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Mahathir-Persson

M'SIA MAKES AN INTERESTING PARTNER, SAYS SWEDISH PM

By: Jackson Sawatan

STOCKHOLM, Sept 23 (Bernama) -- Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson said today Malaysia will make "an extremely interesting partner" in the discussion pertaining to international issues due to its position in the international forum.

He said that as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and also the incoming chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Malaysia played a crucial role such as in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations and also in reforming the United Nations.

Speaking at a joint-press briefing with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after hosting an official luncheon for the visiting Malaysian Premier, Persson said that although "we are not always like-minded, most of the time we agree with each other especially on international issues."

He thanked Dr Mahathir for finding time to visit Sweden before the Malaysian Prime Minister retires from office end of next month.

"I appreciate that he has the time to pay a visit to Sweden because we have such a close cooperation. There are many Swedish companies investing in Malaysia and there are also some projects that may take place in the future," he said.

Dr Mahathir meanwhile told reporters that although he was due to step down from office in just over a month from now "I thought that my visit to Sweden would be fruitful for Malaysia's future."

He said that Malaysia looked to Sweden for investment especially in the field of high technology.

"We are assured that Sweden's interest in Malaysia will continue," said Dr Mahathir who was here for a three-day visit at Persson's invitation.

Dr Mahathir said that they had fruitful discussion during the bilateral delegation meeting and "I hope that from now on there will be an acceleration in the interest of Sweden towards Malaysia."

-- BERNAMA

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