



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

I want to counsel you, today, on the matter of accountability. Accountability is a very important aspect of life. It is essential for certain Western governments if they want to have the masses do their bidding. Of course, for the Government of China, accountability is not as important as it is for the Government of the United States of America (USA) or for the Government of the United Kingdom. The war between Iraq and the USA was the most accountable war in the history of the world, you understand. It was required by the USA because President George W. Bush had to justify his definition of 'liberation'. The invasion was termed as being the liberation of the peoples of Iraq. That is called, in the parlance, 'doublespeak' (deliberately ambiguous or evasive language). Now, from time to time, Grandpa engages in doublespeak. In fact, he is quite good at it. Sometimes, however, he is not quite understood, with some people, thinking that he is a fool. I can tell you that he is not a fool. He knows the importance of doublespeak, in terms of being able to cause one act to take place without there being an actual requirement for that act. When one of his inner circle members stumbles, or commits a gross faux pas (which could never be admitted, in any event), and this is discovered by the bothersome democrats of Hongkong, it is up to him to employ doublespeak in order to prove that the stumble or the faux pas was, in fact, an act, calculated to give a fallacious appearance to a certain group of people in order to permit another action to take place, that act, being not even discovered. Let me explain: Suppose we are an elite Iraqi Division of Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard and we want to lure a division of the US Army into a trap. What we might do is to announce a retreat from, say Baghdad, making certain that the US Army knows of it. Actually, we are not retreating, but regrouping to another position where we have another division, ready to annihilate the US Army division, which, during our retreat, thought that it was chasing us. In fact, it was we, who were chasing the US Army division. Now, we come back to accountability: We announce our success to the public without informing the public of the ploy, by saying that we lured the US Army into a trap. So, now, 'retreat' and 'trap' have the same meaning, don't they? Another and different example is to complain that a situation is not so much obscure as to be unclear. So, in this case, the word 'obscure' has the same meaning as 'unclear' even though, actually, they do have the same meaning.

The US Government embedded American journalists in various divisions of the US Army, during the attacks on Iraqi positions so that they could report the results of the attacks to the world via radio, television and the print media. That caused the US Government to seem to become the most accountable government in the world. However, the journalists, embedded in the US Army divisions, must have been carefully selected for their reporting tasks. I have never heard of an Iraqi journalist, having been embedded with a US Army attack force. In short, it must have been that the embedded journalists were very much on the side of the US Government. Which makes a lot of sense, of course. Luckily, the US-led coalition forces won the day, otherwise, the whole idea would have backfired on President George W. Bush. Come to think of it, if the US Army had lost, President George W. Bush would not have suffered because the embedded journalists would have been toast for the Iraqi soldiers. But, as with the dialogues of Plato, when that 4th Century B.C. Greek philosopher wrote well of his enemies, then, those enemies must have fully deserved his praise. For what other reason would an enemy praise one who

is hated unless that which was uttered was the absolute truth? Come to think of it, again, not one of the enemies of the US wrote well of the 21-day Iraqi war. If I had been in charge, I would have had Iranian journalists in the US tanks, along with Syrian observers and, even, North Koreans. In that way, the world would be able to see how well my soldiers behaved themselves in battle and in helping the Iraqi people, following the conquest ... I mean, of course, liberation. I was interested in the entire way in which the US Government orchestrated the proliferation of news to the world, with a couple of international services, being served first, so to speak.

I have explained to Grandpa that he should take a page out of President George W. Bush's book of tricks in order to get people to appreciate him and his good works. All he has to say, publicly, is something along the lines that he intends to listen more carefully to his people. That doesn't mean much and it in no way would obligate him, but, at the same time, the masses like to hear such placations.

Well, I have to go now.

Love you,

Chief Lady of Hongkong

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