

MACAU RECEIVES A BILL FROM THE P.L.A.

The relatively new Government of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) has received a bill from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) for services rendered and equipment used, during the handover of the former Portuguese enclave to the PRC Government.

The bill was for a staggering 20 million renminbei.

This information has come to TARGET from a highly placed source (TARGET has agreed not to publish his name due to the fact that he could be prosecuted for leaking PRC State secrets, or, worse yet, branded as a political dissident if the PRC Government should come to know his name).

According to our source, it took the PLA infantrymen, entering Macau, more than 3 months to learn how to salute and to wave while standing on flat beds of the army lorries, which drove down the main streets of the MSAR at 5 kilometres per hour.

(The speed of 5 kilometres per hour was considered crucial because, TARGET has been told, the PLA infantrymen are not accustomed to riding in vehicles, in any event, so that a higher speed was likely to confuse them, thus causing them to forget their orders)

The reason that it took that long for the PLA infantrymen to learn how to salute and to wave, according to the PLA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), was that it was determined, by Prime Minister Zhu Rong Ji, that the outer lines of each bank of 8 PLA infantrymen, standing in the lorries, should wave from left to right, rather than from right to left (waving left to right is considered SOP, under normal conditions).

The centre 8 PLA infantrymen had to salute in the opposite direction to the wavers on the port side of the lorries – from right to left – while the other bank of 8 PLA infantrymen, on the starboard side of the lorries, those with their backs to the saluting PLA infantrymen and the outer bank of 8 PLA infantrymen on the port side of the lorries, had to wave their white-gloved hands in cadence with their opposite numbers, which they could not see, of course.

In order to make certain that the cadence was maintained, there was one centre-saluting, PLA infantryman, who was designated, *'the counter'*.

His job was to count and to call out in dulcet and rhythmic tones: *'Right Wave! (Yau-Lah, Lah-Lah). Centre Salute! (Djung Lah-Lah, Lah-Lah) Left Wave! (Lah-Lah, Djo-Lah)'*.

All the PLA infantrymen were told that they had to wear white gloves and that they all had to have a bath before donning their new uniforms and white gloves.

This presented more than a little bit of a problem because PLA infantrymen, normally, write their orders on the back of their hands (so that they will not forget them) and, of course, the white gloves prevented the PLA infantrymen from making use of their fingers, many of which are used to pick their noses, etc.

This departure from the norm was extremely disconcerting for the PLA infantrymen and their officers.

This confused many of them, necessitating the counters to remind them constantly to wave, either from left to right or right to left, while the centre rows had to be reminded to salute from left to right, holding their right hands at a 30-degree slant to their right eyes: The official PLA closed-hand salute.

During parts of the parade, some of the PLA infantrymen were seen to have been waving in the wrong direction, having to be reminded by the counters so frequently that some of the counters became hoarse before the end of the 2-hour parade.

Another major problem, TARGET has been told, was that all the PLA infantrymen were ordered that they must not smile, but their faces had to be clean and that not one of them was permitted to sweat.

For PLA infantrymen, the order not to smile was considered to be a very unfair and an onerous task since the pride of the PLA lies in the fact that they strike terror in their enemies by the fierce frown and high-pitched yelps, which rise from their throats as they enter a battle.

It sounds like this: (Low pitch) Chin-djun! Chin-djun! Chin-djun!
(Very high pitch) Chin-djun! Chin-djun! Chin-djun!
(Very, very high pitch) Chin-djun! Chin-djun! Chin-djun!

Further, PLA infantrymen's faces are never, normally, clean and they are always sweating. This is considered an indication of commitment to their duty.

The result of the successful parade and the carrying out of the orders of Prime Minister Zhu Rong Ji was that PLA doctors had to work throughout the night of December 20.

It seems that many of the PLA infantrymen complained of arthritis in their right shoulders and elbows.

The robotic movements of the PLA infantrymen were difficult to be taught, but now it appears that there is a domino effect in that many of the paraders are continuing to wave, some from left to right and some from right to left, and it is becoming a habit for about 30 percent of them.

What has to be determined, and scientific studies are, now, being carried out at Beijing University into this phenomenon, is that the robot PLA infantrymen may have, unwittingly, mutated some of their genes.

The next generation of PLA infantrymen, Chinese scientists are wondering, could be chronic wavers, thereby rendering them useless as PLA infantrymen.

As Major General Baak Sau Dong told TARGET: *'We can't have our troops, going into battle, waving their arms, for Heaven's sake! What will the enemy think? That we are surrendering?'*

'While it is true that China has yet to win one major battle, we still don't have to give up before the first shot is fired.'

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