PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING) GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

AIRCRASH VICTIMS GIVEN MILITARY FUNERAL

New Delhi, October 15. - The Indian Air Force officers and airmen who died in the tragic aircrash in Southern Turkey on October 6 were given a military funeral, according to an official message received from Ankara by Air Headquarters.

The mortal remains of the late Air Commodore Narendra, Flying Officer S.K.Ghosh and Sergeant B.S.Gill were cremated with full military honours provided by the Gendarmerie at Gulnar, near the scene of the accident. Mr.C.S.Jha, Ambassador for India in Turkey, the <u>Vali</u> (Governor) of Mersin and other Turkish officials, the Military Attache and other members of the Indian Embassy staff were present. The ashes of the deceased were later brought to Mersin.

The bodies of the late Flying Officer P.V.Phillipose and Sergeant D'Souza were brought to Mersin and buried at the local cemetry with full and impressive military honours provided by the Turkish Army with a funeral procession in which the whole of the local civil population touchingly participated. Many foreign Consuls in the station were also present at the funeral. Amongst the many wreaths placed on the graves were those from the Indian Ambassador in Turkey, Governor and Mayor of Mersin, British Vice-Consul, Turkish Airlines, and Turkish Army and Air Force.

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