

## **SINGAPORE CUSTOMS PRESS STATEMENT**

### **SINGAPORE CUSTOMS SEIZED 51,050 CARTONS OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES**

On 30 May 2003, acting on intelligence gathered, Customs Special Investigation Branch officers seized a container containing a total of 51,050 cartons of assorted brands of contraband cigarettes with a value of \$3.77 million at the Tanjong Pagar FTZ. The customs duty and GST of the cigarettes are \$2,603,550 and \$151,108 respectively.

Officers mounted a 3 days operation between 28 May to 30 May 2003 to monitor the movements on the suspect container, which was said to contain hardware.

On 30 May 2003, officers moved in to check the contents of the container. Packed in boxes sealed in canvas and black plastic bags were cigarettes of the brand Marlboro, Dunhill and Rave. The markings on some of the boxes stated the contents to be foodstuff or slippers. The cigarettes were seized. Customs believe that the cigarettes were meant for local consumption. and investigations are still in progress.

The seizure on 30 May 2003 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> major smuggling attempt foiled this year. On 11 Apr 03, Singapore Customs seized 42,600 cartons of smuggled cigarettes with a value of \$3.15 million. The customs duty and GST of the cigarettes are \$2,172,600 and \$126,096 respectively. Officers mounted round-the-clock operation between 8 and 11 Apr 2003 at the PSA wharves to keep surveillance on the suspect container, which was said to contain slippers. The cigarettes were seized and a 49-year-old Singaporean male was charged in court. The case is still pending.

On 23 Apr 2003, a container filled with \$2.4 million worth of smuggled cigarettes was seized. The customs duty and GST of the cigarettes are \$1.6 million and \$94,720 respectively. A total of 32,000 cartons of cigarettes were seized and a 39 year old Singaporean male was charged in court. The case is still pending.

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**SINGAPORE CUSTOMS**  
31 May 2003