

China Pledges \$14.5 Million for Search of MH370

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang pledged an additional \$14.5 million to fund the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 that disappeared more than a year ago with 239 people aboard.

Li made the announcement Saturday during a meeting with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in Malaysia, where Asia-Pacific leaders are holding a regional summit.

The MH370 disappeared on March 8, 2014, en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. French investigators have identified a washed-up piece of airplane debris found in July on a remote island in the Indian Ocean as part of the Boeing 777.

A multinational search has so far covered millions of square kilometers (miles) in the southern Indian Ocean at a cost of more than \$120 million.

Most of the passengers were Chinese, and the Chinese government has vowed to spare no effort to locate and recover the plane.

Links

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/china-pledges-145-million-search-mh370-35352259>

Chinese \$20 million funding for MH370 ‘won’t extend’ search effort

THE search for missing passenger jet MH370 will not be extended beyond the current area in the southern Indian Ocean despite a long-awaited \$20 million contribution from China.

Australia’s government was yesterday awaiting more details of the funding, reportedly offered by Premier Li Keqiang during a meeting with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull at the ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur.

Chinese media reported the offer with the headline “China to continue to fund MH370 search”.

China has copped much criticism in the Australian media for failing to contribute a cent to the costly underwater search despite playing a key role in decision making.

Of the 239 people on board MH370, 153 were from China, 38 from Malaysia and six from Australia.

Australia is primarily responsible for the search because the plane’s final resting place is thought to be in Australian waters.

A total of \$90 million has been budgeted for the search by the Australian government, and Malaysia has kicked in \$75 million.

A spokesman for Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss whose department is overseeing the search, said details of China’s funding contribution were yet to be settled.

He said it was not clear if the contribution would be in the form of “cash” or a search boat.

Links

<http://www.news.com.au/travel/travel-updates/incidents/chinese-20-million-funding-for-mh370-wont-extend-search-effort/news-story/f866ce18a465f3df6dd0ae33e6001bb2>