



## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*Have you noticed that US President George W. Bush knows of only one kind of speech, assuming that he writes his own material, that is. They go like this:*

*'My fellow Americans (or words to that effect), Iraq must be stopped; Iraq will be stopped; Iraq will be vanquished; we shall prevail ...'*

*'I talked to the Prime Minister of England, yesterday, he told me that we are friends; we are friends; we shall always be friends; thank you, friend ...'*

*'We have the best fighting force the world has ever seen; we have the bravest fighting men the world has ever seen; we have the best technology that has ever been invented by Americans; we shall prevail in the face of evil ...'.*

*The repetition of the same or similar word, or words, is the only type of speech-writing that this man, who is the most powerful man in the world, today, knows. I do not question that some, or many, of the things that he says are correct, but I would suggest to you that his speeches leave a lot to be desired. When US Defense Secretary, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, speaks, there is, always, a fluidity in the syntactical development of that which he states; and there is little to no duplication of words or ideas. In fact, I think that he would be a better President than Mr George W. Bush. Which brings me to the next point: There is a flaw in the concept of democracy. I see that the electorate does not always vote in the best man (or woman) for the job, but only the most popular at the time of the election. Further, as in the case of the waiting and waiting and waiting (see, now, even I am doing it) for the war to start between the US, helped by the United Kingdom, and Iraq, everybody in the UN had a different opinion and they were arguing over this, then, that. Just like a couple of Arabs, trying to find a solution to a single problem: The duo, invariably, will come up with three opinions – never a solution and never a consensus. In a company, such as Grandpa's, decisions are made on the spot: And that is that. History has proved that Grandpa was not always correct in his determinations, but, look at him, now. It is fair to say that, with my help, he has become the most powerful man in Hongkong. In fact, he is much more powerful than any previous leader of these 416 square miles. And I, my Dear Grandchild, as Chief Lady of Hongkong, are much more powerful than any of the pale-faced wives of English Governors of the past. Yes, there is something to be said for dictatorship, provided, of course, that there is a lady in the background, guiding the dictator. When you look at China and its amazing economic power, in just a short space of fifty-odd years, one can see what a paternal dictator can do for a country. I told Grandpa that he is the father of all of the Chinese residents of Hongkong. As for the foreigners, let them find their own father. The United Nations delegates were unable to reach a consensus in respect of the Iraqi situation because there were too many countries with their own mandates to consider. The French, for instance, have to consider the amount of brandy that Iraq consumes in one year, while the Russians must consider that, without oil contracts, that country could go bust. As for Germany, well, they have a lot of frankfurters to sell to the Arabs, don't they? But look at the Korean War of 1950 to 1953 when the United*

*Nations determined to back South Korea in its fight with the North, there was no question of China not helping North Korean dictator, Mr Kim Il Sung. In went the (Chinese) Volunteers and, because of these brave soldiers, there is, still, today, a North Korea, complete with nuclear armaments. US President George W. Bush calls North Korea part of the axis of evil. There is nothing evil about North Korea or its weapons of mass destruction. To take a page out of the book of President George W. Bush: Weapons don't kill people, people do. North Korea is not killing anybody ... yet. But, if it appears to North Korea's son of the great leader, Mr Kim Jong Il, that the US is preparing to strike at Pyongyang, look out, here come the inter-ballistic missiles to flatten Tokyo or anywhere else there is an American presence. See, in a dictatorship, things move much quicker, don't they?*

*Talking about making a decision, I have informed Grandpa that I want abalone for dinner tonight and that he has to find the best-smoked abalone that money can buy. See, the power behind the throne is, always, a woman.*

*Talk to you, later.*

*Love you,*

*Chief Lady of Hongkong*

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