

## II. SIGNIFICANT INTERDICTIONS IN 2004

### 1. Stimulants

#### [Interdiction of stimulants smuggled via international mail services]

In January, Moji Customs inspected international express mail from China and seized about 1 kg of stimulants concealed in parts of shoes.



#### [Interdiction of stimulants concealed in a sea container]

In February, Tokyo Customs and Yokohama Customs, in cooperation with the National Police Agency and the Kanagawa Prefectural Police, conducted customs inspection of a sea container cargo (declared as monosodium sulphate) arriving in Yokohama Port from China (Hong Kong) and seized about 99 kg of stimulants hidden, mixed in with chemicals in drums.



#### [Interdiction of stimulants air passengers tried to smuggle by wearing on their bodies]

In April, Nagoya Customs conducted luggage inspection and detected about 3 kg of stimulants, which two Taiwanese passengers (a man and a woman) arriving at Nagoya Airport from Taiwan were hiding in bags wrapped around their stomachs and backs.



**[Interdiction of stimulants concealed in air passengers' luggage]**

In June, Tokyo Customs inspected the luggage of five Canadian passengers (men and women) arriving at Narita Airport from Canada, and confiscated about 26 kg of stimulants concealed in food boxes and coffee bags packed in their suitcases.



**[Interdiction of stimulants smuggled by Philippine crew members of a ship]**

In June, Tokyo Customs, Yokohama Customs and Osaka Customs, in cooperation with the National Police Agency, the Kanagawa Prefectural Police and the 3rd Regional Coast Guard Headquarters, seized stimulants from crew members of a ship of Cypriot nationality that arrived in "nanko" in Osaka Port. The crew members (Filipinos), who were trying to smuggle about 10 kg of stimulants, were caught while they were unloading the drug from the ship. The customs officers searched the ship, and found an additional 2 kg of stimulants hidden above the ceiling of a training room.



**[Interdiction of stimulants concealed under the floor of a sea container]**

In July, the customs offices of Tokyo Customs, Yokohama Customs and Nagoya Customs, in cooperation with the Kanagawa and Aichi prefectural police departments inspected an imported cargo (declared as flooring panels) brought in from China to the Yokohama Port and found about 34 kg of stimulants hidden in pipes under the bottom of a container.



## 2. Cannabis

### [Interdiction of herbal cannabis concealed in an air passenger's luggage]

In January, Tokyo Customs inspected the luggage of a Japanese tourist arriving at Narita Airport from the Netherlands and seized about 10 kg of herbal cannabis, wrapped in paper and hidden in a carry-on suitcase.



### [Interdiction of herbal cannabis smuggled via international mail]

In June, Tokyo Customs inspected international express mail from Brazil and seized about 3.5 kg of herbal cannabis, hidden in food cans.



### [Interdiction of cannabis resin concealed in a sea container cargo]

In July, Tokyo Customs inspected a sea container cargo (declared as industrial freezer) brought in from China (Hong Kong) to Tokyo Port and detected about 60 kg of cannabis resin, packed in carry-on bag and then concealed in a freezer.



**[Interdiction of herbal cannabis concealed in an air cargo]**

In July, Nagoya Customs inspected an air cargo (declared as wooden figurines and similar articles) arriving at Nagoya Airport from South Africa and seized about 19 kg of herbal cannabis hidden in a false-bottomed wooden crate.



**[Interdiction of herbal cannabis air passengers tried to smuggle by swallowing]**

In December, Osaka Customs conducted luggage inspection and seized about 0.6 kg of herbal cannabis from two Japanese men arriving at Kansai Airport from the Netherlands via France, who had swallowed the drug for smuggling.



Some of the drug evacuated



Cannabis-related goods found from the offenders' personal effects

**Other Smuggling Cases: counterfeit credit cards, etc.**

As crimes in which counterfeit credit cards are used are being perpetrated with great frequency within the country, we have been interdicting smuggling of plastic cards for making counterfeit credit cards. Thus, in 2004, apart from interdicting 8 cases of smuggling and seizing a total of ten thousand cards, for the first time we seized counterfeit credit cards charged with magnetic data and ready to be used for illegal purposes (a single case of interdiction, 131 cards seized).

[The case in question] In April, Nagoya Customs seized 131 counterfeit credit cards (charged with magnetic data) concealed in tea cans, a wallet and other objects carried in a handbag inspected luggage of two Taiwanese men arriving at Nagoya Airport from Taiwan.



### 3. MDMA and Other Tablet-type Synthetic Narcotics

#### [Interdiction of MDMA concealed in an air passenger's carry-on luggage]

In May, Tokyo Customs inspected luggage of a Chinese man who arrived at Narita Airport from France via Taiwan and found about 20 thousand tablets of MDMA hidden in a false-bottomed carry-on suitcase with a double bottom.



#### [Interdiction of the largest amount of MDMA ever seized, concealed in a sea container cargo]

In July, Kobe Customs inspected a container cargo (declared as wooden table) brought in from the Netherlands to Kobe Port and confiscated about 60 thousand tablets of MDMA hidden in a hollowed-out table top. (The largest amount ever seized for a single transaction.)



#### [Interdiction of MDMA and other drugs smuggled via military mail]

In July, Yokohama Customs inspected two private parcels, sent from Canada via military mail, brought in by the US military for inspection and seized about 50 thousand tablets of MDMA and about 0.15 kg of stimulants hidden in plastic bottles.



**[Interdiction of MDMA smuggled by Russian crew members]**

In September, Osaka Customs inspected a cardboard box which was handed to three Russians living in Japan from a crew member of a ship of Russian nationality arrive in Toyama Port from Russia and seized about five thousand tablets of MDMA concealed in a handbag packed in the box. (The first interdiction of Russian route.)



**4. Cocaine**

**[Interdiction of the largest amount of cocaine ever seized, concealed in a consigned import cargo]**

In August, Nagoya Customs inspected a consigned import cargo (declared as empty gas cylinders and other articles) on a freezer cargo ship landing in Shimizu Port from Columbia and seized about 44 kg of cocaine hidden in empty gas cylinders. (The largest amount ever seized for a single transaction.)



**[Interdiction of cocaine concealed inside coils of rope transported as an air cargo]**

In October, Tokyo Customs inspected an air cargo (declared as ropes and other articles) arriving in Narita Airport from Mexico and detected about 28 kg of cocaine hidden inside coils of rope.



## 5. Other Illicit Drugs

### [Interdiction of opium that air passengers were wearing on their bodies and hiding in their shoes]

In February, Tokyo Customs inspected the luggage of an Iranian man and a Japanese woman, who were wearing the drug on their bodies and hiding it in their shoes and seized about 0.9 kg of opium.



## 6. Firearms

### [Interdiction of handguns and related objects concealed in an air cargo]

In June, Osaka Customs inspected an air cargo (declared as PCs and other articles) arriving at Kansai Airport from Thailand and seized a handgun and four cartridges wrapped in newspaper and hidden in a personal computer case.



### Other cases of smuggling: **smuggling of regulated objects**

With regard to objects whose import and export are regulated by laws such as the Import Trade Control Order — specific Freon, which causes destruction of the ozone layer, endangered species protected by the Washington Convention, regulated objects like eel fries, etc. — trafficking without required customs procedures never ceases to exist. In 2004, we interdicted two cases of smuggling of specific Freon and seized 64 tons in total, six cases of smuggling out of eel fries, 0.2 tons in total, and took steps such as indictment against 16 cases of smuggling of endangered species (approximately 600 objects seized) protected by the Washington Convention.