



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

There is that other bunch of people, protesting Grandpa's Article 23 revision, in case you have not heard. Grandpa struggled long and hard over revisions to this important piece of legislation because it is so important in order to protect Hongkong from evil influences. As I see it, I must protect Hongkong from some of its resident population, those Chinese and those not Chinese. Grandpa's thinking is that there should be a proper balance – in favour of the Motherland, of course. All that we want to do is to protect Hongkong from troublemakers by warning them that, should they cause us (Grandpa's Government) trouble, we have the legislation to fight back – and fight back hard, too. Any suggestion of another Tiananmen Square Incident, as happened in June 1989, and look out, here come the tanks! That will hobble those evil people. Hongkong must never sink to the level of the Fiji Islands where one man has the ability to kidnap the leader of the Government and, then, after being captured, following a lengthy siege of the Parliament Building in the Capital City of Suva, at his trial, he only gets a small prison sentence. If somebody tried to kidnap Grandpa, I would send in the People's Liberation Army (I am on very good terms with the Commandant, here) with guns at the ready. No revolt in these 416 square miles, I'll tell you. I won't have it! What is very interesting about these Article 23 revolutionaries is that some of them have become very wealthy due to the commercial infrastructure that is in place in Hongkong, making it possible for them to keep their wealth. I was one of the people that helped put that commercial infrastructure in place, you know. I know all about business and business people, having been one myself, my dear. And, now, these same people want to chew on the hand that has fed them? Are they totally mad? Sedition, treason, subversion and any and all crimes against China and Hongkong, in reverse order, naturally, are contrary to the law. That is that! Do you think that the late Joseph Stalin would have done nothing and permitted such nonsense? Not on your Nelly! Anybody, wanting to challenge me and Grandpa can expect to go to prison for a very long time, if something more drastic is not called for, that is – hobbling? The trouble-making people of Hongkong are fortunate that this is not England, back in the seventeenth Century, because, in that country, it was 'Off with his head! à la lanterne!' as the Queen of Hearts would have yelled out in Lewis Carroll's book, 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'. Grandpa has given instructions to locate the ringleaders of the Article 23 revolt and, when we get hold of them, you will see swift and righteous retribution. If you think that the former Stalinist Government of The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was rough, watch out for the Hongkong frog's ire!

On a completely different subject, I read an announcement from Friedmann Pacific Greater China Investments Ltd, a company that is listed on The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd (Main Board, Code: 1226). It read as follows:

ANNOUNCEMENT

The board of directors (the "Board") of Friedmann Pacific Greater China Investments Ltd (the "Company") is pleased to announce that Mr. Liu

Chen-chun ("Mr. Liu") will resign as chairman of the Company with effect from 29 January 2003 and remain as executive director of the Company.

By order of the Board
Friedmann Pacific Greater China Investments Ltd
Yuen Man Yiu
Executive Director

Hong Kong, 5 February 2003

You will note that the date, in the bottom left-hand corner, was February 5, 2003, which was two days after the Chinese New Year holidays, while, in the text of the announcement, it is clearly stated that the date of the resignation of the former Chairman was one day before the Chinese New Year holidays. Also, you will note that the Board of Directors of this company was 'pleased to announce' that the former Chairman had left his august position. 'My God!' I thought to myself on reading this announcement. 'Does this mean that Hongkong has arrived? Does it mean that I can lose my job as Chief Lady of Hongkong, retroactively, and that my people "will be pleased to announce" my departure from the job?' I pondered these questions, long and hard. And, eventually, came to the conclusion that it must mean that (a) the Directors of this company do not speak or understand the English language, very well, (b) the advertisement was a kind of template, which had been used as a format advertisement, and, lastly, (c) the former Chairman must have been hated by his staff. Oh! My Dear Grandchild, what a sorry state of affairs for my Hongkong! That people love me and show their adoration is accepted, and its goes with my job, but for my people to indicate, definitively, that they hate me (which, I am happy to say is not the case) is reprehensible and should never be permitted. One may not understand or appreciate all that I do for Hongkong and its people, and one may not love me for all that I do, but one should respect me for all that I attempt to do for Hongkong and its people. The same, of course, is true of Grandpa, and I shall not allow anybody to sack him in the way that Mr Liu Chen Chun was, clearly, thrown out of his company. People can be so cruel, don't you think?

That is all for today's letter.

I love you, as always,

Chief Lady of Hongkong

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