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PM-Bolger

M'ASIA AND NEW ZEALAND CONCERNED OVER LACK OF SUCCESS IN URUGUAY ROUND

From K.C. Leong

TOKYO, May 13 (Bernama)

P TTP overleaf
Malaysia and New Zealand today expressed shared concern over the continuing lack of success in reaching a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade liberalisation talks.

At the same time, they also hoped the long drawn-out negotiations could be successfully concluded and they saw as very important the commitment of the Clinton administration to work for such a successful result.

Malaysian Ambassador to Japan Datuk Mohamed Khatib Abdul Hamid, who briefed newsmen on the meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his New Zealand counterpart James B. Bolger, said the two leaders also discussed the situation in Cambodia, the position of Asia and the Pacific in the global economy and bilateral issues.

The two leaders had a commonality of views on Cambodia and felt there was a need for the United Nations to maintain peace in that country.

They also agreed that the Asia-Pacific region would be dominant in the global economy into the 21st century and that there was a need to maintain a free trade regime by reaching a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. -- more

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Dr Mahathir, reiterating that Malaysia is always a free trader, said it was very important for Malaysia to export and consequently the country wanted to see the Uruguay Round successfully concluded.

He added that in any negotiations there were bound to be some who might lose as not every party could win. However, for the common good, there must be a regime of free trade.

Bolger, who invited Malaysians to invest in New Zealand, said the country had launched its "Asia 200" project, a series of seminars and conferences aimed at focusing the minds of New Zealanders on Asia, to get acquainted with opportunities in Asia, and to be associated with Asia.

He also said Malaysian students would continue to be welcomed by New Zealand and he agreed with Dr Mahathir that it was important that there should be a free exchange of students between the two countries.

Dr Mahathir told Bolger that Malaysia was building on its twinning facilities with foreign universities to speed up the flow of students, while minimising costs.

Khatib said the two leaders expressed a wish to see more bilateral business activities and cultural and student exchanges. Bolger also said there was a standing invitation for Dr Mahathir to visit New Zealand. -- Bernama

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