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Headline: Police investigating two Cathay Executives

Two executives of Cathay Pacific are being investigated for allegedly lying in Court during a trial between 18 pilots against the airline on the dispute of unfair dismissal and defamation in 2001. They were said to have provided incorrect information in Court and Police is now investigating the case. According to the spokesperson of Cathay Pacific, the company will co-operate with the authority on the investigation.

Suspected of presenting incorrect material in Court

According to the report of yesterday, Cathay Pacific DFO Mr. Nick Rhodes and another manager Zdenek Kroutil, during the trial last year had stated that in the management meeting they held in 2001 to determine the sacking of the pilots, all relevant documents had since been destroyed. However, later on, the company provided in Court a meeting document which contradicts the previous statements they have made. Police has received the report on this incident last December advising that someone was suspected of perjury.

Cathay Pacific spokesperson indicated that they have no comments about such report but stated that the trial with the pilots is in the appealing stage. All investigations will be corresponded. Police spokesperson replied that this incident is still under investigation and for the time being nobody was arrested.

In 1999, the former Cathay Pacific pilots negotiated with the airline for better benefit but unsuccessful. In 2001, the pilots voiced for industrial action. Cathay Pacific instantly dismissed 49 union active pilots accusing them as unprofessional. Amongst them, 18 pilots sued Cathay Pacific for damages. Last year the High Court has ruled that the pilots has won and all that accusations made by the airline were regarded as defamation and required Cathay Pacific to pay HK\$3.3 million to each plaintiff plus the Court fees. Cathay Pacific is currently appealing on the ruling.