

15 MAY 2001

US-ASEAN

US COMPANIES UPBEAT ON MALAYSIA'S POTENTIAL AS REGIONAL HQ

PUTRAJAYA, May 15 (Bernama) -- The US-Asean Business Council has indicated its interest in promoting Malaysia as the regional headquarters for American companies.

This interest was said to have been conveyed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when the US-Asean Business Council delegation met him at his office here today.

A participant of the meeting who requested anonymity said the meeting was also a follow-up to very good feedback received from US companies that have established their regional headquarters here.

These companies in the US had expressed interest in making Malaysia as the centre for regional headquarters, commending on the country's competitiveness, he said.

He said the council also relayed to the Prime Minister that American companies were upbeat and confident with Malaysia's investment environment and economic progress.

Citing an example, he said one delegate at the meeting had informed that a US company had only recently shifted its headquarters to Kuala Lumpur from Australia.

The 32-member delegation, representing 17 American companies met Dr Mahathir for about an hour.

Meanwhile, the business council was also said to have expressed commitment towards promoting Malaysia among American companies as a centre for regional headquarters.

They had also expressed their satisfaction with the Malaysian government's support for the private sector, he said.

"The business council had also raised a question on the development of Malaysia Airlines," he said.

Dr Mahathir was said to have replied that the government welcomed foreign participation and remained open to suggestions for the national carrier.

He added that the US-Asean Business council had also indicated holding its board meeting in Malaysia this August as a testimony of its confidence in doing business in Malaysia. -- BERNAMA

LES SD