

<b>OBSERVATION</b>
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**LAW IS RULE;  
BUT BUSINESS IS STILL BUSINESS**

The spirit of man, when determined to be loosened from the chains of political and societal slavery, is indomitable, as the world saw just one week ago in Yugoslavia.

It is just a matter of time before the 1.30-billion human population of the People's Republic of China (PRC), like their former counterparts in what used to be known as East Germany and, more recently, their counterparts in Yugoslavia, rise up in order to demand their rights.

The rights, imbued in every thinking man and woman, born on this earth, are rights that no social order may steal, corrupt or alter, in any material way.

History has proved that man, eventually, rises against the tyrannical forces that subject him to slavery.

Freedom! When will that flower blossom in the PRC?

But, before the PRC Government will even consider the matter of setting its peoples free, to run their own country, to have universal suffrage, to roam the land and to settle in any part of that beautiful country without the requirements of special documentation, issued by the Government of the day, the people must stand up to demand their rights.

Freedom! When will that flower blossom in the PRC?

The above 8 paragraphs are, in the eyes of the PRC Government, today, subversive and/or of cultish origins and, as such, are banned by PRC legislation.

Just last week, the PRC Government laid down the laws, regarding the Internet and Internet companies and their contents, as well as making it clear as to how much foreign control may be exercised over them.

Briefly, the PRC Government has stated that direct foreign investment in Internet and Internet-related companies in the PRC may be banned under certain circumstances; all foreign companies, directly or indirectly, involved with Internet and/or Internet-related companies, must abide by the laws of the land and shall be held responsible for all Internet content, carried on Internet websites in which they have a direct or indirect interest; Internet content, that is deemed by the PRC Government to be subversive, pornographic and/or cultish, is banned; Internet companies must keep records of all information on their sites for a period of not less than 60 days; Internet companies must keep records of all users for a period of not less 60 days; and, all records of usage and content must be handed to PRC Government Authorities on demand.

Failure to do any of the above may result in a fine of about \$HK1 million, incarceration, and/or closure of the Internet company and website.

Much of TARGET's interpretation of the new PRC edict is conjecture and/or deduction, but it is based on TARGET's intimate knowledge of the way, in which the PRC Government works and thinks.

**Quo Vadis ?**

One must consider, first, what is a law in the PRC.

Laws in the PRC are the rules, made from time to time, by those who hold the reigns of Government.

The PRC Government, as TARGET has maintained on many occasions, believes in law by rule, not rule by law.

Thus far, there have been few challenges made to this formula for running the country.

Secondly, one must consider that the PRC Government's definitions of such terms as, '*subversion*', '*pornography*' and '*cults*', are wide open to those, who stand in the corridors of power, that power, being obtained in unopposed elections in the National People's Congress, thus affording these bureaucrats the highest levels of power in the PRC Government.

And they jealously hold on to these august positions of power -- for life.

TARGET will not burden its readers with international definitions of these 3 terms -- because it does not matter a jot: The PRC Government will define the terms as it sees fit, when it sees fit.

And it shall inform its Judiciary about the definitions for speedy disposition of matters, relating to control of power.

It is important to realise that the PRC Government believes in deterrent forms of sentencing for capital crimes: Robbery; rape; murder, grand theft; treason; corruption; white-collar crime; and, etc.

The PRC Government, in order to control its 1.30 billion human population, likes to make a spectacle of the public executions of criminals in order to frighten the pants off those who may be like-minded, or may court freedom for the sake of it, alone.

It is not uncommon for members of the Chinese population -- if they have a taste for blood -- to watch public executions in Beijing, the Capital City of the PRC, or Guangzhou, the most important city in the south of the PRC.

Like the peasants, during the French Revolution, which lasted one decade, from 1789 to 1799, peasants who would gather in public places in Paris, especially, to watch the French nobility kiss the blade of the guillotine as it decapitated them, they will go to see the modern-day version of Roman Circus of horrors.

So, it is in the PRC, today: The peasants enjoy the spectacle of seeing criminals killed -- and the criminals' parents and/or relatives, having to pay for the cost of the bullet that destroyed their lives.

Throughout the ages, death has had an abounding fascination to all of mankind -- shamefully.

Throughout the ages, man has seen fit to rise against his oppressor when he can tolerate his lot no longer.

### **Who Will Fardels Bear ?**

The new laws (rules), relating to the Internet in the PRC, are unlikely to deter foreign investment in entities, engaged in such enterprise, nevertheless, no matter where the Internet companies are, legally, established and domiciled, because the business of business is business.

And business means more money for everybody who can control the business.

For people, such as Mr Li Ka Shing and his ilk, Mr Li Ka Shing is the largest, single investor in Internet companies, operating in the PRC, he is likely to be immune from any form of PRC Government interference or prosecution.

Because his business is good business for the PRC Government.

Money is money: Profit talks; and, bullshit walks.

In any event, it is highly unlikely that any Internet company, even one that is remotely involved with such people as Mr Li Ka Shing, would ever consider doing anything which may be perceived as being contrary to laws (rules) of the PRC (no matter what the laws (rules) are likely to be at any time).

US companies, soon after the Tiananmen Square Massacre of June 4, 1989, were among the first companies to woo the PRC Government in order to be allowed to come back to the Middle Kingdom -- so that they could earn oodles and oodles of dollars from their ventures.

(These same companies, by the way, were among the first to leave the PRC in late May 1989 when it became apparent that the former Ultimate Leader of the PRC, Mr Deng Xiao Ping, would call out the tanks to crush the students, who had congregated in Tiananmen Square, those students who were armed with books, pencils and terrible thoughts of freedom.)

The PRC Government, by promulgating its new Internet laws, is showing the world, yet again, that its entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO), later this year, will not alter its attitude towards international trade and the way in which it controls its vast population.

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