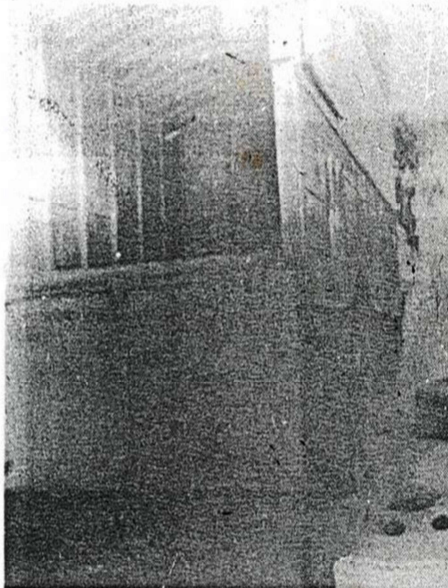
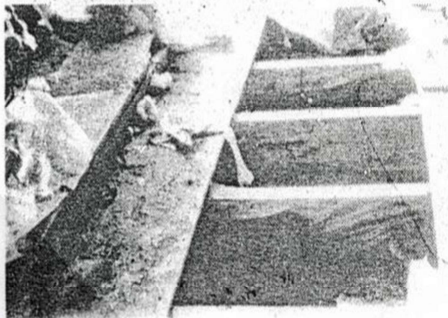


Information on JOC bomber given by disgruntled Tiger?

Timely tip-off averts arms going back to LTTE



Varathan's lorry



The unsuspected arms cache, hidden in the false bottom of the lorry in which JOC bomber Nadarajah Varadarajah alias Varathan escaped from Colombo to Chrystlers Farm in Kotagala following the June 21, 1991 bombing of Joint Operations Command headquarters, may have once again passed into LTTE hands if not for a timely tip-off, police believe.

The Crimes Detection Bureau, acting on information received by the police on Wednesday that the cache was stashed in Varathan's lorry, which had been parked within the Slave Island police premises for nearly two years, found the arms and ammunition concealed in a three inch deep false bottom cunningly built into the back of the lorry, in which Varathan is known to have made several trips to and from Jaffna.

It was in this vehicle that Varathan made his escape to Kotagala surrounded by crates of aerated waters.

Police believe that whoever tipped them off has at one time been an LTTE insider who has since fallen out with the Tigers. It is believed that the information was passed in order to prevent the lorry once again falling into the hands of the LTTE.

Last year, the then CDB director SSP Godfrey Gunasekera made an application to court that the lorry be confiscated under the Confiscation of Property Act under the Emergency. Only last week, notice was given in the newspapers that it would soon be sold by public auction.

Police sources say that had the vehicle been put up for sale, it would have been likely that it would have

the LTTE, who knew where the arms were concealed. "We think the person who tipped us off knew of this, and prevented it from happening, because he has since fallen out with the LTTE," a police source said.

Four remote control detonating devices similar to the one used on the JOC bomb explosion, were among

Timely tip-off averts arms going to LTTE

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the items concealed in the false bottom. "This implies that they could have planned to strike at four other targets had the lorry been in their possession," one police officer said.

Police on Wednesday recovered the following items from the tailboard of Varathan's lorry: Three T-56 rifles; one AK 47 rifle, two 9 mm pistols; three empty 9 mm ammunition rounds; five empty AK 47 ammunition rounds; 12 SFG 87 grenades; six M 963 grenades, 363 rounds of live T-56 ammunition; three ammunition pouches; four remote control detonation devices (similar to that used in the JOC bombing); detonator coils; a rigid box containing six cyanide capsules; an "Otsuka" (salina) infusion set; one bag of camouflage materials; 14 Eveready red "D8 size batteries; 40 Eveready super heavy duty "AA" size batteries; English and Tamil newspapers, Tamil magazines, 22 sarongs; and a 1990 Central Bank publication.

All of the items had been carefully wrapped in polythene, police said. They are presently in the process of checking the serial numbers of the recovered weapons to ascertain whether they tally with those stolen from the security forces.