



## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*If you were to ask any Israeli what he thought about Syria and its government, the answer would be that it is, without question, a major centre of covert terroristic activities in the Middle East; it is the birthplace of Baath Party, the political party of Saddam Hussein, formerly the President of Iraq; and, it is, today, a safe haven for Taliban fighters and Iraqi insurgents. The Arab Socialist Baath Party was founded in Syria in 1940 and its ideology has, always, been pan-Arab, secular nationalism as its vision. Since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein of Iraq in March 2003, when the US Army, assisted by a small contingent of British armed forces, utterly demolished the Iraqi Army, Syria has been the repository of fleeing, former Iraqi Government officials, along with al-Qaeda supporters, who had been using Iraq as one of their training camps. This information has been known widely throughout Israel and throughout international Jewry, thanks to the Mossad, the Israel Secret Intelligence Service, which had advertised these facts to the world. But, up until the report of the United Nations, released only last week, very few governments of the world seemed to be paying much attention to the Government of Syria, which is headed by the forty one year old ophthalmologist, President Bashar al-Asad, formerly a Colonel in the Syrian Army. President Bashar al-Asad was the heir apparent of the former late Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, his father. President Bashar al-Asad assumed power in Syria in June 2000, following the death of his father. His Government makes no bones about being anti-Jewish and fostering an anti-Israeli political policy, both domestically and abroad. Today, Syria is the home of the headquarters of the militant Palestinian movement, Hamas, a fact that has soured US-Syrian relations for some years. Hamas is an arch-enemy of the Jewish State of Israel. Today, an impartial and objective investigation into the assassination of Mr Rafik al-Hariri, the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, has pointed the finger of responsibility directly at the Government of President Bashar al-Asad, along with Syria's Lebanese allies. The report of the United Nations claims that Mr Ahmad Abdel-Al, a member of the pro-Syrian Islamic Militant Group, Ahabash, was a key in the assassination plot which killed Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri on February 14, 2005. Moments prior to the bomb blast, which ended the life of Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, a telephone call was made to Lebanese President Emile Lahoud via his mobile telephone. The person who, allegedly, made that telephone call was Mr Mahmoud Abdel-Al, who is the brother of Mr Ahmad Abdel-Al. Mr Mahmoud Abdel-Al was arrested in Lebanon, last Saturday, by the Lebanese Authorities, the warrant for his arrest, having been issued by Lebanon's Prosecutor General Saeed Meerza. Some of the key findings of the United Nations's report into the killing of Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri included that the assassins had considerable resources at their disposal, suggesting that the plot was not a home-grown one, but one which covered a number of countries' borders; that the plot had been hatched over some time, with careful attention, having been placed on the movements of Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri; and, that Syrian and Lebanese intelligence services were intimately involved in the assassination. It would have been impossible for such a well-planned assassination to have been executed without President Bashar al-Asad being fully aware of the plot. The President of the United States of America, Mr George W. Bush, is urging swift action by the United Nations. He wants, inter alia, economic and political sanctions to be put in place in respect of the present Government of Syria. Interestingly enough, on February 14, 2005, following the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, the Mossad stated, publicly and definitively, that Syria was behind the murder. Now, the United Nations has confirmed the report of the agents of the Mossad. Israel's Secret Intelligence Service is one of the best in the world and is, perhaps, best known for its capture of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, who was kidnapped and brought to Israel to stand trial. There was a motion picture, made of the methods that were employed in that historic covert operation in South America. The Mossad was established in April 1951 by the then Prime Minister of Israel, Mr David Ben Gurion. Since its creation, it*

*has been highly successful as a counter-terroristic force. It is known to have quite a number of agents, living in Syria, Iran and Ethiopia. Its covert activities emphasise the gathering of intelligence from Arab nations because Israel has few friends in the Middle East: If the State of Israel were to be swallowed up by a tsunami, there would, most likely, be few tears, shed in the Middle East. Today, it is believed that The Mossad has an Establishment level of about two thousand operatives, working throughout the world. Some of these operatives, of course, are working in Hongkong.*

**Li Ka Shing Says: No, Thank You!**

*In fact, according to my sources, Mr Li Ka Shing, the Chairman of the Cheung Kong Group of Companies, had some-level meetings with some high-ranking, Israeli diplomats, a couple of years ago. The subject matter of those meetings, which were followed up by at least two other secret meetings in the boardroom of Cheung Kong Center, was to enlist Mr Li Ka Shing's financial support for the State of Israel by having him purchase a thirty percent stake in the Issued and Fully Paid-Up Share Capital of The Israel Telecommunications Corporation, known more popularly as Bezeq. The Israeli Government was hoping to raise about seven billion Hongkong dollars from Mr Li Ka Shing. Eventually, following a refusal of Mr Li Ka Shing to invest in this company, that thirty percent stake was sold to a consortium, which included Apax Partners Funds and Mr Haim Saban. The stake was, eventually, sold for seven billion, one hundred and ninety nine million Hongkong dollars. Bezeq is a monopoly, which controls Israel's fixed-line, telecommunication services and it is the country's foremost Internet Service Provider. Bezeq, also, owns and controls Pelephone, the leading mobile telephone service in the country. The Israeli Government considered Mr Li Ka Shing as its first choice of an Asian partner because he controls PCCW Ltd, Hongkong's pre-eminent, fixed-line telephone system. (However, as the Latin expression goes: Pecunia Non Olet.) It is quite likely that Mr Li Ka Shing did not want to become involved in Arab politics and so he declined to commit his companies' funds to take a slice of an Israeli Government organisation. It is, really, quite understandable because this mogul is interested in making money, only, not in forming political alliances with countries, other than his own. Also, if Mr Li Ka Shing had invested in Bezeq, it would have meant that he and his many companies could have been ostracised in a number of other Middle Eastern countries. And that, definitely, is not good for business because the Arab nations are very wealthy and control about thirty percent of the world's supply of crude oil. With Syria, about to be pilloried for its murder of the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, the fallout is quite likely to be wide-reaching and, without question, Hamas will have an even closer ally in the Government of Syria. Hamas will, then, be able to rain down rocket attacks on Israel, using Syria as its staging post for the attacks; and, nobody in that country will complain. Al-Qaeda operatives, too, will feel more secure in their camps in Syria and will be able to operate more openly in sending their suicide bombers to Iraq to try to kill more Americans, British, innocent Iraq civilians and anybody else who is deemed to be a political target for their aims, objects and ambitions. It is going to be very interesting to see how long the current President of Syria can remain in power without an armed invasion of the country along the lines of the US invasion of Iraq in March 2003. One thing seems to be very apparent: A change of Government in Syria would be most welcome for peace in the Middle East, along with a change from the dictatorship of President Bashar al-Asad to a democratically elected government of the people of the country. After all, democracy seems to be working in Iraq and so for what reason should it not work in Syria? I, always, had misgivings of democracy, being able to work in the Middle East when it was, first, proposed by President George W. Bush. But he has proved me to be wrong. I am happy to admit my mistake.*

*Talk to you next week.*

*Chief Lady*

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