

Red alert for Tiger shipment

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Sri Lankan and Indian Defence authorities were yesterday examining intelligence reports of a ship laden with weapons heading towards the Indian ocean through the Mediterranean sea.

The ship reportedly sailing under different names to avoid detection is believed to be carrying a heavy cargo of militaryware, for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), according to defence sources here.

Sources said there were unconfirmed reports that the Indian ocean bound ship was carrying components of aircraft which could be reassembled once they are landed in the desired destination. The ship is also believed to

be carrying weapons, ammunition and explosives.

The sources said a LTTE ship had mysteriously disappeared following the destruction of its weapons ship "Ahmat" in the Indian ocean by the Indian Navy three years ago, in which former Tiger Commander for Jaffna Sathasivam Krishanakumar alias Kittu died.

Sources said the ship would enter the Indian ocean within the next few days.

Meanwhile Lankapuwath said that a friendly country in the Baltic sea region had tipped off the Sri Lankan authorities about an arms shipment for the LTTE believed to be around 10 tons, according to intelligence reports.

While Sri Lankan Naval gunboats are

scouring the seas for the cargo vessel, the Sri Lanka Air Force has heightened its marine surveillance partols, the sources said.

They said that the Navy of a neighbouring country was also assisting in the search.