

The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

It seems very much as though Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang is preparing herself to be in the running for the Third Chief Executive of Hongkong – even though she has no chance of winning the political race! This is because Hongkong people may propose to be candidates for the plumb job, but it will be Beijing which will dispose of the matter in its inimitable fashion. As far as I am concerned, Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang is a very nice family lady, but you know she is not loved by Beijing. She is not loved by the Motherland and, therefore, she may never be the Chief Executive of a Special Administrative Region, as is Hongkong. I am certain that her family loves her; I know that she has admirers, those who are willing to stand up, openly, in support of their ageing heroine, and those who, surreptitiously, support her, but do not have the courage to be open about their feelings for this grandmother. That is not enough, however, you know: Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang needs the love of Beijing in order to be able to move into that large, Lower Albert Road house. And that she may never hope to obtain for a number of reasons. The most important of those reasons is that she is not trusted to be loyal to the Motherland and all of its leaders. I recall that the former Vice Premier of China, Mr Qian Qi Chen, dressed down Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang when she was the highest-ranking civil servant of Hongkong (she was the Chief Secretary, at that time). Vice Premier Qian Qi Chen was angry with the lady because she was seen, outwardly, as not supporting the then Chief Executive of Hongkong, Mr Tung Chee Hwa. This act of showing, outwardly, that she did not support Mr Tung Chee Hwa, her immediate superior, was, really, too much for Beijing because Mr Tung Chee Hwa had been hand-picked to be the First Chief Executive of Hongkong even though there were other, more-qualified people to take up the position.

Because I know that Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang is an intelligence lady, I wonder as to the real reason that she is willing to let it be known that she would like to be the next political leader of Hongkong. I know that you recall that the current Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen, was, at one time, Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang's subordinate in the Hongkong Civil Service. Is it possible that Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang is a little jealous of the fact that Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen has risen to a much higher position than she ever was able to obtain? Being a lady, myself, I know that our sex can be a little catty at times. And, when one gets to be Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang's age of sixty six years, one can become very, very catty. If jealousy is not the ulterior motive behind her plan, could it be hatred of Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen? But what is there to hate about the current Chief Executive? He is a good, practising Catholic and, although he tends to carry a big stick in order to whack his underlings, from time to time, he only uses it for the best of Hongkong and its citizens, it seems to me. If one may rule out jealousy and hatred as being the prime movers for Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang's behavior of late, then, the only other possible reason must be political. But whose politics? I remember, also, in April 2001, Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang stated, in a speech to The Asia Society, that it was her duty to give advice to her superiors even when she was aware that such advice might not be appreciated. She resigned just after that speech, by the way.

Then, there was that little trip to London, England, in December, last year. She has never told anybody very much about that trip, but it stands to reason that she did not go there in the middle of winter to take the British sun and feel the sand in her little toes, to taste British food – which, for the most part, is terrible! – for a little shopping expedition (Hongkong is the best place to shop for clothes, anyway), or to visit The Tower of London. It is more than likely, in my opinion, that she went to London – because she was invited to

go to London. It is highly unlikely that the Queen would consider ennobling this lovely lady: What has she ever done for the British Empire? I have been told that she had audiences with certain British politicians while in London, last December, you know. That is only hearsay, you understand, however, circumstantially, it makes sense that she took tea with certain British politicians in London because, on Thursday, December 1, 2005, she is confirmed to have had a secret meeting with an English gentleman at the coffee shop of a five-star hotel on Hongkong Island where the two were engaged in intense discussions for the best part of one hour. Following that meeting, Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang announced that she would take her place in the annual walkabout for democracy. That took place on Sunday, December 3, 2005. Since 2001, when she retired from the Hongkong Civil Service, Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang was quite willing to be a grandmother, dowdy looking perhaps, but always clean and neatly dressed, but, following that secret meeting with that British gentleman in Hongkong, she, suddenly, decided to be a staunch advocate for democracy for the people of Hongkong – whom she has always claimed she loved. If she loved the people of Hongkong so much, where was she from April 2001 until December 2005? Had she forgotten about the love that she held for her people, during those four years? Regardless, today, she has resumed the love for her people and has become a lover of democracy. By the way, during the time that she worked for the British Empire, rising to the position of Chief Secretary of Colonial Hongkong, I do not recall that she ever talked about giving Hongkong people democracy and she, always, supported the British Governor who slept in the Governor's House in Lower Albert Road! I wonder as to the reason that she never stood up for Hongkong people in the Colonial days, stating that it was time for the people of Hongkong to have Universal Suffrage.

So, where does that leave us? Is Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang really one with the people of Hongkong? Or, is Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang one with one person, namely, Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang? In other words: What is the mandate of this lovely lady? Is it possible that she is just a stirrer of the pot, trying to mix up a horrible stew for the existing Chief Executive? She knows that she has no chance of being the next, or any other, Chief Executive of Hongkong and yet she is, clearly, out there, making people think that she could well be a runner in this political race. It was the sixteenth President of the United States of America, Mr Abraham Lincoln, who said:

'You can fool some of the people all the time and all the people some of the time; but you can't fool all the people all the time.'

Talk to you, soon.

Chief Lady

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