

investigation, rescue victims, and secure witnesses. The police established a countermeasure group for pursuit and investigation at the National Police Agency Criminal Investigation Bureau and an investigation headquarters at each prefectural police station. The police also distributed approximately 1.6 million posters and brochures to reach out to the local population to aid in tracking down those suspects still at large.¹⁰

After the Tokyo attack, police seized as evidence the plastic bags and remaining liquid left in the subway trains and confirmed that the substance was sarin using a gas chromatography–mass spectrometry test. On March 22, 1995, the police raided 25 of Aum Shinrikyo's offices, compounds, and complexes throughout Japan. This included the Aum Shinrikyo facility in Kamikuishiki, where police wore gas masks and carried canaries.¹¹ Approximately 2,500 police department staff members were involved in the investigation.¹² Department staff worked in dangerous environments where poisonous chemical substances, such as phosphorus trichloride, were stockpiled and wore chemical protective suits while searching for and confiscating evidence. At Aum facilities, police seized large quantities of illegal drugs and chemicals for the production of sarin and other dangerous substances.¹³ Indeed, at Aum's facility at Mount Fuji, the police and intelligence services collected a mammoth stockpile of chemicals, such as sodium cyanide, hydrochloric acid, chloroform, phenylacetone nitrile for stimulant production, glycerol for explosives, huge amounts of peptone for cultivating bacteria, sodium fluoride, and 500 drums of phosphorus trichloride. Japanese officials estimated that Aum's stockpile included more than 200 different kinds of chemicals.¹⁴

¹⁰ National Police Agency, *1996 Police White Paper*, Tokyo, 1996, p. 20.

¹¹ David E. Kaplan and Andrew Marshall, *The Cult at the End of the World: The Terrifying Story of the Aum Domsday Cult, from the Subways of Tokyo to the Nuclear Arsenals of Russia*, New York: Crown Publishers, 1996, p. 255; Pangi (2002, p. 438).

¹² NPA (1996, p. 20).

¹³ Robert Jay Lifton, *Destroying the World to Save It: Aum Shinrikyo, Apocalyptic Violence, and the New Global Terrorism*, New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1999, pp. 56–57.

¹⁴ Kaplan and Marshall (1996, p. 257).