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KUALA LUMPUR, March 28 (Bernama) — The Prime Minister has ordered that security measures at airports in the country be tightened without having to wait for the outcome of investigations into the hijacking of an SIA Airbus on Tuesday night.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today whatever the findings, it was of utmost importance that internal security be intensified, especially measures at airports.

The Prime Minister told this to reporters who approached him for comments on the hijacking of a Singapore-bound flight SQ117 by four Pakistanis 15 minutes after it took off from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport at Subang.

Earlier Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir had earlier opened the four-day British Education 1991 exhibition at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Yesterday Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik announced that the government would set up a committee to investigate the incident after receiving the findings of a similar inquiry by the Singapore side.--
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Commandos later stormed the aircraft killing all the hijackers and rescued 114 passengers and nine crew members.

So far, it has not been established whether the hijackers had explosives with them and how such items were undetected during pre-flight security checks.

The Prime Minister was also asked on Malaysia's relations with Australia.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysia still maintained orderly diplomatic relations with that country.

The Prime Minister said there was proof that certain sector of the Australian media was deliberately discrediting Malaysia.

He said the federal government could not take over water supply management as yet without the approval of state governments.

It would first brief Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers on the rationale for federal control over management of water supply, said the Prime Minister.-- Bernama

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