

Claire Lee Chennault

SUITE 309, KASS BUILDING • 711 14TH STREET, NORTHWEST • WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

CABLE ADDRESS "CLAULT"
PHONE METROPOLITAN 5797

New York Times,
July 21, 1952

CHENNAULT CARRIES AIR CASE TO LONDON

LONDON, July 20 (AP)—Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault will begin a last-ditch legal fight tomorrow before Britain's highest court to win back forty transport planes that were handed over to the Chinese Communists last year by the Honk Kong Supreme Court.

The retired United States chief of the "Flying Tigers" has appealed to a panel of Privy Council peers for reversal of the Hong Kong decision. The case dates to Dec. 19, 1949, when Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek was rapidly losing the Chinese mainland. Chinese airline employees deserted to the reds and flew some of the planes of two Nationalist-owned companies to Peiping.

At that point General Chennault announced that he had bought the two companies, whose assets were estimated at \$20,000,000. The Chinese press said he had paid \$4,000,000 for the planes.

The disputed aircraft, which are being held in Hong Kong by Chinese Communist employees, were impounded by the British pending the outcome of the court battle over their ownership.

General Chennault has asked the return of the planes to Civil Air Transport, Inc., his Far East airline.

Sir Hartley Shawcross, Attorney General in the former Labor Government, will represent General Chennault's company. William J. Donovan, wartime director of the United States Office of Strategic Services, and Thomas G. Corcoran, prominent official of the Roosevelt administration, are here as legal advisers. James J. Brennan, executive vice president of the company, is also here for the hearings.

New York Times,
July 29, 1952

CHENNAULT VICTOR IN SUIT ON PLANES

Privy Council Awards Him 40
Chinese Aircraft, Which Are
Impounded in Hong Kong

LONDON, July 28 (AP)—Britain's highest court reversed today a Hong Kong Supreme Court decision awarding forty former Chinese Nationalist transport planes to Communist China and ordered that they be turned over to a United States airline.

The Privy Council allowed the appeal of Civil Air Transport, Inc., of Delaware, against the Hong Kong decisions and awarded it the aircraft, now impounded at a Hong Kong airfield.

The United States company succeeded an airline headed by Maj. Gen. Claire C. Chennault, commander of the Flying Tigers. The Nationalists sold him the planes on Dec. 12, 1949, when Britain still recognized the Chiang Kai-shek regime. On Jan. 5, 1950, Britain recognized the Chinese Communist regime, and the Hong Kong court held that the transports, which had been flown out to Hong Kong in the last stages of the Chinese civil war, should go to the Communists.

The Chinese Communists had sued to obtain control of the planes, arguing they "inherited" them upon the collapse of the Nationalist regime.

Hong Kong Police Seize Planes

Special to The New York Times

HONG KONG, Tuesday, July 29

—The police swooped down on Kai Tak airfield early this morning and seized seventy-one aircraft bearing Communist China's insignia following the British Privy Council decision in London awarding forty of the planes to a United States airline.

Chinese Communist personnel guarding the planes were removed in police trucks. The police assumed control not only over the forty planes involved in the Privy Council's decision but also over the other aircraft, the ownership of which still is being tested in the Hong Kong Supreme Court. All the planes originally were under Chinese Nationalist jurisdiction.

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