



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

I was thinking of all the beer, Wild Turkey whiskey, hamburgers and hot dogs that were consumed over the July 4 celebrations by the Americans. I was comparing America's history with that of ours. There is a great deal of similarity between the two histories, you know. To begin with, the American colonial rebels of 1776, residing in what was, then, known as the Americas, only wanted to obtain certain limited rights from Great Britain, but King George III made the mistake of not agreeing with colonists. That is where Grandpa proved that he is a better leader than Great Britain's King George III, who ruled from 1735 to 1820. Where King George III made a whopping error was in not agreeing to allow the colonists to have representation in Parliament. If the silly king had permitted representation of the American colonists in Parliament, the entire matter would have been closed; and, Mr George Washington would never have become the First President of the United States of America, as the Americas came to be known ... and there would never have been a holiday on July 4 in the Americas. I checked back and noted that, in December 1773, a group of Boston citizens protested at the imposition of the British tax on tea, imported to the colonies. Although all other British taxes had been repealed, King George III kept the tea tax in order to demonstrate the power of Parliament to tax the colonies. This is just like Beijing when it demands of its 'colonies' that they pledge allegiance to the Central Government. The citizens of Boston would not permit the unloading of three British ships that arrived in Boston in November 1773 with 342 chests of tea. The Royal Governor of Massachusetts, Mr Thomas Hutchinson, however, would not let the tea ships return to England until the duty had been paid. So, on the evening of December 16, 1773, a group of Bostonians, instigated by the American rebel, a Samuel Adams, and many of them, disguised as American red Indians (not red as in Communist red, mind you), boarded the vessels and emptied the tea into Boston Harbour. When the Government of Boston refused to pay for the tea, the British closed the port. The cry went out: No taxation Without Representation! There would have been no harm in giving up a couple of stools in the British Parliament to the colonials because, no matter what they said when Parliament sat, the British noblemen could have made them look like idiots. Anyway, it was highly unlikely that the American colonists would have had sufficient lace to make decent-looking shirts, something that was required of a gentleman, in those days. Alternatively, since the colonials were quite poor, as is North Korea, today, they could have been bought. But, No! King George III, the Dunce, put out his famous Declaration of Rebellion in August 1775, declaring, inter alia, that the American colonists were in an active state of rebellion. This was already well known, you understand, as the American Revolution had been underway since the Battle of Lexington, which occurred in April 1775. King George III called on all members of the British military to crush the colonial rebellion. The king, also, called on all 'obedient and loyal Subjects, to use their utmost Endeavours to withstand and suppress such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all Treasons' to British Authorities. This was the exact wording of the Declaration of Rebellion:

'Whereas many of Our Subjects in divers Parts of Our Colonies and Plantations in North America, misled by dangerous and ill-designing Men, and forgetting the Allegiance which they owe to the Power that has protected and sustained them, after various disorderly Acts committed in Disturbance of the Publick Peace, to the Obstruction of lawful Commerce, and to the Oppression of Our loyal Subjects carrying on the same, have at length proceeded to an

open and avowed Rebellion, by arraying themselves in hostile Manner to withstand the Execution of the Law, and traitorously preparing, ordering, and levying War against Us; And whereas there is Reason to apprehend that such Rebellion hath been much promoted and encouraged by the traitorous Correspondence, Counsels, and Comfort of divers wicked and desperate Persons within this Realm: To the End therefore that none of Our Subjects may neglect or violate their Duty through Ignorance thereof, or through any Doubt of the Protection which the Law will afford to their Loyalty and Zeal; We have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, hereby declaring that not only all Our Officers Civil and Military are obliged to exert their utmost Endeavours to suppress such Rebellion, and to bring the Traitors to Justice; but that all Our Subjects of this Realm and the Dominions thereunto belonging are bound by Law to be aiding and assisting in the Suppression of such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all traitorous Conspiracies and Attempts against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; And We do accordingly strictly charge and command all Our Officers as well Civil as Military, and all other Our obedient and loyal Subjects, to use their utmost Endeavours to withstand and suppress such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all Treasons and traitorous Conspiracies which they shall know to be against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; and for that Purpose, that they transmit to One of Our Principal Secretaries of State, or other proper Officer, due and full Information of all Persons who shall be found carrying on Correspondence with, or in any Manner or Degree aiding or abetting the Persons now in open Arms and Rebellion against Our Government within any of Our Colonies and Plantations in North America, in order to bring to condign Punishment the Authors, Perpetrators, and Abettors of such traitorous Designs.

Given at Our Court at St. James's the Twenty-third Day of August, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, in the Fifteenth Year of Our Reign.

*God Save the King.' **

*Now, let's compare the assumption of sovereignty of the old colony of Hongkong, now known as the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), on July 1, 1997, and the rebellion of the American colonists in the 18th Century. You will note that not a drop of blood has been spilt before and since July 1, 1997, when China took back Hongkong from the British. (Of course, I am not including that little slip in Beijing when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher tripped over the steps, leading up to The Great Hall of the People, while being told what to do by the late Paramount Leader of China, Mr Deng Xiao Ping) Secondly, whereas King George III refused to allow representation in Parliament of the colonists, Grandpa and Beijing, in that order, have demanded that there be representation in the Hongkong Legislative Council of some of the locals. And, when there is dissent in the Legislative Council, Grandpa permits comprehensive discussion on the matter – and, then, does the right thing: He passes, or repeals, laws as he sees fit, and in the best interests of Beijing and the HKSAR, in that order. His determinations are made in the best interests of Hongkong people, you will have noted. Most of the time, Hongkong laymen do not know what is best for them so Grandpa decides. This is akin to demanding that your 10-year-old son or daughter must eat his or her green vegetables. Thirdly, when there is a demonstration of some half a million people in Hongkong, as there was on July 1, 2003, and last Wednesday, again, when the number of demonstrators was reduced to about 50,000, there was no need of a Hongkong Declaration of Rebellion, unlike that which King George III drafted. In fact, there were very few arrests made, publicly, in Hongkong during the last two demonstrations, and I can assure you that nobody was killed, during that entire week. (You may want to ponder as to the reason that there were half a million Hongkong demonstrators on July 1, but only one tenth of that number on July 9. I don't like to brag, but suffice it to say that Grandpa moves in mysterious ways) Those 'rebels' knew full well that they had all been photographed and they, also, knew that, unless they behaved correctly, the **People's Liberation Army (PLA)** was standing by, guns to the ready, with tanks, just up the road, apiece. The PLA was never needed: Such is the brilliance of Grandpa! Fourthly, when the new Prime Minister of China, Mr Wen Jia Bao, visited Hongkong on Monday and Tuesday, June 30 and July 1, he never made inflammatory statements, but talked openly to the Press, managing to say nothing, except to congratulate Chinese compatriots in being loyal to Grandpa and Beijing, in that order.*

So, you see, my dear, Chinese are much more clever than the British or the Americans – and we don't even drink Wild Turkey, eat hot dogs and hamburgers, or put milk in our tea.

Must rush, Grandpa is taking me to a French restaurant for dinner, tonight.

The Chief Lady of Hongkong

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