

'SMUGGLERS' STUNG IN QNS.

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March 20, 2004 -- Five people were busted in Queens yesterday for trying to smuggle six containers of counterfeit goods into the country after attempting to bribe undercover agents posing as corrupt customs officials.

Xiaobet "Betty" Hu, 32, was nabbed along with four men in Flushing after giving undercover agents \$248,500 to smuggle the 40-foot long containers packed with phony merchandise, authorities said.

The sting operation - set up by the NYPD, New York State Organized Crime Task Force, the Waterfront Commission and U.S. Department of Labor - involved convincing Hu and her associates the goods could get into the city without any problems.

The agents had already bought two shipments of counterfeit Marlboro cigarettes in October from China that had a street value of \$1 million.

The undercover agents said they were able to convince Hu, who operated as the ringleader, that they wanted to buy Viagra and fake designer clothes.

Hu was arrested during a meeting at 38th Avenue and Prince Street along with Tseng Kuochuan, 43, Hu Li Yi, 36, Ma Yu Dong, 35, and Kevin Yang, 27.

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