

Hsu Huan-Sheng:

CAL Didn't Chip Away At CAT's Route Map

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Hsu Huan-sheng, board chairman of the China Airlines (CAL), yesterday described as "trying to be sensational" a Time magazine report that CAL, with the backing of Defense Minister Chiang Ching-kuo, is playing on national sensibilities in chipping away at Civil Air Transport's (CAT's) route map.

"We haven't done anything of that sort," Hsu told the CHINA POST last night.

On the contrary, CAL pledged its all-out effort to help CAT immediately after the latter's Boeing 727 Mandarin Jet crashlanded near Linkou February 16 with 63 persons aboard.

In its March 1, 1968, issue Time reported: "Subtly playing on national sensibilities, with none other than Chiang Kai-shek's son and heir apparent Chiang Ching-kuo pulling the strings, government-backed all-Chinese China Airlines (CAL) started chipping away at CAT's route map last April."

Denial

Hsu said it was CAT that had asked the Chinese government for permission to stop its international flights to Seoul and Manila. "CAL has never tried and will never try to chip away at CAT's route map," he added. "Not to speak of playing on national sensibilities," he pointed out.

About 60 percent of CAT is owned by Chinese investors. Its board chairman is Dr. Wang Wen-shan. Its domestic flights are manned by all-Chinese crews, and co-pilots of its international flights are also Chinese.

"Minister Chiang," Hsu pointed out, "has nothing to do with CAL."

Regarding the government support to CAL, Hsu said it is "only natural." "Every nation has to help its own airline industry," he added. In the Republic of China, where there is no private flying school, the Chinese Air Force is the sole source of pilot and air crew supply.

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