

CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARIAL SLAMS TUNG CHEE HWA
AS A MAN WITH NO BACKBONE

An Earful !

Hongkong, Now !

Chinese Ambassador to Canada Gets

Introduce Universal Suffrage to

The protest march of July 1, 2003, in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), when some 500,000 residents peacefully walked through the streets of the territory in a demonstration of dissatisfaction of their lot at the hands of the Government of Mr Tung Chee Hwa, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, was a shock to the political nervous system of the Beijing Government.

Because it was, completely, unexpected.

Mr Tung Chee Hwa, clearly, did not foresee that this, well-organised demonstration, which was carried off without a single act of violence, could mar the coming to the 416-square mile enclave, for the first time, of the Premier of the PRC, Mr Wen Jia Bao.

The protest marchers had been very well organised.

They had been told what colour T-shirts to wear, to carry their own water, be self-disciplined (do not cause any trouble to anybody, including the police), and to offer all required assistance to the elderly and the very young.

The organisers of the protest marchers were from many varied groups, from political parties to religious groups to white-collar workers.

The marchers, themselves, in the main, were educated people from the rank and file of the HKSAR.

It was considered very surprising, to many political observers, all things considered, that the Government of Mr Tung Chee Hwa had not been fully apprised of this event by members of his Cabinet and/or the intelligence branch of the Hongkong Police Force.

The protest marches shook the Administration to its bootstraps.

And, if the Administration, or certain members of the Administration, had had knowledge of the protest marches, it was surprising that action was not taken to try to appease the discontent of the people of the enclave.

So shocked was Mr Tung Chee Hwa of the events of July 1, 2003, that, on July 5, the first Saturday, following the demonstrations, he flew to Beijing in order to receive the continued blessings of his Government, and of the 2 top leaders of the Government of the PRC: Premier Wen Jia Bao and President Hu Jin Tao.

He received all of that which he begged from his immediate superiors, history will, no doubt, record.

He returned to the HKSAR on the following day (Sunday, July 6) with a new lease on his political life, following what could only be termed as a well-orchestrated, political charade, staged by Beijing's Propaganda Ministry,

complete with photographs of Mr Tung Chee Hwa, being congratulated by the 2 top men in the Central Government of the PRC.

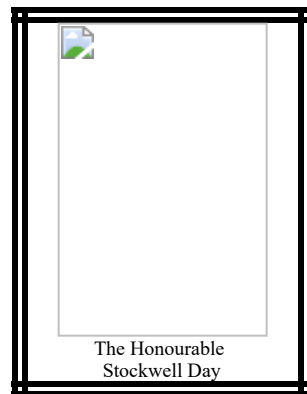
But, what of the rest of the world?

How did some of the leaders of the Western World perceive of the July 1 situation?

TARGET interviewed a Member of the Canadian Parliament, Mr Stockwell Day, who has been very active in the Canadian Government since 1986.

Between 1986 and 2002, Mr Stockwell Day has held a number of Cabinet posts, including Minister of Labour, Minister of Social Services, Provincial Treasurer and Deputy Premier.

Today, The Honourable Stockwell Day is the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the Canadian House of Commons.



This is the first of a 2-part series of **TARGET**'s exclusive interview, conducted on July 24 with this experienced and erudite politician, who is held in high esteem in Canada, having, at one time, been groomed to be the Prime Minister.

TARGET

Article 23 of The Basic Law of the **Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)** of the **People's Republic of China (PRC)** relates to matters of internal security. There were, on July 1, 2003, about 500,000 residents of the HKSAR rank and file, marching through the streets of the territory, protesting about modifications and additions to this Article, which is, now, to be promulgated as The National Security (Legislative Provisions) Bill. The sore points of this soon-to-be modified/expanded Article 23 of The Basic Law, which has been roundly criticised by its many opponents in the HKSAR, relates to outlawing the publication of what are considered to be '*State Secrets*', those of the HKSAR and/or of the PRC, proper, outlawing criticism of the Central Government of the PRC and/or any of its senior officials, suppression of subversive materials, and the proscription of certain groups, determined by Beijing to be evil or destructive to the PRC State (Falun Gong, et al). So **TARGET**'s questions, today, start with: Do you think that the Government of the HKSAR should have prevented the protest marches?

