

Smuggling ship testing U.S. access

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

May 26, 1993, Wednesday, City Edition

Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; THE NATION; Pg. 6A

Length: 263 words

Dateline: SAN FRANCISCO

Body

Immigration officials say America's ability to control its borders is being tested by an international smuggling operation responsible for sneaking a ship into San Francisco Bay and dropping more than 180 Chinese near the Golden Gate Bridge.

"They're feeling out the soft spots," said Joseph Brandon of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Compiled from Times Wires SHIPS(SH)"It's a very lucrative business. . . . They are trying to find the routes of least resistance."

David Ilchert of the INS said passengers who arrived Monday on the Pai Chang paid \$ 1,000 down and were expected to pay a total of \$ 20,000 for their passage to America. That means the human cargo was worth more than \$ 3.5-million to those who recruited and smuggled it in.

Officials arrested 184 passengers and said an unknown number of others got away. Ten crew members also were arrested on suspicion of smuggling illegal aliens.

Thirty-five of the detainees said they were under 18, and Ilchert said they would be allowed to live with families in San Francisco if any offered to pay the \$ 4,000 bond. The rest were distributed to two detention centers where they will be charged with illegally entering the United States.

The United States has seized seven ships with 1,599 Chinese aboard since September 1992.

"Frankly, this is only the beginning," said INS spokesman Michael Smirnoff. ". . . We're estimating that at this rate there will be 13,000 undocumented Chinese here by (December) 1993." - Information from San Francisco Examiner and Reuters was used in this report.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: IMMIGRATION (90%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (90%); SMUGGLING (90%); ARRESTS (90%); CITIZENSHIP (79%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (79%); POLITICAL DETAINEES (79%); IMMIGRATION LAW (79%); IMMIGRANT DETENTION CENTERS (79%); ALIEN SMUGGLING (79%); TERRITORIAL & NATIONAL BORDERS (74%); BORDER CONTROL (73%)

Smuggling ship testing U.S. access

Company: SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER (54%); SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER (54%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (84%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (58%)

Organization: IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (84%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (58%)

Geographic: SAN FRANCISCO, CA, USA (92%); SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, CA, USA (73%); CALIFORNIA, USA (92%); **UNITED STATES** (94%)

Load-Date: May 27, 1993

End of Document