

Canada was told Air-India a target, ex-spy says

BY ROBERT MATAS

VANCOUVER

India warned Canada of a threat to its national airlines two months before the Flight 182 disaster, following undercover activities in British Columbia's Sikh community, a former senior official in India's intelligence agency says.

Maloy Krishna Dhar, who served for three decades in India's Intelligence Bureau, says he "stumbled against a piece of uncorroborated information" in early April of 1985, that two Sikh groups in Canada were planning "some spectacular show."

The revelation comes amid a rising chorus of demands for an inquiry into the Air-India disaster that killed 329 people on June 23, 1985. Yesterday, former Liberal cabinet minister Herb Dhaliwal joined the call for an inquiry, charging that it would be a "betrayal" of Liberal promises not to do so.

Despite a 20-year police investigation, the only person to be convicted for the crime is auto mechanic Inderjit Singh Reyat, who collected items for the homemade bombs.

"Discreet probes" in quarters close to Talwinder Singh Parmar and others raised information about a suspected threat of sabotage involving a civilian Indian aircraft, Mr. Dhar states in his newly released book, *Open Secrets, India's Intelligence Unveiled*.

"The information was shared with Delhi and the High Commissioner personally briefed the Canadian foreign office," he writes.

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