

# Buy directly from us, Dr M tells Hungary

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged Hungary to buy directly from Malaysia rather than through indirect channels.

He said while trade between the two countries is relatively small, it does not mean that the situation must remain static. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir expressed confidence that various ways could be studied to improve and increase trade to mutual benefit.

He was speaking at a dinner given in his honour by the chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers Mr Karoly Grosz tonight.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said, "Our cooperation need not begin and end with railway coaches only. As developing countries with common aspirations we can branch out into other fields

such as pharmaceuticals, fertilisers and training in the agricultural sector."

The two countries could look into extending technical assistance to each other.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir noted that Hungary, with a small population, has been able to match the capacities of other bigger developed nations.

"The growth of your industry has been phenomenal and Malaysia would do well to emulate some of your industrial practices, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

He said Hungary can be proud of its achievements in telecommunications, public transport and ship-building — the latter an amazing feat for a landlocked country.

He said technology is contracting the world. "My visit

here is taken on the premise that no distance or barrier divide us or stand in the way of our cooperation," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir hoped that bilateral relations between Malaysia and Hungary will grow from "strength to strength".

He said his visit affords the opportunity to examine future prospects. The businessmen in the delegation he added were "talking with their Hungarian counterparts on how we can achieve a greater flow of goods between our two countries."

Efforts, he said, should also be made to make the people aware of the various opportunities available for mutually beneficial economic cooperation. He welcomed the holding of another Hungarian week in Kuala Lumpur in October as a positive step in this direction. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir hopes a Malaysian week could be held in Budapest.

"The records of your country and mine place both of us in the same plane. Although we are small countries we insist that our voices should be heard. We do not believe that giants own this earth that others have no role to play," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

In this context, he added: "We should express concern over the spiralling arms race and, while present indications with regard to relations between the United States and the Soviet Union give some reason to be hopeful, we must continue to urge early and qualitative progress on disarmament and the abatement of the superpowers rivalry which looms in various regions."

In this speech the Prime Minister also touched on the Palestinian cause, apartheid in South Africa, and refugees in Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir expressed appreciation for Hungary's support for Malaysia at the international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking in Vienna recently.