

China-Taiwan air ‘mini-link’ (Sunday, January 16, 2005)

WARM UP

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about Taiwan / China / Taipei-Beijing relations / Chinese New Year / charter flights / future relations / ...

FLY ME TO THE MOON: Write down three places you would love to fly to and one place you really wouldn't. Share these and your reasons with your partners / group.

(CHINESE) NEW YEAR: Talk in pairs / groups about the Chinese New Year, the Chinese zodiac, the Chinese year of the chicken (2005), New Year in your own country, and New Year 2004/05.

PRE-READING

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words ‘air’, and ‘route’.

TRUE / FALSE: Predict from the headline whether these statements are true or false:

- (a) The air space between China and Taipei is one of the busiest in the region. T / F
- (b) Charter flights will operate between Taiwan and China later this month. T / F
- (c) These will be the first direct flights between China and Taiwan in eight years. T / F
- (d) Taipei banned flights across the Taiwan Strait in 1949. T / F
- (e) Flights between China and Taiwan always go via Hong Kong or Macau. T / F
- (f) The flights are for the Chinese New Year period only. T / F
- (g) The flights are just for Taiwanese diplomats and their families. T / F
- (h) The flights must enter Hong Kong airspace to avoid a political dispute about whether they would be called international or domestic flights.. T / F

DEFINITIONS: Match the following words with the **most likely** definitions:

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|------------------------|--|
| (a) route (n) | (a) a road, course, or way for travel from one place to another |
| | (b) the part of a tree beneath the ground |
| (b) charter flight (n) | (a) an aircraft flight that has been arranged for a specific trip |
| | (b) an aircraft flight that has been arranged to make a map of an area |
| (c) mini (adj) | (a) something that is larger than other things of its type or class |
| | (b) something that is smaller than other things of its type or class |
| (d) passenger (n) | (a) someone you walk past on the street and look at for a second |
| | (b) a person who travels in a car, train, taxi, plane, ship ... without operating it |
| (e) banned (v) | (a) something stopped, or not allowed to happen, by a higher power (parents, teachers, government) |
| | (b) another name for a wedding ring |
| (f) security (n) | (a) freedom from risk or danger; safety |
| | (b) a person employed to do office work for another person |
| (g) via (prep) | (a) a Spanish word used in the English language meaning ‘long life’ |
| | (b) have to go this way |
| (h) limitation (n) | (a) something you cannot do |
| | (b) to climb to the top of a mountain |
| (i) dispute (n) | (a) the answer or solution to an argument |
| | (b) an argument on which both sides cannot agree |
| (j) domestic (adj) | (a) relating to a country's internal affairs |
| | (b) relating to a country's external affairs |

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| (a) air routes | prohibited |
| (b) busy | restrictions |
| (c) link | flight paths |
| (d) fly | connection |
| (e) banned | jet |
| (f) via | national |
| (g) limitations | disagreement |
| (h) festive | hectic |
| (i) dispute | through |
| (j) domestic | holiday |

PHRASE MATCH: Match these words / phrases. Check your answers in the article.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) one of | a century |
| (b) charter | via Hong Kong |
| (c) more than half | period |
| (d) fly | the quietest air routes |
| (e) banned for | flights |
| (f) go | security reasons |
| (g) festive | dispute |
| (h) enter Hong Kong | directly |
| (i) avoid a political | flights |
| (j) domestic | airspace |

GAP-FILL:

China-Taiwan air 'mini-link' (Sun 16 Jan)

bNE: One of the _____ air routes in the world will soon get a little busy as 24 charter flights will _____ between Taiwan and China later this month. This 'mini-link' will be the first time in more than half a _____ that passengers can fly directly from Taiwan to mainland China. Taipei banned flights across the Taiwan Strait in 1949 for security reasons – they feared being attacked by their _____ neighbour. The normal route since then is to go _____ Hong Kong or Macau. However, there are limitations on these flights, which are for the Chinese New Year period only, and are just for Taiwanese businessmen and their families to _____ to Taiwan for the festive period. The twelve Chinese and Taiwanese carriers must _____ Hong Kong airspace to avoid a political dispute about whether they would be called international or _____ flights.

*via
century
domestic
quietest
enter
return
giant
operate*

DISCUSSION:

- (a) What do you think of this ‘mini-link’?
- (b) Do you think China and Taiwan can resolve their problems?
- (c) Should Taiwan be allowed a seat in the United Nations (it is not currently represented)?
- (d) Should countries have diplomatic relations (i.e. embassies) with Taiwan?
- (e) Is Taiwan a separate country or part of China?
- (f) Shouldn’t the ‘mini-links’ also be for non-Taiwanese?
- (g) Are flights between Taiwan and china domestic or international? Is there an alternative name that can be used to make things easier
- (h) What do you think about China?
- (i) What do you think about Taiwan?
- (j) What will be the future of Taiwan?
- (k) Teacher’s / Students’ additional questions

INTERNET / WEB LINKS:

A Chinese view on reunification:

<http://chineseculture.about.com/library/china/whitepaper/blstaiwan.htm>

A Taiwanese view on Taiwan’s legal status:

<http://www.taiwannation.com.tw/english2.htm>

The China Post (Taiwanese newspaper):

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/>

The China Daily (Chinese web site):

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/home/news.html>

‘Taiwan Embassy’ controversy

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/1842387.stm>

China Airlines

<http://www.china-airlines.com/en/index.htm>

FULL TEXT

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bNE: One of the **quietest** air routes in the world will soon get a little busy as 24 charter flights will **operate** between Taiwan and China later this month. This ‘mini-link’ will be the first time in more than half a **century** that passengers can fly directly from Taiwan to mainland China. Taipei banned flights across the Taiwan Strait in 1949 for security reasons – they feared being attacked by their **giant** neighbour. The normal route since then is to go **via** Hong Kong or Macau. However, there are limitations on these flights, which are for the Chinese New Year period only, and are just for Taiwanese businessmen and their families to **return** to Taiwan for the festive period. The twelve Chinese and Taiwanese carriers must **enter** Hong Kong airspace to avoid a political dispute about whether they would be called international or **domestic** flights.