RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

25 October 2005

CHN100513.E

China: Exit controls for citizens travelling overseas, including documents and police checks, and whether a person wanted by authorities could leave China using a passport in his or her name; exit procedures at Beijing airport (2003 - 2005)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

According to an official at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ottawa, Chinese citizens travelling overseas must present a valid passport and visa for the country of destination to an immigration official, before being allowed to exit China (11 Oct. 2005). Without elaborating, the official noted that this procedure is standard at all international airports in the country.

A representative of the Canadian Embassy in Beijing provided the following observations on exit controls at Chinese airports in 4 October 2005 correspondence to the Research Directorate. Separate inspection barriers at airports are designated for Chinese citizens, foreign travellers, diplomatic staff, and airline personnel. The Frontier Defense Inspection Bureau (FDIB) is in charge of the inspection barriers, and FDIB officers examine the passports and immigration departure cards of Chinese travellers. The officers also verify the identity of the person through a "computerised record system." Chinese travellers do not need to present their resident identity card during the inspection. According to information contained on the Website of Air China, there is a Frontier Defense Inspection station at each of the 115 Chinese ports currently open for international departures and arrivals (n.d.).

Information retrieved from the Website of Beijing Capital International Airport indicates that Chinese citizens travelling overseas are required to show a valid passport, an "exit registration form" and an exit certificate for inspection (n.d.). Security staff will also check travellers' boarding cards, airline tickets, passports and "voucher of airport construction charge" (Beijing Capital International Airport n.d.). Further information on exit control procedures at Beijing Airport could not be found among sources consulted within time constraints.

The Law of the People's Republic of China on the Control of Exit and Entry of Citizens stipulates that the following categories of persons will not be granted permission to leave the country:

- Defendants in criminal cases or criminal suspects confirmed by a public security organ, a people's procuratorate or a people's court;
- Persons who, as notified by a people's court, shall be denied exit owing to involvement in unresolved civil cases;
- Convicted persons serving their sentences;
- Persons undergoing rehabilitation through labour; and
- Persons whose exit from the country will, in the opinion of the competent department of the State Council, be harmful to state security or cause a major loss to national interests (PRC 22 Nov. 1985,
Art. 8).

Article 9 of the Law states that frontier inspection offices shall have the power to stop persons belonging to any of the following categories from leaving the country and to deal with them according to law:

(1) holders of invalid exit certificates;
(2) holders of exit certificates other than their own; and
(3) holders of forged or altered exit certificates (PRC 22 Nov. 1985).

In early July 2005, inspection staff at Hangzhou airport in Zhejiang Province uncovered two fake passports on an overseas Chinese traveller, who reportedly admitted he was paid to help stow away two residents from Fujian Province (BBC Monitoring 30 Aug. 2005).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

**References**


Canadian Embassy in Beijing. 4 October 2005. Correspondence from a representative.


Additional Sources Consulted

**Internet sites, including:** China Internet Information Center, Fuzhou Airport, Shanghai Airport.

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