



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

If the Motherland can do it, for what reason cannot Hongkong do it? I noted, recently, that The Institute of Microelectronics, under the auspices of the elite Qinghua University, has just finished, putting the finishing touches on a new computer chip, which is to be embedded into intelligent identification cards to be issued to all of the people, living in the Motherland. I told Grandpa that Hongkong must follow suit. It is, really, a wonderful idea! But Hongkong should go one step further than the Motherland. With our intelligent identification cards, I would like to see a whole bunch of information, being included. We could include finger prints, cornea prints, blood types, marital status, credit worthiness, bank account numbers and current balances, addresses of the holder, along with the addresses of his entire family, including all of his or her relatives, those in Hongkong and elsewhere, and, of course, his or her criminal background. Armed with such an intelligent identification cards, Hongkong could be assured of keeping tabs on the good, the bad ... and the mugly. My friends in Beijing have told me that the reason for the introduction of the new Motherland Intelligent identification cards is, on the surface, to permit the Chinese Government to be able to see changes in population movements. Underneath the surface, of course, the Government would be able to keep track of all kinds of things. Since the new identification cards are almost impossible to counterfeit, it means that a policeman in, say, Xijiang, in Guangzhou, would be able to stop a person, walking down a path, and demand to see her/his identification card. If one is not produced, it is into jail he/she goes, immediately. Since the new cards come with fingerprints, encoded, it is very easy to find out who is this interloper because he/she must be an interloper, otherwise he/she would have had an identification card, listing her/his home to be in Xijiang. Another good thing about my proposed Hongkong, intelligent identification card would be that, in the event that there is a Stop Order on the holder of the card, if he or she should attempt to cross the land border, try to get on a ship or an aeroplane, the card could explode, wounding him sufficiently so that he or she would have seek medical attention, provided that the card was not kept in a breast pocket, in which case somebody else would have to be doing something for the unfortunate wretch. For a man, who values his ability to procreate, since identification cards are, nearly always, kept in wallets, which are stuffed into hip pockets of men, he would think very carefully before committing a crime and, then, trying to flee. Because, then, an explosion in his hindquarters could result in his 'thing', becoming unstuck. Goodbye manhood! It would bring a new meaning to the term: Stand up and be counted!

Must go now.

Love you,

The Chief Lady of Hongkong

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