

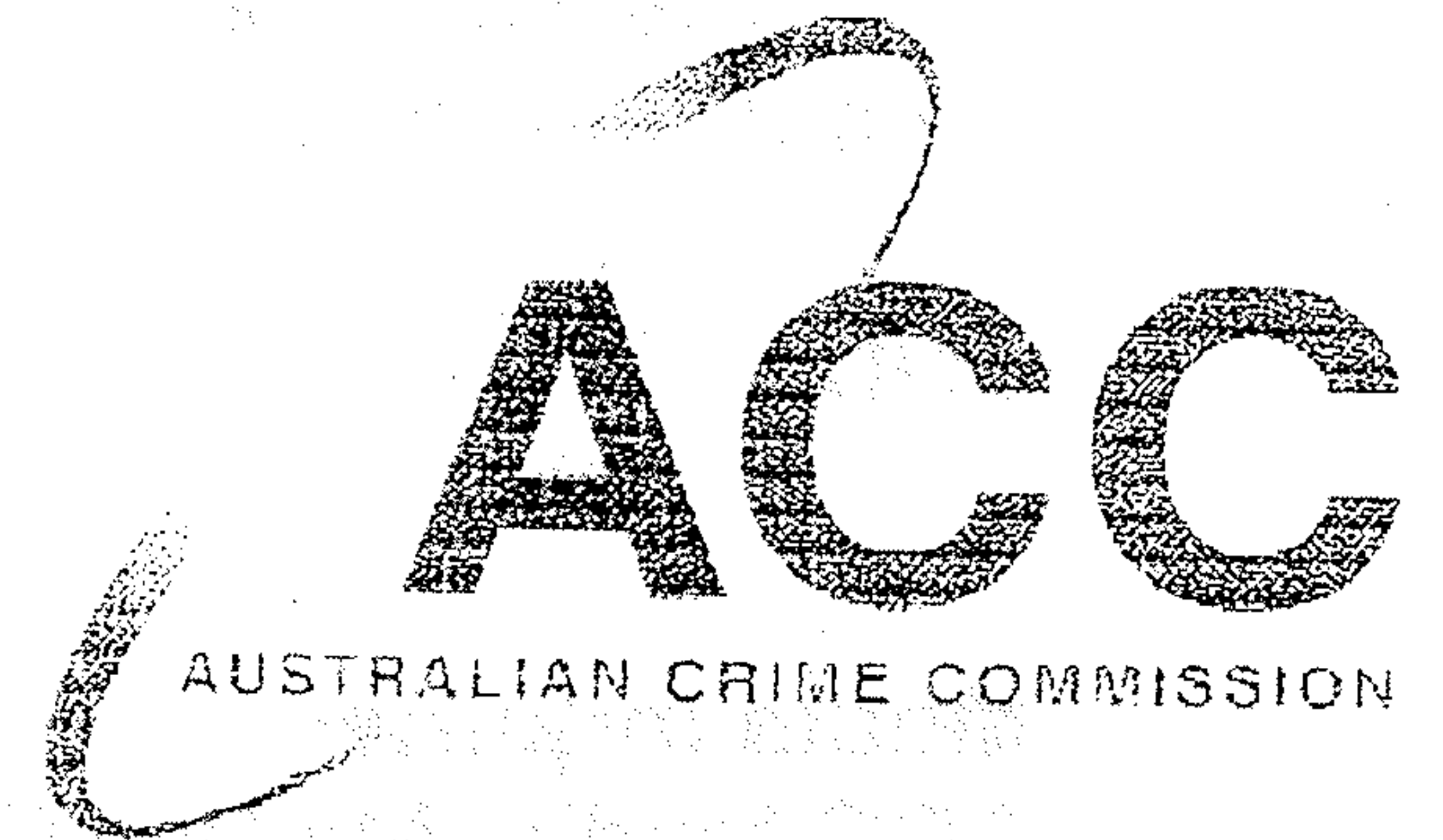
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MEDIA RELEASE

JOINT OPERATION LEADS TO MASSIVE DRUG SEIZURE

A long term operation involving the Australian Crime Commission (ACC), the Australian Customs Service, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Cambodian National Police has resulted in the largest seizure ever of pseudoephedrine in Australia with a wholesale value of \$40.5 million.

The haul, which was disguised in decorative wall plaques, weighed approximately 750kgs and was discovered by Customs officers during an examination of a shipping container in Sydney on 4 September.

Four Australian residents were arrested last night on trafficking charges.

"A lengthy and proactive operation mounted by the ACC has led to this excellent result. Ongoing surveillance by ACC officers detected the container and with assistance from Australian Customs, the container was searched," said ACC Chief Executive Officer, Alastair Milroy.

"The success of the operation has required the effort of the ACC, AFP, Customs and the Cambodian National Police which demonstrates the necessity of law enforcement agencies, both nationally and internationally, working together," Mr Milroy added.

The seizure of the pseudoephedrine is the third stage of a joint operation between the ACC, the AFP and the Cambodian National Police who previously arrested an Australian national, four Cambodian nationals and others in connection with 24kgs of heroin at an estimated street value of \$24 million (AUD) seized in Sydney by the AFP on 1 April 2003.

Four men arrested in relation to the pseudoephedrine have been charged with importing a prohibited import into Australia.

pseudoephedrine will be on display for media to take vision. The Head of Investigations for the ACC South East Asian Crime Determination, Ray Tinker, Customs Regional Director NSW, David Collins, AFP Acting General Manager, Eastern, Peter Drennan, will be available for media comment.

ENDS

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