

A10 THE TORONTO STAR Wednesday, December 1, 1993

# Man guilty in passport bust

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STAFF REPORTER

A man involved in an international passport forgery ring has pleaded guilty and will be sentenced Feb. 2.

Logannathan Sabanayagam was arrested by Royal Canadian Mounted Police after two Toronto Star reporters, Dale Brazao and Paul Watson, responded to a call from two cleaners at a North York highrise.

At an apartment on Lawrence Ave. W., the cleaners had come upon some obvious instruments of forgery including silkscreens, photographic enlargers and a Canadian citizenship card.

They had originally called the OPP, Metro police and the RCMP but none responded, crown counsel Paul Normandeau told Mr. Justice Lucien Beaulieu of the Ontario Court, general division.

"Fortunately, the cleaners were persistent and they contacted Toronto newspapers," Normandeau said.

When the two Star reporters arrived, Sabanayagam and an unknown male were inside. The reporters presented themselves as prospective tenants.

They took away silkscreens, a citizenship card in the name David Rattray and other items the apartment cleaners had found, Beaulieu was told.

After an article appeared in The Star Dec. 11, 1991, the RCMP immigration and passport anti-smuggling unit went to the apartment with a search warrant and seized numerous items, court heard.

The fingerprints of Sabanayagam, 38, of Sherbourne St. were lifted from a lot of the equipment and he was seen making purchases at camera and graphic supply companies, Normandeau said.

He pleaded guilty to possession of forgery equipment, conspiracy to forge Canadian passports and fraudulent concealment of forgery equipment.