

## **Ex-Official Resentenced In U.S. Passports Case**

The Washington Post

May 20, 1997, Tuesday, Final Edition

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**Section:** A SECTION; Pg. A16; AROUND THE WORLD

**Length:** 207 words

**Dateline:** HONG KONG

### **Body**

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A former top **U.S.** immigration official was jailed yesterday for a three-month term for possessing material to make false **passports**, far less than a previous sentence of 40 months that he had received for actually having bogus **passports**.

Jerry Stuchiner, 45, was sentenced to 40 months in prison last August after he admitted possessing false travel documents.

But the five Honduran **passports** he was carrying when he was arrested at Hong Kong airport in July were blank except for an official stamp and signature. By legal definition, a travel document must include a photograph.

An appeals court ruled he had been charged with the wrong offense and that his conviction was unsustainable, but officers from the Independent Commission Against Corruption rearrested him moments after he left court last month. This time Stuchiner was charged with the correct offense -- possessing documents for making false instruments -- and was duly sentenced, the commission said.

The commission was working with **U.S.** Justice Department officials probing a smuggling ring that took illegal migrants from Asia to the **United States**. At the time of his arrest, Stuchiner was the top immigration officer in the **U.S.** Embassy in Honduras. --

### **Classification**

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**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** **PASSPORTS** & VISAS (92%); SENTENCING (91%); IMMIGRATION (90%); ARRESTS (90%); LITIGATION (90%); CRIMINAL OFFENSES (90%); JAIL SENTENCING (90%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (78%); APPEALS (78%); CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS (78%); SMUGGLING (78%); JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS (78%); CORRECTIONS (77%); DECISIONS & RULINGS (77%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (76%); ADMISSIONS & CONFESSIONS (73%); EMBASSIES & CONSULATES (73%); CORRUPTION (71%); LAW COURTS & TRIBUNALS (70%); APPELLATE DECISIONS (70%); APPEALS COURTS (70%)

**Company:** US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (56%); US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (56%)

**Organization:** US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (56%); US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (56%); US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (56%); US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (56%)

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**Geographic:** HONDURAS (92%); **UNITED STATES** (92%); HONG KONG (79%); ASIA (72%)

**Load-Date:** May 20, 1997

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