

**PRIVATE MEETING OR PRIVATE TIRADE ?
IS THE WRITING ON THE WALL FOR MR TUNG CHEE HWA ?**

Mr Tung Chee Hwa, the Chief Executive of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), is known to have been '*examined*' by the outgoing President of the PRC, Mr Jiang Ze Min, in what has been described to TARGET as a '*one-on-one*' meeting.

The meeting was thought to have been held on Monday, March 10, in Beijing, the PRC, following the sitting of the National People's Congress (NPC).

It is highly irregular for a President of the PRC, or anybody else of such a high rank in that Government, to have a one-on-one meeting with a person of the relatively low rank of Mr Tung Chee Hwa because, usually, such dignitaries demand witnesses to be present in order that that which is discussed (or not discussed) may be recorded for posterity, leaving the President in the right, no matter who may succeed him in the fullness of time.

What was discussed at that historic meeting has yet to be released, officially, by The Propaganda Ministry of the PRC, and the content of the meeting may never be released to the public, in full, – which is the normal practice for the Government of the PRC – but the affairs of the HKSAR and its ever-wilting economy had to be high on the list of the subjects discussed, logic would suggest.

In fact, President Jiang Ze Min has not confirmed that he did, indeed, meet Mr Tung Chee Hwa in Beijing on March 10, and/or the conditions of the meeting, that is to say, whether or not Mr Tung Chee Hwa was summoned ... or he merely dropped in for a cup of tea at the President's office.

Whatever were the circumstances of the examination/tête-à-tête/what-have-you, it seems a certainty, now, that the meeting did take place, clandestine though it definitely must have been.

That Mr Tung Chee Hwa should attend the Annual Sitting of the NPC is a given because he was appointed by the NPC, in the first instance, and he must report the progress of the affairs of the 416 square miles that constitute the HKSAR ... or the lack of any progress, whatever the situation may be.

Mr Jiang Ze Min has, in the past, been a type of godfather to Mr Tung Chee Hwa, protecting him whenever he was able so to do, but President Ziang Ze Min is on the way out; he is about to be replaced by Mr Hu Jin Tao.

Whenever there is a change of senior Government positions in the PRC, inevitably, the incoming senior officials tend to clean house and to look to their predecessors for reasons that things were, allegedly, not done, correctly, or completely, during the previous regimes.

As the Germans would put it: A new broom sweeps clean.

Mr Tung Chee Hwa is known to have fallen from grace in the eyes of many of the PRC's senior cadre – perhaps, Mr Jiang Ze Min, also – because the great Hongkong experiment – One-Country, Two-Systems, first introduced by the late Paramount Leader of the PRC, Mr Deng Xiao Peng – does not appear to have been a very great economic success.

In fact, it would be fair to state that, under the leadership of Mr Tung Chee Hwa, the HKSAR has suffered its largest economic retreat of the previous 40 years.

The latest piece of information in respect of Mr Tung Chee Hwa's 'examination', during a private meeting with Mr Jiang Ze Min, appears to confirm **TARGET**'s exclusive report, contained in this medium's edition of Wednesday, February 19, 2003. (Please see [TARGET Intelligence Report, Volume V, Number 33](#))

In that report, **TARGET** suggested that the pressures of office were having a very telling effect on the HKSAR Chief Executive, who was thought to be about to take, what is known in the parlance of politicians as, an 'extended holiday'.

The PRC Government is known to have singled out 2 potential candidates to replace Mr Tung Chee Hwa, **TARGET** reported in that exclusive issue.

They are Mr Henry Tang Ying Yen, a 50-year-old Minister of the Inner Cabinet of Mr Tung Chee Hwa, who holds the post of Minister for Commerce, Industry and Technology, and Dr Arthur Li Kwok Cheung, Minister and Secretary of Education and Manpower.

However, there may, now, have to be some revisions in respect of prospective candidates to replace Mr Tung Chee Hwa, according to **TARGET**'s sources.

This is because certain members of Mr Tung Chee Hwa's Inner Cabinet will have to be scrutinised much more carefully, following confirmation of the seemingly strange affairs of Mr Antony Leung Kam Chung, Financial Secretary of the HKSAR and one of the highest officials of the Inner Cabinet of Mr Tung Chee Hwa.

In terms of the HKSAR pecking order, Mr Antony Leung stands within the top 5 officials of Government.

Mr Antony Leung has, recently, admitted that he purchased a luxury motor car – just prior to him, introducing an increased First Registration Tax on all motor cars, imported into the HKSAR.

It has been confirmed that he saved about \$HK140,000 by beating the deadline of the new First Registration Tax.

Last Monday, Mr Antony Leung told the Legislative Council that his purchase of the luxury motor car was 'an unintentional mistake'.

He said:

'I deliberately separated my public and family affairs so that the two related matters were entirely disconnected in my mind ... From the bottom of my heart, I really never had any intention to avoid paying tax ... I admit (that) I was negligent. But I don't think there can be any reason as to my integrity or should there be any doubt on the part of my credibility ...'.

However, some of the Legislative Councillors were unmoved by the entreaties of the Financial Secretary and told him, in no uncertain terms, to 'get lost'.

Mr Tung Chee Hwa, in his inimitable style, put out a 2-page reprimand in an attempt to end the scandal and defuse the political time bomb.

Mr Antony Leung, many people suggest, should resign from his high office because, even though he may or may not have committed any crime, his actions, in the words of one observer: 'Don't smell right.'

The actions of Mr Antony Leung, of course, reflect, badly, on the man who appointed him: The HKSAR Chief Executive, Mr Tung Chee Hwa.

Mr Tung Chee Hwa claims to be a firm believer of Confucianism, which states, inter alia, that if one can keep the family in good order, then, one can keep the country in good order, also. Then, one can rule the world.

Mr Tung Chee Hwa has proved, during his 5-year stay in office as Chief Executive of the HKSAR that he cannot even keep the dirt away from the 'family'.

Beijing, it is now apparent, has noted his political 'expertise'.

Senior officials of government, any government, that is, are judged, not only on their ability, but on the judgment that they demonstrate by the appointments of individuals to positions of high office in order to render advice to the senior officials who appointed them when needs be.

In the case of US President George W. Bush, it would be fair to state that the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, promoted him in the eyes of the world and of the US electorate since his actions were such that they were endorsed by the majority of the population of the country.

But it was the advice of people, such as The Vice President, Mr Richard B. Cheney, The Secretary of State, Mr Colin Luther Powell, The Secretary of Defence, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, The Attorney General, Mr John Ashcroft, etc, that caused people to have more faith in their President because, up until he donned the purple of office, he had not been successful in very much that he undertook.

In the case of Mr Tung Chee Hwa, his record speaks for itself.

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