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B E187 AAE

MAHATHIR-EEC

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48

SUBANG, OCT 8 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WHO RETURNED HOME FROM A THREE-WEEK VISIT TO EUROPE, BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES TODAY, DECLARED HIMSELF SATISFIED WITH THE TOUR WHICH HE SAID HAS GIVEN FOREIGN INVESTORS RENewed CONFIDENCE IN INJECTING MORE MONEY INTO MALAYSIA.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE SOON AFTER ARRIVAL, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID INVESTORS WHO TWO YEARS AGO HAD DOUBTS ABOUT INVESTING IN MALAYSIA, WERE NOW PAYING SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THE COUNTRY FOLLOWING LATEST INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENTS BY THE GOVERNMENT.

+IN MY VIEW, THE FEEDBACK FROM INVESTORS RELATING TO MY VISIT HAS BECOME MORE ENCOURAGING, AND THEY EVEN ADMITTED PREDICTIONS MADE BY SOME SELF-STYLED EXPERTS ON THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY HAVE NOW BEEN PROVEN WRONG,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAS ALSO GIVEN AN ASSURANCE BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COMMISSION (EEC) THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO ACCEPT PRODUCTS AND TRADE WITH COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE EEC AFTER 1992.

DESPITE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AMONG WEST GERMANY, BELGIUM AND BRITAIN ON THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOODS FROM OUTSIDE COUNTRIES AFTER 1992, HE SAID THEY HAD ON THE WHOLE AGREED TO CONTINUE TRADE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. -- MORE  
1922HST 08 10 88

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B E188 AAE

MAHATHIR-EEC 2 SUBANG

+THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN FOR MALAYSIA AS IT IS IN LINE WITH OUR EFFORTS TO INCREASE EXPORTS TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.+

ON THE PROPOSED PURCHASE OF ARMAMENTS FROM BRITAIN ON A BARTER TRADE ARRANGEMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MOVE WOULD INCREASE EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM AND PALM OIL TO THAT COUNTRY.

HE REFUTED CLAIMS THAT THE WEAPONS PURCHASE WOULD AFFECT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION, SAYING THIS ISSUE SHOULD NOT ARISE AS IT WOULD ENABLE THE COUNTRY TO SELL MORE OF ITS COMMODITIES.

+HOW CAN IT BE CLAIMED THE ARMS PURCHASE WILL AFFECT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLE WHEN WITHOUT SUCH A MOVE THE COUNTRY'S COMMODITIES MIGHT NOT FIND THEIR WAY INTO OTHER COUNTRIES?+ HE ASKED.

HE SAID JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER NOBORU TAKESHITA HAD EXPRESSED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION FACED BY MALAYSIA IN PAYING BACK ITS YEN LOANS FROM JAPAN. -- MORE  
1934HST 08 10 88

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MAHATHIR-EEC 3 SUBANG

+ALTHOUGH HE CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT THE MATTER AT THE MOMENT, HE HAS HINTED THAT YEN LOANS FOR MALAYSIA IN FUTURE WILL BE GRANTED AT A CONCESSIONAL RATE,+ HE ADDED.

ASKED ABOUT ALLEGATIONS BY CERTAIN QUARTERS THAT THE SIX-WEEK LEAVE TAKEN BY MCA PRESIDENT DATUK DR LING LIONG SIK IS BECAUSE OF BARISAN NASIONAL'S ALLEGED FAILURE TO FULFILL CERTAIN PROMISES, HE SAID: +THE QUESTION OF NOT FULFILLING PROMISES SHOULD NOT ARISE ... WHAT IS NEEDED IS ONLY TIME. WE WILL LOOK AT THE PROBLEMS.+

HE ALSO SAID HE DID NOT SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT DATUK DR LING GOING ON LEAVE AS, ACCORDING TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, THE TRANSPORT MINISTER LIKE ANY OTHER HUMAN BEING, ALSO NEEDED A REST.  
-- BERNAMA  
1941HST 08 10 88