

Chinese Press Translations – 15th October 2009

1. 國泰航空遭空姐“討薪”逾4億港元

Flight attendants at Cathay Pacific Airways filed HK\$400mn wage claim

4400 flight attendants at Cathay Pacific Airways, including Cathay Pacific Airways Flight Attendants Union chairman Becky Kwan, claimed a total of HK\$400 million compensation from the airway, as they believe the company failed to pay them the various allowances that they deserved when taking paid leave, which was against the Employment Ordinances. After a two-day deliberation, the High Court has not made a judgment on the case, and there is a heated dispute on whether these allowances should be covered in their salary or not.

2 · 國泰前董事認炒機師與工潮有關聯 [文匯報] 2009-10-15 A16 香港新聞

Cathay Pacific former directors admit the pilot dismissal is related to union strike (Wen Wei Pao)

On 14 October, the claim filed by former Cathay Pacific pilots for unfair dismissal was heard again in High Court. Philip Chen and Tony Tyler, who acted as director in Cathay Pacific in 2001, were summoned to the court. The two people emphasized many times that the dismissal list had been confirmed under a thorough consideration and they fired these pilots because they had lost confidence in them. At first, they denied that the dismissal is related to the Cathay Pilots Union. When asked if the union's work-to-rule protest is related to the dismissal, Philip Chen at first said they are not entirely related, but then admitted that they are partly related.

3 · 國泰炒機師陳南祿認與工潮有關

Philip Chen denies the dismissal of pilots relating to union activities (Ming Pao)

Eight years ago, 49 pilots were sacked by the Cathay Pacific Airways, as they participate in an industrial action. Some pilots sue Cathay for unfair dismissal. On 14 October, Philip Chen, former Cathay Pacific Chief Executive and Tony Tyler, current Chief Executive of Cathay Pacific Airways gave their testimonies in court. They denied the dismissal had relationship with trade union activities. However, Philip Chen indicated that union activities are part of reasons for the dismissal. Tony Tyler stressed that the sacked pilots hampered operation of flights.

4 陳南祿首度承認裁員與工潮有關

Philip Chen Nan Lok admitted the relevance between layoffs and work-to-rule strike movement (HK Head Line)

Eight years ago, Cathay Pacific Airways dismissed 49 pilots who participated in the work-to-rule strike movement, and these pilots accused the airliner of unfair dismissal. The case was heard in the High Court yesterday. The former director and chief executive of Cathay Pacific Airways, Philip Chan Nan Lok, who is now the chairman of Swire Pacific (China), openly admitted for the first time that the dismissal and the work-to-rule strike movement waged by the Cathay Pilots Union were related to some extent.

5. 薪津爭拗疊起國泰風波停不了

Cathay Pacific Airways labor disputes recur again (Ming Pao)

Hong Kong Aircrew Officers Association, which represents thousands of Cathay Pacific Airways' pilots, began to be in talks with their employer Cathay Pacific Airways on the increase of wage, holiday and other benefits since 2000, but it came into a dead end. The association launched "work to rule" industrial action later to bring the management of Cathay Pacific Airways back to table. Cathay Pacific Airways dismissed 49 pilots on July 9, 2001, triggering a lawsuit for unfair dismissal. This is not Cathay Pacific Airways' first labor dispute. Cathay Pacific Airways' pilots took "sick leave" action against Cathay Pacific Airways' plan to reduce pilots' wage in 1999; Cathay Pacific Airways' hostesses brought their employer to the court due to dispute on the calculation method of holiday and wage, and they are still waiting for the verdict.

6 國泰高層供稱 機師因行為不當被炒

Cathay Pacific's high executives appeared in court, said the pilots were fired due to misbehavior (HK Daily)

A number of pilots from Cathay Pacific that were fired 8 years ago filed a lawsuit for unfair dismissal to the high court and required Cathay Pacific to make compensations. Cathay Pacific's high executives Philip Chen and Tony Tyler yesterday appeared in court to testify, denying that these pilots were laid off because they joined trade union's activity. Tony Tyler said, as he knew, the company dismissed these pilots because the company no longer trusted them and some pilots misbehaved. Tony Tyler added he knew these pilots joined trade union's activities and opposed the company's policy. But he didn't think they were "trouble maker" and were fired because of the industrial actions that they joined.

7. 國泰高層認有機師按章工作被炒 [東方日報] 2009-10-15 A31 港聞

Senior management of Cathay Pacific Airways admitted some pilots were fired as they joined work-to-rule campaign (Oriental Daily)

Cathay Pacific Airways (CPA) fired 49 pilots in 2001. Earlier, 18 of these fired pilots filed an appeal against CPA's unfair dismissal. The case was heard at the High Court

yesterday. Philip Chen, who worked as CPA's director and CEO, and Tony Tyler, who worked as director for enterprise development at that time, were summoned. When being interrogated by the lawyer for the pilots, they admitted that the sacked pilots committed no faults in pilot profession. Philip Chen finally admitted that the dismissal was partly related to the work-to-rule campaign launched by pilots then.

8 國泰認因工業行動炒機師

Cathay Pacific senior executive confessed to firing pilots because of industrial action (The Sun)

The claim by 18 former Cathay Pacific pilots for unfair dismissal was held yesterday in HK High Court. Philip Chen and Tony Tyler, who were CEO and Corporate Development Director of Cathay Pacific respectively at the time of the dismissal, testified in court. They first claimed the dismissal had nothing to do with the industrial action that the pilots joined. However, they admitted that these pilots didn't make any mistake in flight when being interrogated by lawyers for the pilots. When being interrogated by the judge, Philip Chen admitted that the decision of firing these pilots was partially connected to the industrial action.

9. 案件速遞機師被炒案陳南祿作供

Philip Chen testified in pilot case (Apple Daily)

In 2001, Cathay Pacific Airways fired 49 pilots that engaged in an industrial action for alleged unprofessional behaviors. 18 of the 49 pilots later sued Cathay Pacific for unfair dismissal and libel, requiring compensation from the airway. On 14 October, 2009, Philip Chen, who worked as Cathay Pacific's Chief Executive then, testified in court. He admitted that their work-to-rule action is one of the reasons for dismissal. Tony Tyler, current Chief Executive of Cathay Pacific Airways, pointed out that the company fired these pilots as it no longer gave credit to them.

10. 國泰指裁機師 無關工業行動 【香港經濟日報】2009-10-15 A25 港聞

Cathay Pacific Airways denied the dismissal was related to industrial action (HK Economic Times)

18 pilots who were fired by Cathay Pacific Airways in 2001 sued the airway for unfair dismissal and libel. High Court heard the case yesterday. Tony Tyler, the CEO of Cathay Pacific Airways and Mr. Philip Chen, Deputy Chairman of Cathay Pacific Airways, denied that the dismissal was related to the industrial action these pilots joined. Tony Tyler said he was not the one who decided on the dismissal. He said the main reason was that some pilots' misbehavior hampered the airway's operation and interests. He also believed the whole process of dismissal was transparent and fair.