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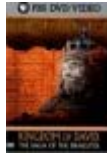
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Netanyahu changed plans due to pre-attacks warning

7/7/2005 10:00:00 PM GMT

It's been reported that Israeli Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu decided not to attend an economic conference in London after the Israeli embassy received a pre-attack warning.

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A top Israel foreign ministry official said that the British police informed the Israeli embassy in London of possible attacks minutes before Thursday's attacks.

Netanyahu was supposed to attend an economic conference in a hotel over the London subway stop where one of today's explosions took place, and the warning promoted him to change plans and stay in his hotel room instead, government officials said.

The foreign ministry official, who demanded anonymity, said that Scotland Yard called the security officer at the Israeli embassy and told him that they received warnings of possible attacks minutes before today's first blast.

But he didn't say whether British police linked the attacks to the economic conference.

Israel's Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom denied that the embassy received any

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Netanyahu decided not to attend a conference in London after the pre-attack warning

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warnings, saying that only " There was no early information about terrorist attacks."

He also confirmed that Netanyahu had planned to attend the conference, but said that "after the first explosion our finance minister received a request not to go anywhere," Shalom said.

However, Amir Gilad, a Netanyahu aide, told Israel Radio that Netanyahu's entourage was receiving updates all morning from British security officials, and "we have also asked to change our plans."

Netanyahu had been scheduled to stay in London until Sunday, but that could change, Gilad said.

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