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MAHATHIR-INVESTORS R R R
BM

SUBANG, MAY 29 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY INVESTORS IN THE UNITED STATES CONSIDER MALAYSIA AN ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT CENTRE DESPITE FOREIGN REPORTS DISCREDITING THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID BASED ON HIS TALKS WITH ENTREPRENEURS AND INVESTORS THERE, HE WAS CONFIDENT AMERICAN INVESTORS WOULD HEAD FOR MALAYSIA.

DESPITE NUMEROUS UNFAVOURABLE REPORTS ABOUT MALAYSIA, MOST OF THE INVESTORS THERE WERE WELL AWARE OF THE SITUATION IN THIS COUNTRY, HE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN FROM A TWO-WEEK VISIT TO THE US AND BRITAIN.

+GENERALLY, AMERICAN INVESTORS CONSIDER MALAYSIA A VERY GOOD INVESTMENT CENTRE,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT SUCH NEGATIVE REPORTS ABOUT THE COUNTRY WERE NOT AN OBSTACLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE VISIT WAS USEFUL TO HIM AND LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS BECAUSE IT WOULD BENEFIT MALAYSIA APART FROM HELPING TO FORGE A CLOSER RAPPORT BETWEEN MALAYSIAN BUSINESSMEN AND THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS.--MORE
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HE SAID ALTHOUGH HIS VISIT WAS NOT OFFICIALLY TO PROMOTE INVESTMENT IN MALAYSIA, HIS MEETING WITH AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE CHIEF EDITORS NEVERTHELESS WAS BENEFICIAL TO MALAYSIA.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HIS MEETING WITH THESE SENIOR AMERICAN JOURNALISTS HAD ENABLED HIM TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MALAYSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES WITH THEM APART FROM HELPING TO FOSTER A GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THE EDITORS.

AMONG THE TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE THE QUESTION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, KAMPUCHEA, CHINA, INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEMOCRACY, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE ISSUE OVER WHETHER THEY ADOPTED AN OPEN ATTITUDE WAS NOT IMPORTANT SINCE WHAT WAS CRUCIAL WAS THE RAPPORT ESTABLISHED WITH THEM.

AT THE CONVOCATION OF HIS SON, MUKRIZ, 21, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BOSTON, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES SUCH AS INDOCHINA AND THE SITUATION IN CHINA, AS WELL AS BILATERAL TIES, INCLUDING THE SMEAR CAMPAIGN AGAINST MALAYSIA'S PALM OIL.

ON HIS MEETING WITH BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER IN LONDON, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THEY TALKED ON BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, INTERNATIONAL ISSUES SUCH AS THE NAMIBIA ISSUE AND ALSO HEARD PUAN THATCHER'S EXPLAINATIONON HER MEETING WITH THE ISREALI PRIME MINISTER.--MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE QUESTION OF MALAYSIA'S PURCHASE OF BRITISH WEAPONS UNDER A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS NOT BROUGHT UP IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PUAN THATCHER.

HE SAID APART FROM MEETING BUSINESSMEN AND INVESTORS IN BRITAIN TO BRIEF THEM ON THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN MALAYSIA, HE ALSO TOOK ALONG A SENIOR PROTON EXECUTIVE TO VISIT THE +LOTUS+ CAR PLANT TO STUDY THE FACTORY'S OPERATIONS.

THE HIGHLY-SOFISTICATED PLANT PRODUCES HIGH PERFORMANCE CARS ON A NON-MASS PRODUCTION BASIS.

TOGETHER WITH A SENIOR ROYAL MALAYSIA POLICE OFFICER FROM ITS AIR WING, THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO VISITED THE +OPTICA+ LIGHT AIRCRAFT FACTORY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE VISIT DID NOT MEAN MALAYSIA WAS PLANNING TO BUY THE AIRCRAFT BUT WAS MERELY TO ENRICH THE POLICE'S KNOWLEDGE ON SUCH TYPES OF AIRCRAFT. --MORE
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ON MALAYSIAN STUDENTS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MOST OF THEM BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF THEIR ALLOWANCE.

THEY ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING THE FORMULATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AFTER 1990 AND THE POSITION OF BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA SITI HASMAH ALI WERE MET ON ARRIVAL AT ABOUT 6.40PM BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ENCIK GHAFAR BABA AND SEVERAL MINISTERS. --BERNAMA
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