

PLANE WRECKAGE FOUND ON REUNION ISLAND POINTS TO MH370 BREAKTHROUGH

SAINT-DENIS (Reunion), July 31 — Plane debris washed up on the French island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean is almost certainly part of a Boeing 777, a Malaysian official and aviation experts said, potentially the biggest breakthrough in the search for missing Flight MH370.

Malaysian investigators are expected in Reunion today and the object, identified by aviation experts as part of a wing, would then be sent to a French military laboratory near Toulouse for checks, French police sources said.

National carrier Malaysia Airlines was operating a Boeing 777 on the ill-fated flight, which disappeared in March last year en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing in one of the most baffling mysteries in aviation history. It was carrying 239 passengers and crew.

The plane piece was found on Wednesday washed up on Reunion, a volcanic island of 850,000 people that is a full part of France, located in the Indian Ocean near Madagascar.

Reunion is roughly 3,700km (2,300 miles) from the broad expanse of the southern Indian Ocean off Australia where search efforts have focused, but Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said currents could have carried wreckage that way.

MH370 is believed to be the only 777 to have crashed south of the equator since the jet came into service 20 years ago.

<http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/plane-wreckage-found-on-reunion-island-points-to-mh370-breakthrough>

WE'LL KNOW FOR SURE IN ABOUT TWO DAYS, SAYS AZIZ

PETALING JAYA: The piece of metal believed to be part of the missing MH370 plane found on Réunion Island in the Indian Ocean is “almost certainly” from a Boeing 777 aircraft, says Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Kaprawi.

“The flaperon is similar to that on a Boeing 777 aircraft. It’s almost certain,” he said.

Abdul Aziz said he was informed of this by MH370 chief investigator Datuk Kok Soo Chon.

A Malaysian team is on the way to Réunion Island.

The team, Abdul Aziz said, would be able to conclude in a couple of days if the piece of debris was indeed from the MAS plane.

“We have contacted the Office of Investigations and Analysis (BEA), which is the French investigation body for accidents in civil aviation, on this find.

“We came to an agreement that they will bring the flaperon to Paris, so our team will work together with them in making (the) verifications in Paris,” Bernama quoted Abdul Aziz as saying.

He said it was too early to draw conclusions until there was solid proof that the debris belonged to the missing aircraft.

Meanwhile, several news reports said serial numbers were spotted on the flaperon.

<http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2015/07/31/Well-know-for-sure-in-about-two-days-says-Aziz/>

RELATED ARTICLES

1. MH370 search: Malaysian experts on way to island to study plane debris
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/malaysia/11772187/MH370-debris-found-live.html>
2. Flaperon to be sent to France for tests
<http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2015/07/31/Flaperon-to-be-sent-to-France-for-tests/>
3. MH370 enigma swirls as debris to be probed <http://www.thesundaily.my/news/1506000>