKS MINISTER DATUK S. SAMY VELLU, PRIMARY INDUSTRY MINISTER DATUK DR LIM KENG YEIK, TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER DATIN PADUKA RAFIDAH AZIZ, FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK ABU HASSAN OMAR AND DAPUTY MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT ENCIK LAU HENG DIENG.

HE SAID +EVERY FUNCTION WE HAD WAS WELL ATTENDED BY PEOPLE WE CALL THE CAPTAINS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY -- TOP BANKERS, INVESTORS AND ENTERPRENEURS+.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, ON THE WHOLE, PEOPLE HE MET HERE HAD COME TO REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING FRIENDLY AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH MALAYSIA AND NO LONGER WANTED TO TAKE MALAYSIA FOR GRANTED AS WAS THE CASE BEFORE 1985 WHICH LED TO MALAYSIA ADOPTING THE +BUY-BRITISH-LAST+ POLICY.

+I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT IS THEIR GENUINE DESIRE AND WE WILL SEE THE OUTCOME OF THIS VISIT IN TANGIBLE FORMS IN THE NEAR FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

ON HIS TALKS WITH PUAN THATCHER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THEY SHARED SIMILAR PERCEPTIONS ON A NUMBER OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES WHILE +AGREEING TO DIASGREE+ ON SOME OTHERS. -- MORE.
1440MST 25 07 87

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HE CITED BRITAIN'S POLICY ON SOUTH AFRICA AND LONDON'S RELUCTANCE TO GRANT ADDITIONAL LANDING RIGHTS TO THE MALAYSIAN AIRLINE SYSTEM (MAS) AS EXAMPLES OF THEIR POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA HAD REQUESTED FOR TWO MORE MAS FLIGHTS TO LONDON IN ADDITION TO THE CURRENT FIVE FLIGHTS A WEEK, BUT BRITAIN WAS RELUCTANT TO GRANT IT.

YESTERDAY, THE PRIME MINISTER AND MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION VISITED THE CAMBRIDGE INSTRUMENT LABORATORY WHICH DEVELOPS SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS, PA TECHNOLOGY (A TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANCY FIRM) AND THE BRITISH AEROSPACE INDUSTRY AT HATFIELD, OUTSIDE LONDON.

AT HATFIELD, HE INSPECTED AND WITNESSED A DEMONSTRATION OF THE ATP AIRCRAFT WHICH MALAYSIA IS REPORTEDLY INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING FOR MAS' DOMESTIC FLIGHT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID A COMMITMENT ON THE PURCHASE OF THE AIRCRAFT WILL ONLY BE MADE IF THE MANUFACTURER FULFILLS CERTAIN CONDITIONS. -- MORE.

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MAHATHIR-BRITAIN 4 LONDON

+FOR EXAMPLE WE MAY AGREE IF CERTAIN PARTS ARE SUPPLIED BY MALAYSIA,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT AEROSPACE INDUSTRY OF MALAYSIA (AIM) WAS INTERESTED IN THIS (SUPPLYING AIRCRAFT PARTS).

ON TOURISM, HE SAID THE BRITISH TOUR OPERATORS FELT THAT MALAYSIA OFFERS UNLIMITED POTENTIAL FOR TOURISTS.

HOWEVER, A GREATER EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO DEVELOP THE POTENTIAL SO AS TO ATTRACT MORE BRITISH TOURISTS.

AT PRESENT ABOUT 10 MILLION BRITISH TOURISTS GO ABROAD ANNUALLY AND THERE WAS NO REASON WHY MALAYSIA SHOULD NOT GET A FAIR SHARE OF THEM, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA.

1443MST 25 07 87