

# DEFENCE *press release*

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CANBERRA



MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 1980

NO. <sup>157</sup> /80

## RAAF CHINOOK TO MALAYSIA

A RAAF CH-47C Chinook helicopter left its base at Amberley, Qld., today to fly to Malaysia to salvage a crashed Royal Malaysian Air Force helicopter.

The Malaysian helicopter, a Sikorsky Nuri troop carrying aircraft, crashed in the jungle approximately 100 kilometres east of Butterworth.

The Chinook, from No. 12 Squadron, RAAF base Amberley, Qld., carries a crew of eight led by the commanding officer of the squadron, Wing Commander John Dahlitz.

The return flight of 14,000 kilometres will be by far the longest mission ever flown by a RAAF helicopter, and is believed to be the longest helicopter flight in the world.

The damaged Nuri will be slung beneath the Chinook by a team of five specialists from the RAAF's Air Movements Training and Development Unit from RAAF base Richmond, NSW, led by Flying Officer Bob Katz.

It will then be taken over mountainous jungle to Kuala Lumpur.

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