

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198800305**

Boeing 747

8 December 1988

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198800305

Occurrence Type: Incident

Location: 320 km North of Perth WA

Date: 8 December 1988

Time: 2311

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Aircraft Details: Boeing 747

Registration: N/A (Flight Number
GIA878)

Serial Number: N/A

Operation Type: Regular Public Transport

Damage Level: Nil

Departure Point: Den Pasar, Indonesia

Departure Time: N/A

Destination: Perth WA

Approved for Release: February 9th 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot reported "Leaving Flight Level 370 for Flight Level 350" when the aircraft was about 320 kilometres to the north of Perth. The aircraft had not been cleared by Air Traffic Control to leave Flight Level 370 on descent. Investigation indicated that the pilot was only requesting a clearance to descend and his use of non standard radio transmission terminology gave the impression that the aircraft had already commenced descent. The aircraft remained at Flight Level 370 until cleared to descend by Air Traffic Control. There was no DEPARTURE from standard operational practice. This occurrence was not considered to be an air safety incident.

Significant Factors:

It was considered that the following factor was relevant to the development of the occurrence.

1. Incorrect phraseology used by a person not familiar with English as his native language.