

Dr M: TIGHTEN SECURITY AT AIRPORTS NOW

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has ordered security at airports to be tightened without waiting for the findings of investigations into the hijacking of the SIA Airbus on Tuesday.

The Prime Minister said today that whatever the findings, it was important that internal security be stepped up, especially at airports.

He was replying to newsmen who had approached him for comments on the hijacking of the plane on Tuesday.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said yesterday that the Government would set up a committee to investigate the incident after receiving the official report from the Singapore Government.

In Singapore, SIA said it

supported Malaysia's call to tighten security at airports.

Managing director Dr Cheong Choong Kong said SIA was ready to help in improving security.

Bernama reported Dr Cheong as saying that airports throughout the world had been put on a high level of alert following the start of tensions in the Gulf.

He said the hijackers of

Flight SQ117 paid for their folly with their lives.

He praised Capt Stanley Lim, the co-pilot and nine cabin attendants, saying they performed admirably during the crisis.

Dr Cheong said apart from delays to two flights, all SIA services operated normally during the incident. This was because the hijacked aircraft was isolated on one side of the airport, he added.