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BC-CANADA-METEORITE

EXPLOSION ROCKS MONTREAL, POLICE SAY WAS METEORITE  
MONTREAL, JUNE 13 (REUTER) - AN EXPLOSION THAT WAS LIKELY CAUSED  
BY A METEORITE SHOOK THE MONTREAL AREA TUESDAY NIGHT BUT APPARENTLY  
CAUSED NO INJURIES, POLICE SAID.

"A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE CALLED TO TELL US ABOUT AN EXPLOSION  
THAT WAS FELT ON THE SOUTH SHORE (ACROSS THE ST LAWRENCE RIVER FROM  
MONTREAL)," A MONTREAL POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID. "WE THINK IT WAS A  
METEORITE THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY LANDED IN A FIELD."

UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL SEISMOLOGIST MANELLA SALVATORE SAID THE  
EXPLOSION THAT OCCURRED ABOUT 8:30 P.M. EDT (0030 GMT WEDNESDAY) MAY  
HAVE BEEN A METEORITE, BUT WAS DEFINITELY NOT AN EARTHQUAKE, THE  
CANADIAN PRESS NEWS AGENCY REPORTED.

SALVATORE SAID THE BLAST REGISTERED 3.8 ON THE RICHTER SCALE AT  
ITS EPICENTRE NEAR STE-JULIE, EAST OF MONTREAL.

THE MONTREAL POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID PEOPLE IN THE EAST END OF  
MONTREAL SAID THEY SAW A BALL OF FIRE IN THE SKY. "THAT MEANS IT'S  
ONE OF TWO THINGS -- A METEORITE OR AN AIRPLANE. AND (THE AIRPORT)  
SAYS ALL AIRPLANES ARE ACCOUNTED FOR."

A SPOKESWOMAN FOR THE PROVINCIAL SURETE DU QUEBEC SAID THE POLICE  
HAD RECEIVED MANY CALLS ABOUT THE EXPLOSION, BUT NONE REPORTING ANY  
INJURIES OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.

REUTER REUT22:26 06-14

DR HERD AT GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF COA WAS INFORMED  
OF THE REPORTS RECEIVED BY NDCC. YOU CAN LIAISE WITH HIM  
FOR ALL THE INFO. HIS NUMBER IS 998-0381