

THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN
(for the Lord (the PRC Government) will not hold him guiltless ...)

There can be no question about it: The Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) is more than likely to declare war on Taiwan if that territory does not come to the PRC Reunification Party.

Mr Zhu Rong Ji, the Premier of the Government of the PRC, made this only too clear on Wednesday when he uttered these words: *'Whoever pursues Taiwan independence will not end up well. The cause for such a person would not be a popular cause ...'*

This is no veiled threat because Premier Zhu Rong Ji, also, stated: *'We must be crystal clear that no matter who comes into power in Taiwan, Taiwan will never be allowed to be independent in whatever form ...'*

Generals and admirals in the service of the United States of America have commented publicly, perhaps imprudently, that the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the army of the PRC, does not have the wherewithal to launch a successful armed attack across the Taiwan Strait.

This is reckless thinking because, if the PLA determines that it has to take Taiwan by force, it is likely that it would give it one Hell of a good try.

In the process, the Taiwan Strait would run red with blood, no doubt.

Whether or not the US comes to the aid of Taiwan with its 7th Fleet, or whatever -- there is a treaty in existence between the US and Taiwan, which states that the US would come to the aid of Taiwan in the event of an attack by the PRC -- it is unlikely to mean very much because it is highly improbable that the US Government would want to wage a world war against the 3 million-plus-manned military forces of the PLA.

The Government of the PRC knows full well that Taiwan only has about 400,000 soldiers and airmen in the Taiwan military machine, and even though the Taiwan Government has maintained a 2-year conscription policy, it still could not match the military might of the PRC.

By last count, the PLA had more than 3 million people under arms, that is in active service as opposed to having only reserves, and the PRC Government maintains a 3-year conscription policy for the PLA and the marines, and a 4-year conscription policy for the air force.

The PRC Government has, consistently, spent about 13 percent of its national budget on defence.

It must, today, have one of the most formidable military machines in Asia, and may well have one of the most powerful armies in the world, considering that the US only has about 1.50 million men under arms.

Certainly, the Taiwan military might would be a mosquito bite for the PLA.

It is illogical to think that the PRC Government would want to resort to force in respect of Taiwan, but, if pushed far enough, it would not hesitate to unleash the Chinese dogs of war on Taiwan.

Of that, there should be no question.

One has to assume this since, if the head of the PRC Government gives his word, and a man's word in Asia is, still his bond, face, being most important in Chinese thinking, it has to be a promise that he will keep.

If Premier Zhu Rong Ji were seen to be backing off from his threat to use force to cause Taiwan to be reunified with the motherland, after issuing his latest ultimatum to the voters of Taiwan with regard to their choice for a new President, then it would be seen as a disgrace for the people of the PRC as well as for the Government of the day.

And that is totally unacceptable for a politician of the stature of Premier Zhu Rong Ji.

Talk Is Cheap

There are 3 parties, vying for the post of President of Taiwan: Vice President, Mr Lien Chan, representing the Kuomintang (the Nationalist Party), the political party of the late Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek; Mr Chen Shui Ban, representing the Democratic Progressive Party; and, the independent candidate, Mr James Soong.

It is Mr Chen Shui Ban at whom Premier Zhu Rong Ji is aiming his arrows, particularly, because the Democratic Progressive Party has, always, advocated that Taiwan should be an independent state, separate from the PRC.

When the Democratic Progressive Party was founded in 1986, one of the planks that formed its platform for political reform was that Taiwan should seek the status of an independent state.

As such, if the Taiwan electorate voted in Mr Chen Shui Ban as the new President, it would be considered unacceptable to the people of the PRC, Premier Zhu Rong Ji has stated.

'If the Taiwan question should be allowed to drag on indefinitely, how can it be possible that we will not use force? The proposition has been put forward long ago,' Premier Zhu Rong Ji uttered, last Wednesday, as the closing of The National People's Congress in Beijing, holding a special Press Conference to take the opportunity to issue his threats to Taiwan.

But it is said that talk is cheap in politics, nowhere more apparent is this idiom than in Taiwan where delegates are famous for starting fights in the assembly halls of government.

If Mr Chen Shui Ban were to be lucky enough to be elected as the new President, the question would be: Would he stick to his guns insofar as his party's political platform is one of independence for his Taiwan?

Mr Chen must know that Taiwan could not stand up to the military might of the PLA; and, so he must find an acceptable political solution to the problem, confronting Taiwan and the PRC Government.

Premier Zhu Rong Ji has left the door ajar for Taiwan, by stating that *'there must be a shift from threat to dialogue across the Pacific Ocean'* -- a repeat of a recent comment, made by US President Bill Clinton.

Another aspect, which appears to have been overlooked during the PRC's sabre-rattling over Taiwan, is that the PRC Government is trying to apply oblique force on the electorate of Taiwan in order to get the electorate to vote as the PRC Government sees fit.

The concept, of a free electoral system, would never suffer such a government determination, to interfere in the freedom of choice of the electorate, since it would be considered completely acceptable and untenable.

But the way that the PRC Government determines the methods to be employed in a free election is that eligible voters must be guided to vote for the people who, in the opinion of the Government of the day, would be best for the country.

In short, the Government must protect the people from themselves: The Government knows best.

While this may not be acceptable to the Western World, especially in countries, such as the US and England, one has to understand that the PRC is just coming to grips with and developing its democratic ideas after more than 5,000 years of enjoying totalitarian governments.

To a great extent, democracy in the PRC is still in its neophyte stages, as is the concept of a market economy, the road to which is now paved with success.

When there is a vote in the National People's Congress, the outcome is known before the vote is taken -- because the powers that be have ordained it so.

When Mr Tung Chee Hwa was '*elected*' as the Chief Executive of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the outcome of the '*voting*' was known, well in advance.

The 3 candidates for the post of first HKSAR Chief Executive just went through the motions of a free election: They knew, only too well, the Mr Lu Ping, with the approval of Beijing, had chosen Mr Tung Chee Hwa to be the first Chief Executive of the 6.50 million inhabitants of Hongkong, back in 1997.

As long as the Chinese Communist Party holds sway in the PRC, it is unlikely that there will ever be free elections in that country.

Taiwan, on the other hand, has gone the American way -- which must be considered abhorrent to most of the members of the National People's Congress.

Premier Zhu Rong Ji will only talk to the Taiwan converted: '*Whoever stands for one China will get our support; and, we will have talks with him.*'

It would appear to be foolhardy not to take that which Premier Zhu Rong Ji has uttered very seriously because he must have had the approval of the PLA -- which is one of the '*legs*' of the PRC Government -- prior to his voicing his threats, publicly and in a manner which would be broadcast all over the world.

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