

**MH370 Case Enters Recovery, Investigation Phase - Australian PM**  
**Bernama**  
**25 March, 2014**

CANBERRA, March 25 (Bernama) -- Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said Tuesday that the case of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 has entered the phase of recovery and investigation, China's Xinhua news agency reported.

On the latest developments in the search for the jetliner, Abbott told reporters that it is a very difficult task and his country will offer continuing help, support and cooperation.

Due to bad weather, Australian maritime authorities suspended the search mission off the country's west coast for Tuesday. The two Chinese aircraft involved said they would follow the arrangement.

"I have today been in further contact with Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia to offer him Australia's continuing help, support and cooperation in what has now moved from a search to a recovery and investigation phase," said the Australian prime minister.

"This is a very, very difficult task. It's a long way from anywhere but obviously it's closer to Australia than anywhere else and Australia has much of the capacity needed to get this done as best as it can be," he said.

"Above all else though I offer my condolences to the people of all of the countries who have lost friends, relatives, loved ones in the MH370 tragedy," he said.

This has been a desperately difficult time for thousands and thousands of people right around the globe particularly in China as well as in Malaysia, said the prime minister.

"I understand that the loved ones of those on that plane may well wish to come to Australia in coming days and weeks. They will find a welcoming country that is more than willing to embrace them in this very difficult time", he added.

Meanwhile, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) said in a statement Tuesday that search operations are expected to resume Wednesday if weather conditions permit.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2014 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=1024647>