

*noted by Amw - 4/1/66*

COPY

*Mr. Warfield*

TO: DSD, VPT&S

October 13, 1966

FROM: Kenneth Wu

REC'D WAS OCT 31 1966

SUBJECT: News Report Translation - Independence Evening Post, Oct. 13

(Makung):- It is learned that CAT will stop operating their round-the-island flight as of November. People of all walks of life in Makung are very much worried about the future transportation between Taipei and Makung and hope that the communication authorities will fully realize the importance of communication between Taipei and Makung and provide a reasonable solution.

The CAT scheduled flights between Taipei and Makung have had a long history of sixteen years, and have contributed a great deal to the progress and prosperity of Makung. The present two to three Makung-Tainan and Makung-Kaohsiung daily flights, and Makung-Taichung-Taipei, Makung-Tainan, Taichung/Tainan-Makung-Kaohsiung flights, fare of which amounts to only NT\$220. - family half fare, have brought great convenience to the passengers. Hence, there is full load almost every day. Reservations have been booked up to October 1967. The public is very much surprised upon learning the discontinuance of operation. Judging from the present difficult conditions of transportation between Makung and Taiwan, there is actually more need of increasing flights. Cutting off of flights will cause extremely serious situations.

There are all kinds of rumors concerning CAT's cessation of operation from all walks of life. However, they unanimously hope that the communication authorities will thoroughly understand the actual difficult condition of Makung and will not conduct disposition, which would be detrimental to Makung.

Several local council representatives pointed out that competition arises when there are two airlines in Makung, through which the poor public of Makung may enjoy the low-rate but good air service.

An old timer of Makung said: Though the Taiwan Shipping Company receives millions of dollars government subsidy for Taiwan-Makung communication every year, and there are two to three CAT and one to two or more CAL flights every day, it is still not easy for the passenger to get a ticket. Once CAT ceases operation of their flights, we wonder if the communication authorities can still meet the Taiwan-Makung communication needs as usual. Every year Makung relies on the provincial government's subsidy of 85% of its expenses. Its geographical conditions are inferior to any other part of the country. The main factor which has made the recent progress possible is the flow of air transportation. The local people hope that the government will pay serious regard to this matter and will not let the growing Makung fall behind on account of communication difficulties.

Kenneth

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