

Tigers abandon boat containing lethal cargo. (1993, July 30). *The Island*.

Tigers abandon boat containing lethal cargo

The day prior to the Presidential Mobile Service (PMS) in Batticaloa, a boat loaded with mortars and shells had landed at Urani, Batticaloa, but on seeing the police and army patrolling the area, the fugitives who had been bringing in the lethal cargo had fled, security sources said.

The 'Tigers' had abandoned the boat and run away. No sooner the boat had landed, the area had been plunged into darkness by a power cut. This

had helped the 'Tigers' to escape, these sources said. Security officials believe that the power failure may have been 'engineered' by the LTTE to facilitate the transfer of

the lethal load to a 'safe house'. The stock of mortars and shells are now in the custody of the security forces.

A LTTE radio message transmitted on July 22 had said "we are ready".

This message was intercepted by the army in Batticaloa. It is believed that this was a signal to the LTTE leadership that cadres were ready to disrupt the PMS.