

U E162 AAE
MAHATHIR - BAVARIA
BY AHMAD REJAL ARBEE

② *Trly overseas*

MUNICH, SEPT 22 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR MALAYSIA TO ESTABLISH A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOUTHERN STATE OF BAVARIA TO LEARN FROM ITS SUCCESSES IN TRANSFORMING THE STATE FROM AN AGRARIAN BASE TO ONE OF THE MOST MODERN AND INDUSTRIALISED REGIONS OF GERMANY.

MALAYSIA ITSELF HOPED TO ONE DAY ACHIEVE THE STATUS OF INDUSTRIALISATION THAT BAVARIA HAS CURRENTLY IN. THE PRIME MINISTER MADE THESE REMARKS IN AN IMPROMPTU RESPONSE TO THE WELCOMING SPEECH BY THE BAVARIAN MINISTER-PRESIDENT FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS AT THE PRINZ-CARL PALAIS SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL FOR A ONE-DAY VISIT HERE YESTERDAY EVENING.

BAVARIA, HE SAID, HAD MANY THINGS TO OFFER MALAYSIA, ESPECIALLY EXPERTISE AND KNOW-HOW IN INDUSTRIALISATION AND HE CALLED FOR MORE BAVARIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF MALAYSIA.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH AND DELEGATION HAD EARLIER BEEN GIVEN A CEREMONIAL WELCOME AT THE RIEN AIRPORT HERE.

LATER, AT THE OFFICIAL DINNER GIVEN BY STRAUSS AT THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF BAVARIA WAS EXEMPLARY AND A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION TO COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA.

AND, WITH THE STRONG DEUTSCHEMARK, BAVARIAN COMPANIES WITH EXISTING JOINT-VENTURE OPERATIONS IN MALAYSIA COULD SOURCE MORE OF THEIR MATERIAL INPUTS AND COMPONENTS FROM MALAYSIA. -- MORE

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HE SAID BAVARIA COULD ALSO INCREASE ITS IMPORTS OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS AS WELL AS TEXTILE AND GARMENTS FROM MALAYSIA.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SUGGESTED BAVARIA LOOK INTO CO-OPERATION IN THE HANDICRAFT INDUSTRY AS THE STATE IS THE CENTRE FOR GERMAN HANDICRAFT WITH THE MUNICH HANDICRAFT FAIR BECOMING AN INTERNATIONAL HANDICRAFT EVENT WHERE THE MALAYSIAN HANDICRAFT BOARD HAD ALSO PARTICIPATED.

TOUCHING ON INDUSTRIALISATION, HE SAID IT WAS THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE TO DEVELOP FURTHER THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TO THE EXTENT IT WOULD BECOME THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO MALAYSIA'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.

HE SAID MALAYSIA WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE GERMAN COMPANIES ESTABLISHING PROJECTS IN MALAYSIA WHERE GERMAN AND BAVARIAN ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS, TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERTISE COULD COMBINE WITH MALAYSIAN RESOURCES AND DILIGENT WORKFORCE TO ESTABLISH INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN MALAYSIA FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

TODAY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR VISITED SIEMENS CORPORATION HERE WHERE HE WAS GIVEN A BRIEFING ON THE COMPANY, ESPECIALLY ITS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND LATER, THE MICROELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (MEGA PROJECT) BEFORE DEPARTING FOR BRUSSELS TO BEGIN THE SECOND LEG OF HIS CURRENT VISIT TO EUROPE AT 2 PM (5 PM MALAYSIA).

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THIS MORNING, THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, DATUK AMAR STEPHEN YONG, HAD A SEPARATE PROGRAMME VISITING THE COMBUSTION FACILITY OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SPECIAL WASTE IN BAVARIA, NEAR HERE.

DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASHAH ALSO HAD A SPECIAL PROGRAMME VISITING THE SOCIO-THERAPEUTIC INSTITUTION FOR YOUNG DRUG ADDICTS HERE.

YESTERDAY, DURING THE VISIT TO THE MIXDORF COMPUTER FACTORY IN BERLIN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SETTING UP OF A COMPUTER SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE IN MALAYSIA. MIXDORF HAS GIVEN THE UNDERTAKING TO FINANCE ITS SETTING UP.

LATER, THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS DELEGATION WERE DRIVEN IN A MOTORCADE TO THE REICHTAG BUILDING BESIDE THE BERLIN WALL DIVIDING EAST AND WEST BERLIN, PASSING BY THE BRANDENBURG GATE. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE BERLIN MAYOR EBERHARD DIEPGEN.

THIS AFTERNOON, HE WAS GIVEN A CEREMONIAL SENDOFF FROM THE RIEM AIRPORT HERE BY MR STRAUSS. -- BERNAMA
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