

# Airport drug haul linked to Australia

By WALTER CHEUNG

A former Hongkong resident, who emigrated to Australia three years ago, has been arrested by customs officers for allegedly possessing 2 kg of heroin in the departure hall of the Kai Tak airport.

The No 4 heroin would have fetched HK\$15 million in Australia.

Officers of the Customs Investigation Bureau (CIB) have alerted their Australian counterparts and police for follow-up inquiries.

In the past two months, Australian authorities have seized a total of 2.5 kg of No 4 heroin and 1 kg of No 3 heroin from Australians arriving at Sydney airport from Hongkong.

The most recent case occurred last month when three Australians — one man and two women — were arrested in connection with the seizure of the 1 kg of No 3 heroin, which was believed to have been picked up in Hongkong.

In March, 2.5 kg of No 4 heroin with an Australian street value of HK\$35.8 million was found on an Australian woman who arrived in Sydney from Hongkong.

Last year, two Hongkong women were prosecuted in Australia for smuggling drugs worth about HK\$55 million.

The latest arrest made by the CIB officers on Wednesday night was the second drug re-export case this month.

Officers from the CIB's airport investigation division saw the suspect, who was wearing a loose Hawaiian shirt, acting suspiciously in the departure hall.

The officers found he was wearing specially-made jacket under the shirt. The heroin was found in the pockets of

the jacket.

The 36-year-old suspect is expected to appear at San Po Kong Court today to be charged with possession of dangerous drugs for the purpose of unlawful trafficking.

A former Vietnamese refugee who had been resettled in the United States was arrested at the airport earlier this month for allegedly possessing 1 kg of No 3 heroin. He was about to board a flight to Boston.