

J. C. M. B.

13 March 1984

## \$20m in fakes seized

More than \$20 million worth of counterfeit goods were seized by the Government last year, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Douglas Jordan, said.

Replying to a question from Mr Wong Lam, he said \$12 million of imported counterfeit goods and \$8.5 million of exported counterfeit goods had been seized.

On the effectiveness of the department in controlling the import and export of counterfeit goods, Mr Jordan said:

"We do react very quickly to any information as to counterfeit goods and the seizure overall has been quite high and is increasing each year."

Mr Wong also asked how the department would clean up the image Hongkong has of being a main exporter of counterfeit goods.

Mr Jordan said the department had taken every opportunity to spread the message abroad that Hongkong does far more than most neighbouring countries to deal with the counterfeit goods problem.

And the department is becoming more conscious of the growing problem of the illegal import of firearms which began to increase two or three years ago.

Replying to a question from Miss Maria Tam, he said the department had introduced sophisticated electronics and X-ray machines and equipment at all check points.

Last year, 33 handguns, rifles and shotguns were seized and 13 people were arrested in connection with gun smuggling.

Mr Jordan also said there was close liaison with the police to minimise a wastage of manpower and resources.

The department is responsible for four major activities — assessing and collecting duties, enforcing trade controls, preventing illicit trade and controlling imports and exports and other restricted goods and enforcing the Reserved Commodities Ordinance in relation to food supply.