

## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

Another world crisis has been averted, at least for the time being: North Korea has stated that it will not, now, explode another of its nuclear devices. This is, of course, good news, but I venture to guess that this is not the end of the little game of the Paramount Leader of this country, Mr Kim Jong Il, because, in my opinion, he is totally mad. He is totally mad to think that he can take on the military might of the United States of America; and, he is totally mad to think that he can thumb his nose at the United Nations. Mr Kim Jong Il has taken the situation to the very edge of a military precipice, one that could have well spelled his downfall if he had not reined in his rhetoric at the last minute. China's clever political posturing has paid dividends, with Mr Tang Jia Xuan, a PRC State Councillor, who represented President Hu Jin Tao, having a meeting with Mr Kim Jong Il who said that no further nuclear tests had been scheduled. (I sincerely hope that he is telling the truth.) The meetings of Mr Tang Jia Xuan and Mr Kim Jong Il were on Wednesday and Thursday (October 18-19) and took place just prior to the visit to China by US Secretary of State, Dr Condoleezza Rice. Diplomacy was the key to unlock the closed door of North Korea, of that, there can be no argument. But, last week, also, there were staged rallies in Pyongyang, the Capital City of North Korea, with some of the youth of the country, stating that it would defend their beloved country with their blood. The photographs of these rallies reminded me of the Berlin (Germany) rallies of the Hitler Youth and the Wehrmacht (the official name of the combined army, navy, and air force of the Third Reich, as decreed by Adolf Hitler under the Wehrgesetz (Defence Law) of May 21, 1935), just prior to the outbreak of World War II. Banners, lighted torches, military marches and speeches were the order of the day in those rallies, and the seated dignitaries, from respected German jurists to generals of the Wehrmacht, applauded their leader, Führer Adolf Hitler, as he fired up the tens of thousands with jingoistic rhetoric. Paramount Leader Kim Jong Il seems to have taken pages out of Adolf Hitler's book, *Mein Kampf*, the 'bible' of the Nazi Movement of Germany, during World War II. More than 50 million people were killed in the war that raged throughout the world between 1939 and 1945. It must never be allowed to happen again. If anybody in the world, today, could cause another war, it is Kim Jong Il. The United Nations is correct to take action to stop this country from becoming a nuclear power because, once North Korea masters the technology, associated with nuclear fission, the world will, definitely, not be safe again. The same could be said about Iran, too, in my opinion. I think of it in this way: If a child is given a loaded pistol and told to play games with it, it is almost a guarantee that the child will fire the weapon at some point in his play as he attempts to emulate the actions of adults. During World War II in England, it was common to have children play games, using toy guns, pretending to kill the bad guys. The 'bad guys', of course, were the Italians and the Germans. At an early age in the development of a child, it is only too easy to instill in the child, a way of thinking which could never, under normal circumstances, be instilled in the mind of an adult. For North Korea, the youth has only known about the West via propaganda, dished up by the North Korean Government. To change the mind of the youth of North Korea, one cannot use bullets. Bullets can only kill. Philosophy, on the other hand (the love of wisdom), can accomplish that which bullets could never accomplish. The same is true for the youth of Iran and all of the other countries of the world where a jaundiced view is held of the United States and many other Western countries. The Government of China, in fact, is proving this point because, by the power of persuasion, it appears to have helped avert a shooting war on the North Korean Peninsula.

Sadly, many of the youth of Israel, to a great extent, are following the same line as the youth of North Korea,

*but, luckily, this Jewish State is cognizant of the horrors of war, many of their numbers, having been exterminated by the German propaganda machine of Adolf Hitler in that madman's attempt to have Germany commit genocide on a worldwide scale. It is said that more than 6 million Jews and umpteen tens of thousands of European gypsies were killed by Germany between 1939 and 1945. The one guaranteed outcome of a war, any war, in fact, is that a number of people will be killed. The killing must be stopped. The world must graduate from the state of barbarism to a state whereby people may live together in harmony and understanding. Surely, the world has sufficient intellectuals to turn the tide of jingoism, internationally, to inculcate and permeate the citizens of the nations of the world with the concept of understanding, compromise and tolerance ... if not love. For myself, I have never seen or met an ugly child; but I have seen and met quite a number of ugly adults. One cannot blame a child for a terribly wrongful act, only the parents of children may hold that honour because children are not inherently bad, only parents can aspire to that level. During World War I, the clergy of the United Kingdom were among the sponsors of hatred of the German race – 'Kill the Hun ... Every single One –', while the German clergy stirred up their youth under the leadership of Kaiser Wilhelm (Friedrich Wilhelm Viktor Albert (1859-1941)) to wage war on Europe, a war which grew into what was known as the war to end all wars. Jewish rabbis, around the world, are not advocating tolerance of the Muslim; Muftis (of Muslim countries) are not advocating ways and means of settling the differences between the Jews and the Muslims. Neither the Q'ran nor the Torah advocates that killing is the way to a Muslim or a Jewish Heaven. For the past 58 years or so, the Jews of Israel have been at war with their Arab neighbours (Syria still maintains that a state of war exists with Israel). One would have thought that the message of history was clear: Killing is not the answer to remedying historical disputes. And, yet, the fighting and the killing continue, unabated. It is a sad legacy of the human race: It loves to kill its own.*

*Talk to you next week.*

*Chief (loving) Lady*

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