

## Aeroflot flies to Hongkong beginning August

▷ Cathay not keen to serve Moscow

AEROFLOT, the flag carrier of the former Soviet Union, will begin weekly direct flights between Moscow and Hongkong on 15 August.

Agreement for Aeroflot to fly to Hongkong was hammered out over the past few months in air-service agreement talks between the Government and Moscow.

Aeroflot's ticketing agents in Hongkong, Global Union Express, said the airline would be using its new fleet of Airbus A310-300 jets on the route.

Air service agreements are usually reciprocal, and a spokesman for Cathay Pacific said he presumed

the territory's airline could fly to Moscow if it wanted to. However, public relations chief David Bell said Cathay had no plans for such a service at the moment. He said he did not believe the market warranted interest at the moment.

But he said Cathay would be taking a keen interest in Aeroflot's operations. "It's obviously something we'll be looking at in the future."

He said the problem of visas for travellers from both ends of the route would dampen demand.

Another problem is that Russia has no diplomatic representative here, and that Beijing is probably the closest place to obtain a visa for Moscow.

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