

PLANE LEFT BEFORE SEARCH

Tigers use pressure to raise funds, police say

MONTREAL PROBE

BY STEWART BELL
AND GRAEME HAMILTON

The Tamil Tigers terrorist group has been aggressively fundraising in Montreal using a sophisticated pre-authorized payment scheme and other methods to collect money from the city's 25,000-strong Tamil community, according to the RCMP.

Documents recently unsealed and filed in a Quebec court provide the first look inside an ongoing RCMP investigation called Project CRIBLE that is probing complaints that a Montreal non-profit group has been working with the Tamil Tigers to raise money for civil war in Sri Lanka.

Launched in 2003 by the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team in Quebec, the investigation is examining several prominent members of the World Tamil Movement (WTM) in Montreal suspected of soliciting money for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"Known as Tamil Tigers, members of the WTM in Montreal are very active in fundraising activities for the WTM. People from the community are intimidated by them and feel obliged to give donations, as they know that these individuals are in fact working for the LTTE," writes RCMP officer Denis Boudreau in an affidavit used to obtain a search warrant.

The Tamil Tigers are on Canada's official terrorist list, meaning it is illegal to raise money for the group. No charges have been laid and none of the allegations has been proven in court. Yesterday, the leader of the WTM in Montreal, Manivannan Karunananthaswamy, said he could not comment because of the continuing investigation.

The LTTE is a guerrilla group fighting for independence for the ethnic Tamil minority on the tiny island of Sri Lanka, formerly called Ceylon.

See TIGERS on Page A6

WHO KIDNAPPED MADDIE?



Police fear three-year-old Madeleine McCann of England, who was kidnapped from a holiday apartment in Portugal while her parents dined out, has been taken by a pedophile ring. The case has ignited controversy about the actions of her parents and the police. Story, Page A3

COMMENT

Radler parries lawyer's thrusts

THERESA TEDESCO
Chief Business Correspondent
in Chicago

"You're killing me here," blurted the assistant U.S. attorney in jest as his star witness gave a rambling answer to an obvious question.

Eric Sussman was in the home stretch, the final questions in a two-day-long marathon of enquiries for David Radler, the U.S. government's most important witness in the criminal fraud case against Conrad Black, Peter Atkinson, Jack Boulton and Mark Kipnis. All he wanted to do

was nail a final point for the jury — that Mr. Radler had "voluntarily" met several times with U.S. law enforcement agents to negotiate a plea agreement, which led to his testimony at the trial.

At the time, Mr. Sussman's exasperated outburst elicited laughs from the jury and those packed into Judge Amy St. Eve's courtroom. But by the end of the day, those words would take on a more cynical resonance in the hands of Edward Greenspan, and all Mr. Sussman could do was sit there with his head in his hands.

Mr. Greenspan, a prominent Canadian criminal lawyer,

hurled Mr. Sussman's words at Mr. Radler with a sarcastic top-spin during his aggressive cross-examination of Lord Black's former business partner.

"You changed your story right then and there on the spot," Mr. Greenspan spat at the witness, suggesting Mr. Radler tailored his answers in response to Mr. Sussman's plea.

"I don't know what he wanted to hear; I just answered as truthfully as I can," Mr. Radler said.

Mr. Greenspan, who had organized his thick stack of notes at the podium in preparation during the lunch break, asked whether Mr. Radler swore to tell the truth to the jury rather than "a partial truth, a lie or what you can think of in your brain?"

Mr. Radler said he did, even though there was no Bible involved, swear to tell the truth to the "court, to people here."

See RADLER on Page A13

Black's musings, Page A14

CAPTURED

KABUL SHOW AND TELL

Afghans parade
star prisoner.

Tom Blackwell, A18

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INDEX

CLASSIFIED FP16, S7 LOTTERIES AL10
DIVERSIONS AL10 REMEMBERING AL11
EDITORIALS A20 WEATHER 58

Testimony at Air India inquiry contradicts past RCMP statements

BY KIM BOLAN

OTTAWA • A former Quebec police officer believes he could have prevented the Air India bombing if his dog had been able to search the ill-fated flight before it left Montreal on June 22, 1985, but he arrived shortly after the plane had departed.

In more stunning testimony at the Air India inquiry yesterday, Serge Carignan said he and his specially trained German shepherd were called to Mirabel airport that night, but the plane had left before they arrived. Transport Canada and RCMP officials told a federal review in 2005 that bomb-sniffing dogs were at the airport and had searched the jetliner.

Mr. Carignan told inquiry commissioner Justice John Major that Arko — who could sniff out a variety of explosives — would have undoubtedly found the bomb-laden suitcase that brought down the Boeing 747 and killed 329 people.

"I believe that if I had a chance to search it, things would have turned out differently," said Mr. Carignan, formerly with the Quebec provincial police.

Mr. Carignan said he and Arko were on call the weekend of June 22-23, 1985, as the RCMP explosives dog and trainer were on a course. He was called to the airport late on the Saturday night "to search a plane and some luggage."

Mr. Carignan said he was not told there was a specific threat against a plane, but he assumed that was why he got the call.

He reported to the RCMP when he arrived at Mirabel and was told the plane had already left.

Instead of the complete search he expected, all he was asked to do was have Arko check out three suspect suitcases that had been held off the flight. They contained no explosives. "I put my dog in the truck and drove home."

The next morning, his wife woke him up with the news that Air India Flight 182 out of Mirabel had been blown out of the sky.

"I felt very sad, very, very sad," he said. "I felt that I could have helped, but didn't have a chance to assist."

The latest testimony is one of a series of revelations suggesting a 23-year "cover-up" of sheer incompetence, Vancouver Liberal MP Ujjal Dosanjh said yesterday. See SEARCH on Page A8