

Aussies refuse Sri Lankan arms order. (1993, December 19). *The Island*.

## Aussies refuse Sri Lankan arms order

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by Franklin S. Raviraj

The Australian Defence Ministry, turned down a request for the supply of 40,000 grenades, needed for the Sri Lankan army in its campaign against the LTTE 'The Island' learns.

This supply for grenades, was to be made by a state owned Australian armament manufacturing company. Australian Defence Industries (ADI).

The matter came up for questioning in the Australian Parliament on Tuesday December 14th, when Defence Minister

Senator Robert Ray said that Australian Government had decided, not to supply these grenades, as it was "against Australian national interests".

The supplying company is a state-owned industry the Australian Trade and Defence Ministries scrutinise and approve all export orders, diplomatic sources explained.

Many Human Rights organisations and the Tamil Expatriate Lobby in Australia had protested vehemently to the Australian Government over this request for supply of this

grenades to Sri Lanka, according to reports reaching Colombo.

Australian High Commission officials confirmed that the grenade import order had been turned down but refused to comment further.

Earlier too the Australian Defence Ministry turned down a request by the Sri Lankan government, for the supply of ammunition for the Army's Saladin armoured cars.

Defence Ministry officials would not comment on the matter.