



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

I have come to the decision that the US Government's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is the greatest investigation agency in the world. It is, also, the greatest executioner in the world. Just look at the intelligence-gathering job that the CIA is doing in respect of al- Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. No member of al-Qaeda can be certain that his telephone conversations, or any other mode of communication, are not being monitored by the CIA. Further, no crook or terrorist can ever be certain that some laser beam will not streak out of the Heavens and slice a hole, right through his head. Just like a comic book story. Yes, fantasy has become fact; science fiction has become simple science. I am certain that the CIA has a dossier on me: It would be surprising if it had not a great deal of knowledge about me and Grandpa. Of course, I am a little concerned that the CIA has been photographing me in the company of Grandpa as we go to international conferences because, while I look more and more beautiful as the years fly by, Grandpa looks more and more like a frog: Beauty and the Beast would not be an incorrect way to describe us, I suppose. That is not to say that I do not treasure my little fat Beast, it is only that I hope that the CIA field operatives (a) recognise which is which/who is who and (b) that they photograph my best side in capturing my image. I am hoping that all photographs of me are of my left side, only three-quarter shots, and that the shots are not taken before noon (by that time, I shall have had a chance to shake out all the wrinkles). As for my little frog-like Beast, the love of my life, it is my wish that the CIA does not shoot his likeness (with a camera, I mean) from an aspect, which emphasises his double chin and his eye pouches. I can keep him off the sweets, but it does not seem to help to reduce his ever-dropping flesh below his chin and below his eyes – which I call his chin bags and his eye bags. I have warned him never to colour his hair even though he was given a bottle of that jet-black 'hair conditioner' from his friends in Beijing. I have insisted that he should, always, be au naturel – just as I am. Men should show their age a little – so that their wives may look that much younger when photographs are taken, depicting the couple. My Shanghainese hairdresser said that a man should, always, have an au naturel hairstyle. Anyway, it makes him stand out when compared with the top-drawer leaders of China, all of whom dye their hair black in order to make them appear younger on camera. It is a wonder, actually, that not one of their numbers has, yet, determined to become a blonde. They, all, seem to prefer to be brunettes, rather than redheads or blondes. I mean to say, it would be nice to see Mr Jiang Ze Min as a redhead, don't you think?

Still on the subject of the CIA, did you see the job that it did on North Korea? Can you believe that a satellite, right up there in the mesosphere, or even higher, can take a photograph, identifying a pin on the earth's surface? Something, uh? The CIA was able to identify what the North Korean Government was doing at its nuclear site at Yongbyon by analysing satellite imagery. Fantastic! The reaction of the Government of North Korea was, clearly, anger at being found out. However, I now understand the reason that this bankrupt Communistic country wants to threaten war with the US. According to our intelligence-gathering division of the Hongkong Government, known as the HKCIA – The Hongkong Credit Information Agency – North Korea would love to be able to wage total war on the US – in order to lose. Yes, that is correct, my Dear little grandchild: It wants to lose the war. Then, the US Government, after winning the war, in a day or so, would be left with the job of rebuilding the

country. Winning a total war against North Korea is different from winning a total war against Iraq because, in the case of the former, the US Government would have to rebuild the country from scratch, having to scratch round for cash from the poverty stricken countryside, while, in the case of the latter, Iraq has billions of barrels of oil, all ready to be shipped round the world. North Korea is, truly, the ant, trying to rape the elephant, knowing full well that it is a physical impossibility. I think that I told you that story of the Israeli Parliamentarian who, during a debate in the Knesset (that's the Israeli Parliament) over the country's lack of available cash resources, left in the coffers, raised the suggestion that Israel might like to wage war on the US – in order to lose. Then, this Parliamentarian explained, the US would have to inject billions of shekels into the Israeli economy. His plan was shot down when an elderly fundamentalist labavicher asked the question: 'Unt Mr Moiche of theLikuds, vat vill happen if ve win das var?'

Well, I have to go, my little dear.

As ever, I love you,

Chief Lady of Hongkong

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