



Australian Government
Australian Customs Service

customs media release

Bags of coffee conceal heroin - *Monday, 25th September 2006*

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

A man will face court today after an alleged attempt to smuggle up to 3kg of heroin disguised as coffee into Australia through Melbourne Airport on the weekend.

The 46-year-old Australian citizen was stopped by Customs officers when he arrived at Melbourne Airport on a flight from Phnom Penh, Vietnam, via Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Saturday.

During a search of his baggage officers allegedly located six 500g packets of coffee.

They were suspicious of the contents of the packets and initial testing indicated the presence of heroin.

The passenger was referred to the Australian Federal Police for further investigation.

Australian Federal Police agents arrested and charged the man with one count of Importing a Commercial Quantity of a Border Controlled Drug contrary to Section 307.1(1) of the *Criminal Code Act 1995*.

He was remanded in custody by a bail justice on Saturday and is expected to appear in Melbourne Magistrate's Court today.

The maximum penalty for drug smuggling is a fine of up to \$825,000 and/or life imprisonment