Aviation Safety Investigation Report 199704226

Boeing Co B747 Unknown Aeroplane

28 December 1997

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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: 199704226 Occurrence Type: Incident

Location: 370km SE Mipap, (IFR)

State: Other Inv Category: 4

Date: Sunday 28 December 1997

Time: 0758 hours Time Zone UTC

Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Boeing Co

Manufacturer:

Aircraft Model: 747-438

Aircraft Registration: VH-OJO Serial 25544

Number:

Type of Operation: Air Transport High Capacity International Passenger

Scheduled

Damage to Aircraft: Nil

Departure Point: Sydney NSW

Departure Time:

Destination: Hong Kong China

Aircraft Unknown

Manufacturer:

Aircraft Model: Aeroplane

Aircraft Registration: Serial Number:

Type of Operation: Air Transport High Capacity International Passenger

Scheduled

Damage to Aircraft: Nil

Departure Point: Manila Philipinnes

Departure Time:

Destination: Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

Approved for Release: Friday, July 10, 1998

A Boeing 747 (B747), en route from Sydney to Hong Kong, was maintaining flight level 350 (FL350) and had been radar identified by Manila Air Traffic Control. The flight crew observed another aircraft maintaining the same level approximately 20 NM to the east displayed on their aircraft's traffic alert and collision avoidance system (TCAS). The B747 crew sighted the other aircraft as it crossed their track from east to west.

The crossing aircraft was en route from Manila to Kuala Lumpur and had intially been assigned FL280. On first contact with radar control that crew had been instructed to climb to FL350.

The controller noted the proximity of the two aircraft and instructed the crew of the B747 to climb immediately to FL370. At the same time the B747 TCAS announced a "Climb" resolution advisory (RA) instruction. The B747 crew complied with the climb instruction.

The crew of the crossing aircraft advised the B747 crew that they had received a TCAS RA instruction to descend which they had followed. There was a breakdown of separation.

Following an investigation of the occurrence the Republic of the Philippines, Department of Transport and Communications air traffic services investigator reported that all area control centre controllers would undergo radar simulator training to enhance their proficiency. The training was to commence in January 1998.