The Honourable Stockwell Day

With this issue, I am quite familiar. I don't think that any government should prevent protests that are not invading the life and property of other people. And (in respect of) Article 23, I specifically asked our (Canadian) Government to express our displeasure with how it is being interpreted. I have met with the Chinese Ambassador to Canada and discussed this at some length with him, shared my concerns, directly, with regard to falun gong and how this particular (HKSAR) Article can be used, and would be used, as a club, not just against falun gong, but against other groups that may be, in the eyes of the (Chinese) Government, not friendly to that Government. And we discussed things like religious freedom. We discussed things like freedom of association, freedom of

expression, etc. The response, back to me, from the Ambassador was: *'Well, specifically about falun gong: This is a cult!'* I said: *'Well, I don't think that this is up to the (Chinese) Government to determine which type of religion'* – and, as you know, the falun gong is something that its practitioners are not saying is, necessarily, a religion ... it's an expression – *'or expression of spirituality is acceptable or not, as long as the rights and liberties of others are not being violated in the process of that expression.'* I mentioned to the Ambassador that history shows that when a government tries to stomp out a religion or a spiritual expression, it only adds fuel to the fire. I said most Canadians would never have heard of falun gong had not your Government been so intent on stomping it out. And so I have spoken and taken a number of cases, directly related to falun gong, where people are imprisoned in Mainland China. I have taken those directly to our Government, saying we must pursue these with much more vigour; we must raise these issues. Article 23 is a problem. It's going to be a problem in interpretation. I have great concerns about it.

TARGET

What action do you think should be taken, now, by the Government of Mr Tung Chee Hwa?

The Honourable Stockwell Day

Well, I think he must stand (up) for, and speak up for, individual freedoms in a case like this. And speak up for the concerns that he is hearing. I believe that this was the largest-ever demonstration in Hongkong's history. I think he should have stood (up) for ... I know he was probably fearful of doing that ... I have some (grave) concerns. And I am not only interested in Hongkong and the example that it can offer to the world in terms of an economic model. I have some personal attachments (to Hongkong), I guess you can say, (because) my grandfather was a Hongkong veteran, one of those, who was captured in Hongkong in the Second World War by the Japanese. He spent 4 years in a prison-of-war camp, was liberated, and brought back to Canada. But (he) never did get out of the hospital as a result of the treatment (he was afforded by the Japanese). So I have some historic attachments and feelings for the people of Hongkong, in terms of their freedoms. But I, also, have strong economic interests because of what they can offer the world in terms of the benefits of economic freedom.

TARGET

The problems with some of your statements, if **TARGET** may be so bold, is that Mr Tung Chee Hwa was appointed by the National People's Congress (NPC) of the People's Republic of China: He can hardly speak out for the freedoms of Hongkong people because he has a clear and definitive mandate from the NPC.

The Honourable Stockwell Day

That is the conflict in which he finds himself. But, in response to your question – What he should have done? – in spite of that (and most of us, who have been in Government for a period of time, we all know that, at times, there are costs to be paid if you are going to stand for something that you believe in) if you are going to stand for freedom, and just as many of his countrymen, in the past, whether you are talking of Hongkong or Taiwan, have stood for freedom ... and paid the price. This is still what I believe he should have done: Stand up for freedom. And that would have only enhanced the interest, the long-term interest and economic interest of Mainland China, anyway, in the long term. Allowing freedom, individual freedoms and liberties will only enhance and strengthen your nation. It will not diminish it.

TARGET

If **TARGET** may take issue with that, also: The problem there is that you come from a background whereby the individual must be protected from the State, whereas, the background of China is that the State must be protected from the individual. There is a big difference. There is a conflict of interest there, also.

The Honourable Stockwell Day

It's a huge conflict! And some 50 million Chinese deaths are a testament to the fact that that particular approach leads to a policy that leads to extreme violations of human rights, on a grand scale. And that is, in fact, unfortunately, Communist China's history because they put the State ahead of the individual; and, the results will, always, be the same, history shows.

TARGET

Do you think that China should veer away from the State, being paramount to the individual, to the individual, being paramount to the State?

The Honourable Stockwell Day

Yes, clearly! The natural inborn rights of people, as individuals, must be respected by the State and, when they are not (respected), because the State, in this context, becomes a euphemism for a bunch of people in power ... That's what it is (in the PRC, today). They (the Government of the PRC) should call it as it is: What they should say, getting away from euphemistic terms, is: *'We, the bunch of people in power, are going to do anything it takes to stay in power.'* And that's how it should be seen. But when you advance individual liberties, that's when you advance respect for one another ... respect for one's neighbour. And, then, the whole concept of government (is that, it is there) only at the consent of those who are (being) governed. No system is perfect, but that (the inborn rights of people as individuals, being respected by the State) leads to a more perfect society. Not a perfect one, but a more perfect one than the State-controlled model.

TARGET

So Mr Tung Chee Hwa could have enhanced his stature, internationally, if he had been one with the people? Is that what you are saying?

The Honourable Stockwell Day

I believe that, personally. Now, I know that it is easier said than done, but I say that from looking down through history at people, who have decided to take that particular stance, choosing to speak up for individual liberties and freedoms and democracy. And, as someone in my own particular life, I have paid a price, at times, for doing that. It is still better to do that than to bow and kneel to a regime, which is focused on control and (the) perpetuation of its own power.

