

South China Morning Post

INTERNET EDITION

Friday February 12 1999



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\$19m drug charges admitted

Cannabis with a street value of more than \$19 million was seized from a garment merchant in Ap Lei Chau, a court heard yesterday.

Yu Kwok-fai, 42, pleaded guilty in the Court of First Instance to two charges of trafficking herbal cannabis. He was arrested on May 19 last year after being caught with more than 385kg of the drug.

Prosecutor Joe Pethes said Yu had rented a ground-floor unit in Ap Lei Chau Main Street and was watched by undercover police officers as he left with a nylon bag.

A search on the street revealed it contained 9.95kg of cannabis divided into 10 plastic bags. A further 376kg of herbal cannabis was uncovered inside 377 plastic bags in the unit.

"The street value of the [larger haul] is estimated at \$19.3 million," Mr Pethes said.

Deputy Judge David Gill adjourned sentencing to March 3 for a background report.

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