

**WHAT IS THE AGENDA OF MRS ANSON CHAN FANG ON SANG ?
IS SHE A THREAT TO CERTAIN HONOURABLE COUNCILLORS ?**

When Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang (陳方安生), the former Chief Secretary of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), drank her coffee on Thursday morning, December 1, at a swank, 5-star hotel at Pacific Place, Admiralty, she, probably, had no idea that the actions that followed that secret, private breakfast meeting with a European gentleman would put her, once again, in the international limelight.

That breakfast meeting, alone, was interesting of itself and for the venue, which had been carefully chosen, because it was at a time of the morning – about 9:00 o'clock – that is reserved more for a cup of coffee and a private chat than for the requirement to break the fast after a night's sleep.

The European gentleman, who paid the bill at this private meeting, was, certainly, not a businessman, having the mien and outward appearance, if anything, of a civil servant who had attained a very high position.

But of which government, **TARGET** cannot say.

However, in view of the events that followed that private breakfast meeting, one can make a fairly accurate guess as to whom that European gentleman owes his duty of fidelity.

Also, since the gentleman could not have been even 45 years old by his looks, it stands to reason that the private meeting could not have been a romantic interlude – especially at that time of the morning – because Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang is 65 years old and is unlikely to be at an age that she can be easily moved (or seduced) by a suave English civil servant, even one of ministerial grade.

Another interesting aspect of this private breakfast meeting was that the venue chosen was the coffee shop of fashionable hotel, known for its large numbers of European and American tourists.

The duo asked to be seated at the very back of the restaurant where there were no other guests.

Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang lives in a very well-appointed, Mid-Levels flat, but she determined that her home was not an appropriate place for this very private chat.

It is possible, of course, that the home of Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang is carefully watched, probably by a number of governments, including the PRC Government, of course.

That being the case, to have a smartly dressed European gentleman, carrying a brown leather briefcase, visit this former, high-level, HKSAR civil servant might well stir up a political hornet's nest.

Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang, following that Thursday morning private meeting with this European gentleman at the coffee shop of this 5-star hotel, announced that she would take part in the walk for democracy, which took place, last Sunday.

She has been quoted as stating, during this march of between 80,000 and 200,000 well-behaved demonstrators (different organisations have different statistics as to the approximate number of people, who actually took part in the demonstrations) that it was time for her to stand up and to be counted.

Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang has, also, stated that she thinks that the people of the territory should be afforded Universal Suffrage at the earliest possible time and her presence at last Sunday's march was aimed, among other things, to give credence to her strong beliefs.

When asked, during her walk, last Sunday, whether or not she would consider running for political office, she stated that she had no political aspirations.

Interestingly enough, last Monday, just one day after she showed her face at the democracy walk – she only participated in the walk for a short period of time – she flew out of the HKSAR, bound for London, England.

One wonders as to the reason: To visit relatives; to do a little shopping in the middle of winter; to recover from the democracy walk; or, to continue her negotiations with whomsoever is based in Whitehall?

Her presence at that Sunday walk for democracy caused many people of the territory – especially Legislative Councillors – to take careful note of this kindly looking lady, who is known for her intelligence and tenacious loyalty to lost causes.

Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang is, also, known for the political clout that she can muster when needs be such.

Last Tuesday, Mr Ronny Tong Ka Wah (湯家驊), a Legislative Councillor who, of late, has been quite vocal, criticised Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang's presence at the Sunday walkabout.

He is reported to have stated, inter alia, that her presence might have adverse effects:

'Why, suddenly, choose this time to come out? Does she believe her marching would help us convince the Central Government (of Beijing) to give us a timetable (for Universal Suffrage)?'

Mr Ronny Tong Ka Wah, then, suggested that he was worried that the focus had shifted and diluted demands to fight for Universal Suffrage in the eyes of Beijing.

He went on to suggest, quite openly, that Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang had not proven that she possessed democratic credentials, enabling her to be accepted into a leading position in the pro-democracy movement in the HKSAR – if that is her intentions.

Mr Ronny Tong Ka Wah said, in this respect:

'We never imagined the attention would have all focused on her. Even Beijing's focus has gone to Mrs Chan and her intention, rather than our fight for Universal Suffrage.'

Whether or not there is a suggestion of jealousy (or sour grapes) in the reported words of Mr Ronny Tong Ka Wah, **TARGET** cannot say and one need not waste time in speculation because it serves no useful purpose, but one has to wonder as to the reason that this Chinese gentleman would criticise the right of an individual, any individual, to throw her or his hat into the ring for the fight for Universal Suffrage.

TARGET questions, also, whether or not Mr Ronny Tong Ka Wah is aware of the history of this lady.

According to the database of **TOLFIN** (泰達資訊) (The Computerised Online Financial Intelligence Service and Web-Based, Credit-Checking Provider), Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang was roundly criticised by Beijing for not showing sufficient support for the First Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr Tung Chee Hwa.

It is well-recorded in the history of these 416 square miles that the PRC Government's former Vice Premier, Mr Qian Qi Chen, dressed down Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang after she had been summoned to Beijing because she was seen not to be supporting Mr Tung Chee Hwa.

It was the opinion of Beijing in 2001 that, right or wrong, Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang, as the most-senior, HKSAR civil servant, should support Beijing's appointee of the Chief Executive of the territory, regardless of her personal beliefs.

Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang, however, had her own opinion and had never been afraid to state her position when holding down the position of the Chief Secretary of the HKSAR.

In April 2001, for instance, she stated, at a speech that she was giving to The Asia Society, that it was her duty to give her best advice to superiors, based on the best information available and objective analysis even when she knew that it might not be music to the ears of superiors.

Just prior to her resignation in 2001, Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang said that she would be ready to resign if asked to accept policies that clashed with her principles.

She has, always, claimed to be a supporter of democracy for the HKSAR.

When, just before her resignation, a senior PRC Government official attempted to gag the media of the HKSAR, it was Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang who picked up the cudgels on behalf of the media.

In January 2001, Mrs Anson Chan Fang On announced that she was going to retire from office, effective April of that year.

Once termed as the conscience of the HKSAR, Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang has been unswerving in her position of trying to obtain Universal Suffrage for the territory and freedom of the Press.

But she has, it seems, no sheepskin to present to certain Honourable gentlemen in order to prove her democratic credentials.

Pity!

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