

Red alert in India following hijack threat by LTTE. (1995, October 29) *The Island*.

## Red alert in India following hijack threat by LTTE

From Our Special Correspondent

THIRUVANATHAPURAM, Oct. 26 - All airports in South India and airlines operating in the region have been put on high alert following a threat from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to hijack an aircraft from Madras.

The alert has been sounded in the light of an anonymous phone call to the Indian Embassy in Canberra on October 22 indicating that the Tamil Tigers would hijack an aircraft from Madras and fly it to Maldives, Dhaka or Mauritius demanding release of LTTE cadres held in connection with

the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

The Commissioner of Security, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, has directed the Airports Authority of India (AAI), security forces, airlines and air taxi operators to be vigilant and ensure observance of all anti-hijacking and anti-sabo-

tage measures in view of the hijack threat.

All the authorities concerned have been told to enforce strict control on access to the terminal buildings and step up vigil and surveillance at vital installations, operational area including make-up area, apron, res-

rimeter area to spot any unusual development, entry of unauthorised persons or suspicious movements.

**Red alert...**

The airport security personnel have been told to ensure that frisking and searching of passengers were thorough and not to allow parking of vehicles anywhere other than at the designated parking lots.

All air carriers have been told to ensure that anti-sabotage measures including those for the carriage of cargo, mail, catering items, unaccompanied baggage, checked baggage, courier bags and company stores are strictly fol-

lowed and to strictly regulate entry into their respective aircraft. The air carriers have also been asked to ensure that loading and unloading operations are supervised by responsible officers and not to allow persons who are not on duty near the aircraft.

Informed sources said that airport security personnel, including those of air taxi operators, have been briefed and debriefed about the threat and security has been beefed up at all airports in South India. (Hindu)

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