



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

It is quite understandable that the toddler, who is forced to swallow bitter-tasting medicine, will cry and try its best to escape from its parents' attempts to administer the medicine, which is aimed at curing that which ails the child. The US Government, over the past few years, has treated various countries of the world, on quite a number of occasions, as though the leaders of these countries were toddlers, with the US Government, being the world's 'parent'. The US Government has attempted to tell the world that it must swallow its form of hegemonic 'medicine'. Should any sovereign state not agree to swallow the US medicine, offered by The Bush Administration, then, it is assumed that that state is not a friend of the world's only superpower. President George W. Bush has stated, on many occasions, that if another country is not one with the US, then, an assumption is made that that state is against the US Government. Which need not, necessarily, be the case although it might well be so. The world has become more than a little tired of the bullying tactics of The Bush Administration. And rightly so, too. In a recent survey, conducted in the US, it was revealed that, in sixteen countries, about sixty six percent of the populations hold a negative view of the US Government. It is well known that a large proportion of the world's population hold a very negative view of this powerful North American Government. The image of the US is, of course, the worst in Muslim countries, some of which have waged a Jihad (a Holy War) against the US. Even in the European Union, sadly, there is little praise for The Bush Administration. In the People's Republic of China and Russia, the welcome mat is not even placed at the front door when visiting US Government officials visit these 2 powerful countries. Some people claim that the reason for the dislike of the US Government is its pursuance of its wrong, or distorted, foreign policy. I question this because it would appear to me that the root of the problem is not in the pursuance of hegemony, but in the US Government's lack of a definitive and enduring foreign policy, one that endears the US Government to its international friends; and, one that makes it apparent that the US Government is cognisant of its duty of fidelity to its friends as well as its duty to the world, in general terms. While the US Government is, to be sure, not afraid to be definitive in taking decisive action when needs be such, one questions whether or not many of the determinations of the world's only superpower are predicated by ignominious motives, hidden behind a façade of righteousness. This is not to suggest that the US Government is evil. Far from it. It is what the Chinese would refer to as a person, holding up a chicken's feather, claiming it to be a general's flag. Since the coming to power of the George W. Bush Administration in January 2001, it is fact that hegemony and unilateralism have been malignant; and, such malignancy has played a part in the determinations of its so-called foreign policy. However, ironically, while the US Government perpetrates acts, which are, clearly, contrary to the sworn mandate of the United Nations, of which the US Government is a member of The Security Council, the Bush Administration declares that it is the shining light of world democracy, a model by which other countries of the world may fashion their policies. Anti-American feelings are widespread, unfortunately. And, yet, the US Government is not evil, not by any stretch of the imagination, no matter what the majority of the world may suggest. In fact, it is, or should be, a torch, shining its light out to the oppressed of the world. It should be generous because it can well afford to be generous, being, as it is, the world's largest single economy as well as being the world's largest military power. For the most part, the world, today, views The Bush Administration in

the same manner as a toddler baulks at the bitter taste of medicine, administered by its parents, even though such medicine will, in the fullness of time, restore health to the child. If the child refuses to take its medicine, the parent would be foolhardy to punish the child for its stubbornness. Instead, it should seek an answer in order to find a method to cause the child to realise that such medicine is in the child's best interests. The parent should try to persuade the child to volunteer to swallow the medicine as a sign of maturity. That is known as parenting if I am not mistaken.

Talk to you next week.

Chief Lady

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