

Sing Tao Daily 11 March 2010

Headline – Two executives of Cathay Pacific are suspected of perjury and are under investigation

The trial on Cathay Pacific sacking 49 overseas pilots nine years ago in 1997 was concluded last year. Cathay Pacific was defeated however more turbulence has arisen. Two Cathay Pacific executives of foreign nationality were suspected of making false statement in court over a list of “blacklisted sacking pilots”. It is currently under investigation by Special Unit at Police Head Quarter. No one was arrested for the time being. Cathay Pacific expressed that they will cooperate with the police investigation.

Sub-heading – Suspected of making false statement on a “Blacklist”

Police confirmed that they have received the report in Dec 2009 involving the incident of suspected making of false statement under oath. It is now handled by Central Crime Investigation Unit and nobody has yet been arrested.

Cathay Pacific spokesperson stated that the incident involves the Court Case with the sacked pilots last year. Cathay Pacific is currently appealing on the Court ruling but assuring that they will facilitate any police inquiry.

These two executives, who have been helping the police in their investigation, were the Director Flight Operations and Industrial Relation Manager of Cathay Pacific. Last year, at the hearing, they have sworn in court when making their statements.

According to the court materials, in 2001 Cathay Pacific has sacked 49 overseas pilots who had been involved in the industrial disputes. The pilots then sued the airline for unfair dismissal and defamation. The High Court eventually ruled that Cathay Pacific has lost the case and must compensate each of these 17 pilots \$3.3 million dollars with a total exceeding \$56 million dollars.

During the trial, Cathay Pacific executives were required to give statement in court and they admitted that before the sacking of pilots, there was an internal meeting taken place to discuss the targeted pilots based on a list but later on they claimed that there was no record of minutes or document kept and the alleged “blacklist” has also been destroyed. On the contrary, in the statement record, someone had even denied the existence of this “blacklist”.