

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS PRESS STATEMENT

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS SEIZED ONE CONTAINER OF COUNTERFEIT CIGARETTES

On 23 Feb 2004, Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) and Singapore Customs conducted a joint operation and seized a container suspected to contain counterfeit cigarettes from PSA Tanjong Pagar Free Trade Zone.

Based on information received from the US Customs Attache in Singapore, a container said to contain sundry goods but suspected to be laden with counterfeit cigarettes would be arriving on 23 Feb 2004 onboard vessel MV KMTC Busan from Korea and transhipping via Singapore to Indonesia. The shipping manifest declared the goods as 950 boxes of sundry goods.

A joint operation with ICA was immediately launched. The container was off-loaded from the vessel at the PSA Tanjong Pagar Free Trade Zone at about 9.30 pm on 23 Feb 2004. Customs Special Investigations Branch together with representatives from both PSA and the shipping agent, made a check on the container. The first two rows were boxes of tooth brushes and behind them were boxes of cigarettes bearing the brand 'Marlboro'.

Preliminary investigations showed that the goods were meant for Indonesia. Further investigation is currently ongoing by Singapore Customs. Unstuffing of the container is in progress.

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SINGAPORE CUSTOMS
24 February 2004