

Foreign travel tips to know before you go

By SHIRLEE IDEN

If you plan to travel abroad for the first time, it's a good thing to know all about customs and duties before you go.

All articles acquired abroad and in your possession at the time of your return must be declared.

This includes gifts presented to you while traveling, repairs or alterations made to any articles taken abroad and returned; items you have been requested to bring home for another person; and any articles you intend to sell or use in your business.

The price actually paid for each article must be listed on your declaration in U.S. currency or its equivalent value in the country of acquisition.

WEARING OR use of an item while abroad does not exempt it from duty. It must be declared at the price you paid for it.

Customs declaration forms are distributed on planes and vessels and should be prepared in advance of arrival for presentation to the immigration and customs inspectors.

Fill out the identification portion of the declaration form.

You may declare orally to the customs inspector the articles you

acquired abroad. But, a written declaration is necessary when the total fair retail value of articles exceeds \$100; when more than one quart of alcoholic beverages or more than 100 cigars are included, when some of the items are not intended for your personal or household use such as commercial samples or items for sale or use in your business, or articles you are bringing home for another person.

A CUSTOMS duty or internal revenue tax is collectible on any article in your possession.

The head of a family may make a joint declaration for all members residing in the same household and returning with him to the U.S.

A family of four may bring in tax free articles up to \$400 in value free of duty even if one member of the family exceeds his \$100 exemption.

Be warned that if you understate the value of an article you declare or otherwise misrepresent an article, the article may be liable to seizure and forfeiture.

If you fail to declare an article, it is subject to seizure and you are liable for a personal penalty equal to the value of the article. You may also be liable to criminal prosecution.

NEVER RELY on advice given by persons outside the customs service.

If you are in doubt about declaring an item, always declare it first and then question the customs inspector.

If you're in doubt about the value, declare the item and ask the customs inspector for assistance.

Customs officers know that merchants abroad offer travelers invoices or bills showing false or understated values. This can delay your examination and can prove very costly.

As a returning citizen you may bring in articles totaling \$100 based on retail value, duty free. You must be returning from a stay abroad of at least 48 hours.

NOT MORE than 100 cigars or one quart of alcoholic beverage may be included if you are at least 21 years of age. Infants and children returning to the U.S. are entitled to the same exemption except for alcoholic beverages.

Articles in excess of our customs exemption are subject to duty calculated by the customs inspector.

Payments of duty may be made in U.S. currency, a personal check in exact amount of the duty; or by government check, money orders, or travelers checks.

Some articles are prohibited from export. These include obscene articles, lottery tickets, dangerous drugs and narcotics, obscene articles and publications, seditious and treasonable materials and hazardous articles like fireworks, dangerous toys, toxic or poisonous substances, and switchblade knives.

FIREARMS and ammunition are subject to restrictions, as are fruits, plants, and vegetables.

Gold coins minted before 1934 may be brought in without a license if for collections. Gold coins minted after 1933 and gold bullion are prohibited from importation except under license. Gold medals other than special award medals are prohibited.

Meats, livestock and poultry and their byproducts are either prohibited or restricted.

PERSONS importing or exporting an amount of \$5000 or more are required to file a report.

To make your travels more pleasant keep your sales slips, pack your baggage to make inspection easy by packing separately the articles you will be declaring.

Articles bought in duty free shops in foreign countries are subject to U.S. customs.

If you have other questions about customs, call the customs office in your city or contact the nearest office.

Be sure you know all about customs and have a good trip.

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Hang up quickly on obscene callers

Hang up the phone immediately. That's what police and telephone company officials recommend if you receive an obscene or nuisance call.

Often annoyance calls are placed at random just to see what response they will get. If you give the caller no satisfaction, he usually will stop.

Most of these calls, officials report, come from a small group of misguided people — either unsupervised youngsters, frustrated individuals or the mentally unbalanced. They get little encouragement if you refuse to listen or talk.

In case you receive annoying or

anonymous calls, the United States Independent Telephone Association (USITA) suggests you remember these tips.

USE THE telephone on your own terms. Remember, you are in control of your phone so don't talk to someone unless you want to.

Don't provide unknown callers with information such as, "My husband is out of town." Instead, if an unfamiliar person asks for the man of the house, offer to take a message when he isn't home. Children and babysitters should be taught to be especially cautious.

Don't identify yourself before

recognizing the caller or asking him to identify himself.

If the caller remains silent or simply breathes into the phone, hang up.

If obscene or nuisance calls persist, report the situation to your telephone company's business office. If you fear personal harm, call the police.

IF THREATENING calls occur — bomb threats, threats to life and property, threats of kidnapping — call the police and phone company immediately.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police recommends that a police investigation be made if obscene or nuisance calls persist.

Your local police will give you specific advice and instructions, but an important preliminary step advised by many law enforcement agencies is to keep an accurate log of such calls.

The record should list time and date, as well as a description of the

caller's voice and comments, plus any background noise.

Keeping a log, the police chiefs' group says, will help determine whether there is a pattern to the calls. And establishing a pattern can be helpful in apprehending a caller.

THE POLICE department's job is to identify the caller and bring the nuisance or threat to an end.

The telephone company's role is to identify the location and equipment being used to make the calls.

USITA also points out that the telephone company will provide technical assistance and advice to the police.

It is up to the victim to help identify possible suspects, report each incident accurately and possibly help establish a motive for the calls.

To bring an end to unwanted calls, the three parties involved — the police, the phone company, and the victim — all must cooperate.

Jewish Center tells 1974 summer plans

It's time to think about what to do with the children next summer.

The Jewish Community Center has 16 summer activities planned for children and youth.

Member only registration is open through March 16. After that date, everyone in the community is welcome to register.

Programs are available for youngsters ranging from the 21 month old toddler through high school students. All activities are designed to offer participants a rich educational experience, excitement and fun.

THERE ARE activities with strong orientation towards sports, the arts or travel, and other special interests.

All activities include some emphasis on Hebrew and Jewish culture.

There will be an increased emphasis on the out-of-doors, more instructional swim in many programs, reduced bus time, three new parent-toddler programs and a special three-day fun time program as well as the regular five-day program.

The Day Camp this year will include three separate camps grouped according to age.

SESSION one begins on June 24 and continues through July 19. Session 2 begins July 22 and runs through August 16.

The schedule coincides with most overnight camp schedules.

Registration closes ten days prior to the beginning of each session.

It is the policy of the center to adjust membership dues for families in economic need. Special adjusted fees are available for center members for one session.

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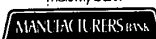
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