

**Wednesday, December 20, 2006**

Our itinerary said the flight would be direct to Taipei, Taiwan. Instead, we flew to Anchorage, Alaska where our plane landed and sat on the runway for two hours. During this time all the passengers had to stay on board, while the crew changed and the plane got refueled. The plane did not even dock at the terminal. Instead, the back and front doors of the plane opened and trucks rolled up with staircases for crewmembers to get of the plane. Surprisingly, it was the middle of the night, and the temperature outside was about 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Even more surprising was that even with the airplane doors open, none of us passengers could feel a temperature difference. Specifically, the airplane was pumping in heated air to the cabin so fast that it was blowing out thru the open doors, thereby keeping the cold air out, and the cabin temperature constant. Various passengers, including Newton, that were wearing shorts, could stand right by the open doors and feel just fine. After two hours, we took off from Anchorage and flew to Taipei. This part of the flight took about 10 hours.

**Figure 1: A China Airlines jumbo jet as seen from inside the gate in Taipei**

