

Canadian in New Passport Racket. (1993, June 28). *The Observer*.

Asylum seekers adopt new ruse

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CANADIAN IN NEW PASSPORT RACKET

By Panduka Senanayake

A NEW ruse adopted by racketeers to smuggle asylum seekers to western countries was exposed by the CID at the Colombo Airport, Katunayake last week.

The exposure followed the detection of a Muslim and two Tamils who exchanged their boarding passes to board two aircrafts bound for different destinations.

One of the Tamils turned out to be a man who had obtained asylum in Canada some time ago and had come down to Sri Lanka to spend a holiday.

According to Police, the man who had already obtained asylum in Canada and who had a Canadian passport was due to fly on a flight to Frankfurt while the other Tamil had a ticket for Male on a scheduled flight to Maldives. Both flights were to leave on Thursday morning and the two men had gone through the Customs and immigration formalities and were awaiting to board their respective flights.

However, just prior to the boarding of the Frankfurt flight, the man who had the boarding pass for the flight had, with the assistance of a Muslim worker, exchanged it with the man with a ticket to Male.

The latter was nabbed as he was about to board the flight to Germany. His accomplices were also rounded up by the CID who are conducting investigations to ascertain whether the arrested Muslim and the Canadian passport holder are members of a gang involved in smuggling out asylum seekers to the west.

Investigations are being conducted by the CID's airport unit under the direction of CID Director Punchi Banda Seneviratne.