



## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*It is clear to me, and to the world, that the United States (US) has egg all over its face in respect of the alleged weapons of mass destruction, which Iraq was supposed to have concealed, prior to the 21-day war of March when the US armed might beat the pants off that Middle-Eastern country. According to US President George W. Bush, obviously on the advice and recommendations of Secretary of State Colin Luther Powell and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Iraq was telling untruths to the world and had, in fact, been hiding weapons of mass destruction and banned weapons, as defined by the United Nations (UN), and, as such, those evil acts were contrary to the terms and conditions of the UN's Resolution 1441. That being the case, the US claimed that it had the right to invade Iraq in order to protect the world from the (former) Regime of Saddam Hussein; and, to liberate the Iraqi population from President Saddam Hussein's oppressive Regime of the previous twenty four years. However, thus far, even though the US and British armed forces have been in Iraq for some time, there is, still, no indication of the whereabouts of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. At best, there has only been a vague suggestion that there could have been a couple of biological laboratories on wheels. It is a bit of a shame, actually, because this situation tends to support the arguments of France, Russia, China and Germany when they banded together to thwart the US Government's attempts to get the blessings of the UN's Security Council in order to sanction an armed invasion of Iraq. This is not to suggest that the world is not better off with Saddam Hussein out of the picture, completely, anywhere in the world, but it appears that the US engaged on the right course of action for the wrong reasons. The President of France, Mr Jacques Chirac, has made it very clear to the US that he, personally, has little time for the Presidential upstart from Texas. At the start of the June 1 Group of Eight Summit, held at Evian, France, as President George W. Bush was met on the tarmac after he landed in Air Force One, his eyes met the stony face of the French President, who gave President George W. Bush, a short handshake and what was described as a 'stiff smile'. I asked Grandpa about this matter and he claimed that it all came about because of a prior incident, when, during a dinner with President Jacques Chirac and President George W. Bush, a few years ago, the Texan put ketchup on his coq au vin (chicken, cooked in wine). That enraged the French President because it was an insult to the French, generally, and when he indicated this to the Texan, President George W. Bush suggested that Mr Chirac drank too much wine, nearly all the time, and he did not know what he was saying as a direct result, his brain, being muddled. It is lucky, I suppose, that Mr Chirac has not dined with the Prime Minister of Great Britain because, had that dinner have taken place, Mr Tony Blair would have asked for some HP Sauce, using his terrible, British-French pronunciation: 'La Sauce HP Épicee.' Actually, the French are such an arrogant race of people, don't you know. Getting back to Iraq, the US had, just prior to launching its attack against Iraq, claimed that, due to the procrastination of the UN, it was incumbent on the US to take the initiative in spite of the fact that, at international law, it had no real authority so to do. Considering the small number of American military people who died, during those twenty one days of fighting, it was really something of a military success, I suppose. But the pre-emptive attack by the US caused a deep division within the UN, one that, clearly, still exists as far as Germany and France are concerned. President Jacques Chirac has made that only too clear, of late. I suppose ketchup will be banned in France, henceforth, in the same manner as French Fries have been renamed in the US: Freedom Fries.*

*I listen to the Voice of America, you know, and look forward to the US President's weekly talk because it tells me how President George W. Bush is thinking. The other week, he indicated that the US is, now, the voice of the world, not just the voice of America.*

*He said, at the end of his talk:*

*'This is American's agenda in the world. From the defeat of terror, to the alleviation of disease and hunger, to the spread of human liberty, we welcome and we need the help, advice and wisdom of friends and allies. When Europe and America are united, no problem and no enemy can stand against us.'*

*The entire tenor of his talk was that the US leads, and others must follow. This is the same as when the US was lobbying international support for its illegal attack against Iraq: 'If yer isn't fer us, den you is agin us.' The problem with France, Germany, China and Russia, all of which countries opposed the armed invasion by the US of Iraq, the US could never afford to attack these countries because, unlike Iraq, they are pretty powerful, militarily, and all of them have the 'bomb'. For little countries, such as Libya, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, etc, the US can do, just about, what it wants because very few of these Middle Eastern countries have the military power to withstand a determined attack, the likes of which Iraq had to endure. Hence, they have to cave in, otherwise, the US Government may suggest that they are harbouring weapons of mass destruction, in the same manner that Iraq, allegedly, had been harbouring them. It is strange, isn't it, that the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction have been mislaid. It must be a terrible embarrassment of the US Government.*

*Well, that is all for this week.*

*Talk to you later.*

*The Chief Lady of Hongkong*

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