

\$5m of fake games seized



By AUGUSTINE PANG

MORE than \$5 million worth of counterfeit Nintendo and Sega video games were seized from two warehouses yesterday.

It is believed to be the biggest seizure of its kind in recent years.

In December last year, about \$900,000 worth of counterfeit goods were seized from an HDB flat in Sims Drive.

Armed with warrants from the subordinate court, 12 private investigators, police, lawyers and agents for Nintendo of Japan and Sega Enterprises Ltd raided the warehouses in New Industrial Road and Sims Avenue at 2.15 pm.

They discovered thousands of copied electronic game cartridges and computer circuits for the games.

Mr Vincent Tan, manager of Commercial Private Investigators and Security, said: "The warehouse unit at Peifu Industrial Building at New Industrial Road was the assembly place.

"The other one at Yi Xin Factory Building at Sims Avenue was being used as a storage place for distribution".

He said the goods were

Invoices for sales were found at two other offices at Jalan Besar.

Among the seized cartridges were the games Donald Duck, Double Dragon 2, Sonic 2, Streets of Rage and Golden Axe 2.

These games can be played with cartridges inserted into a palm-sized game machine called Game Boy (for Nintendo games) or Game Gear (for Sega games).

They can also be played on larger machines which are plugged into television sets.

Mr Tan said the original Nintendo and Sega game cartridges cost between \$60 and \$140 retail.

"The counterfeit ones cost just as much, but have more games in them," he said.

Mr Bryan Ghows, a lawyer from Khatter Wong and Partners, who act for Sega Enterprises Ltd, said the companies intend to take legal action against the offenders.

A supervisor at Peifu Industrial Building, said the duplicating had been going on for over a year.

He said the plant could duplicate more than a thousand counterfeit game cartridges a day.

Two duplicating machines

Counterfeit:

One of the private investigators looking at the copied electronic game cartridges at one of the warehouses.

PENALTY

UNDER the 1987 Copyright Act, offenders can be fined up to \$10,000 per illegal copy. The maximum fine is \$100,000.