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INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Waterfront Lawlessness in Macao

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1. Luggage carriers along the Macao waterfront are now large groups of racketeers who follow landing passengers and demand payments of from three to five Macao dollars for each piece of luggage. If they do not get what they want, they give the traveler a beating or take his luggage or money by force.
2. If the racketeers meet a person, who cannot carry his own luggage, they demand twenty to thirty Macao dollars a piece. On 30 March, a Chinese arriving from Macao on the SS HU MEN was forced to pay M\$300 for eleven pieces of luggage. When luggage is unloaded on the piers from incoming ships, the racketeers surround the baggage and demand high fees for carrying it, letting neither the owner nor his relatives or friends carry it away themselves.
3. The racketeers follow travelers to ticket-selling offices and agencies and demand commissions on the grounds that they brought the customer to the agency. They have so intimidated the shipping companies with threats that those firms do not dare protest to the Macao authorities.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
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