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Posted on Wed, Jan. 14, 2004

## Canadian News Briefs

Associated Press

**OTTAWA (AP)** - Up to 40 RCMP cruisers patrolling the capital will be fitted with "dirty bomb" detectors to allay fears of a terrorist strike involving radiological weapons.

The system is intended to provide early warning of a pending attack, giving police a chance to locate the device before it can be detonated near Parliament Hill or another prominent Ottawa site.

"When the radiation background level rises above normal an alarm will sound," says a descriptor system published by the Mounties. "This will allow for immediate action by police and other emergency personnel."

The RCMP will advise federal officials on installation of the detection technology in the patrol cars and instruct officers to use the units.

The vehicles are considered an ideal spot for the devices in order to ensure widespread monitoring of vulnerable landmarks in the capital area.

The project underscores the degree of concern in federal security circles about the possibility of a terrorist strike involving radiological materials in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist assaults on the United States.

Officials are particularly concerned about a so-called dirty bomb packed with conventional explosives and dynamite to scatter radioactive material.

The initial blast can kill or maim bystanders, while the radioactive fallout may claim more victims. The resulting contamination would place the area off-limits to people for lengthy periods, causing panic and economic havoc.

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**VANCOUVER** - A surprise witness has come forward with "significant" evidence against one of the suspects in the blowing up of an Air India plane, the Crown announced at the trial Wednesday.

A man contacted the RCMP in mid-December and gave investigators a statement in Punjabi about the role of Singh Malik and his role in one of Canada's worst acts of terrorism, Crown prosecutor Joe Bellow said.

"This evidence is of some significance," he said.

He told Justice Ian Bruce Josephson he would like to present it in court before the end of the month and needs time to allow the witness to arrange travel to Vancouver.

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Bellows also wants Josephson to ban the media from reporting the name of the witness.

The statement he gave police was shown to Malik's lawyers Tuesday, and though Bellows says it straightforward, the defense argued it would need time to review it.

Geoff Gaul, a spokesman for the Crown, said this new revelation is a good sign in the progress of

"This indicates to me that what the police have been saying is true, that the investigation continues proof of it," said Gaul.

The investigation into the Air India crash, which killed 329 people, has been one of this country's most expensive, hindered by a lack of coordination between the Canadian Security Intelligence Service

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