TARGET

In the event that there are more protests against such legislative matters, would you advocate that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) move in to quieten down the situation, as it did on June 3, 1989 at Tiananmen Square?

The Honourable Stockwell Day

Well, Tiananmen Square, again, is just a symptom, an example of what happens when the governing regime is focused on protection and perpetuation of its own power. It will not work, in the long term. It would be wrong for a military force to be used to stomp out a democratic expression.

TARGET

Would you advocate Universal Suffrage for the 7 million residents of the HKSAR?

The Honourable Stockwell Day

Yes.

The Canadian Work Ethic

TARGET

Are you satisfied with the work ethic of Canadians, generally?

The Honourable Stockwell Day

Well, it's a fascinating question. Canadians are known to have a strong work ethic, at least, we pride ourselves on that. Over a period of some decades, various Government policies, have, I believe, eroded some of that ethic. But, generally and historically, Canadians are known to have a good work ethic, somewhat eroded over time by Government policies.

TARGET

Do you think that the social welfare system in Canada tends to retard/hamstring/thwart productivity and entrepreneurialism?

The Honourable Stockwell Day

In my experience, I do believe that, and I can say from the experience of being a former Minister of Social Services and a former Finance Minister of the Province of Alberta, (that) we did find that to be true. If healthy, employable people are offered an option between an entry level job, which usually tends to be low-paying, and a Government welfare salary, which is in approximately the same range, then, too many people would choose to receive the money – without having to work. And that is something that, when I was involved (closely) in Government and (being) a Minister of Social Services, we worked to change that.

TARGET

Would you say that the productivity of Canadian industry is high or low?

The Honourable Stockwell Day

Canadians, again, generally believe in ... Most Canadians believe that a hard day's work should be worth a hard day's pay. Many (workers), especially our Federal Government policies, which subsidise, or tend to subsidise, those ventures that are not productive and that are not innovative, those types of policies, again, tend to lead people towards mediocrity in terms of excellence. But left on their own, unbribed by Government largesse, Canadians are as hard working, productive and innovative as any other people.

TARGET

What problems do you envisage for Canadian industry/businesses in the future?

The Honourable Stockwell Day

I met a businessman at the airport of Vancouver, about a month ago. He told me that all of his manufacturing, he is, now, moving into the Asian market. I asked him why. He said that Asian people, with whom he was dealing, had an extremely high level of pride of workmanship and a desire to meet the demands of the customer. And, an exceptionally strong work ethic. That is why Canadians cannot afford to have their own historic work ethic and desire to serve to be eroded because competitive forces are out there from other countries that will take away business. This is anecdotal, but I believe it is a sign of a larger malaise, in terms of some of Canadian economic ventures.

TARGET

And the remedy of this problem?

The Honourable Stockwell Day

Is to reduce the amount of intervention of Government in the marketplace and Government in business: To have a system that rewards hard work; that rewards initiative and innovation. Part of that, obviously, is (to have) a low-base taxation system, both for the working person and for the investor in capital; and, (as well) a regulatory system that is (a) common sense (one) and not (one that is) overburdened with regulations that don't make sense and are extremely costly.

TARGET

You are referring to a territory, such as Hongkong was, prior to July 1, 1997? Is that correct?

The Honourable Stockwell Day

I believe Hongkong was, historically, a reflection of that reality. Even as far as things like a single-rate income tax system, which I was able to put in place as Finance Minister of Alberta. Hongkong, I think, is a shining example of how initiative and innovative and human endeavour will move forward, spontaneously, if it is unencumbered by government intervention.

TARGET

In view of the unemployment rate in Canada, today – about 7.50 percent – and in view of factories, closing down – Ford has pulled out of Ontario, etc – what action would you suggest should be taken to put Canada's labour force back to work?

The Honourable Stockwell Day

Well, Canada, at the Federal level, has an unfortunate policy of subsidising industries, which are tending to fail, and overtaxing and over-regulating those industries that tend to be successful. Therefore, this policy of subsidisation, either on an industry or regional basis, must be phased out, and more of a reward-oriented system put in place. That will tend to be a magnet for investment, a magnet for people, individually, who are innovative or educated and know that they can get ahead and enjoy the rewards of their labour, without being overly affected by a punitive tax system, a punitive tax system, which has to be supported by high taxes because it is based on subsidisation of failing industries. This is very expensive and it is a vicious circle, requiring to raise more taxes from hard-working people (in order) to fund those industries that are not achieving and (are not) moving ahead.

The next part of this series will look at whether or not
Canada should have joined the United States in that country's attack on Iraq in March,
this year.

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