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NEWS : INTERNATIONAL

07/07/2005 - 13:12

Police chief "London was in very high state of alert"

"We are not aware of any warning at the moment," London's police chief Sir Ian Blair said.

British police told the Israeli Embassy in London minutes before Thursday's explosions that they had received warnings of possible terror attacks in the city, a senior Israeli official said.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity. Israel was holding an economic conference near the scene of one of the explosions.

Israeli Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was supposed to attend, but the attacks occurred before he arrived.

Just before the blasts, Scotland Yard called the security officer at the Israeli Embassy and said warnings of possible attacks had been received, the official said.

He did not say whether British police made any link to the economic conference.

on the other hand, London's police chief Sir Ian Blair said he was not aware of any advanced warning of any specific attacks, and could not comment on Israeli reports that their embassy in London had received a warning phone call from police minutes before the blasts.

"We have been at a very high state of alert. Of course if there had been any kind of specific warnings we would have dealt with it," he said. "We are not aware of any warning at the moment."

Police have found indications of explosives at the scene of one of a series of blasts in London Thursday morning, and there are concerns that it was a coordinated attack, London's police chief said.

"We are concerned that this is a coordinated attack. We are aware that one of the sites does contain indications of explosives," Sir Ian Blair said on Sky News.

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