



## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*The personal attacks on Hongkong's newest Legislative Councillor, Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang (), is indicative of the style and substance of the Administration of Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen (). The attacks were first launched by The Secretary of Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak Sing (), in the Legislative Council Chamber, who, on Wednesday, December 5, 2007, following the swearing in of Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang as a Legislative Councillor, said, among other things, that Hongkong's newest lawmaker had, suddenly, become a democrat and suddenly cared about the livelihoods of the people of the territory. He went on to state: 'Our new legislator is a former official (of the Hongkong Government) ... Unless she believes that colonial rule was democracy, I don't know whether she has worked for people's livelihood or officials' livelihoods ...'. Other members of the Hongkong Government have, also, joined in, in a chorus of attacks on Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang. Meanwhile, the Chief Executive sits and watches ... and says nothing. Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang, a few days after the direct attack on her in the Legislative Council, received a threatening note with a razor blade, enclosed, asking her to commit suicide. As far as I am concerned, this is disgraceful! It is terrible blot on Hongkong and, especially, on the Government of the territory. Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang, in an open and fair election, won the day as the people of Hongkong chose her to represent them. The Government of Hongkong has no right to attack her, publicly or privately. Hongkong's newest Legislative Council member should be considered as the loyal opposition to the Government of the day; and she deserves to be treated with the respect that is due to her as a representative of the people. In fact, the Government has no right to make personal attacks on this lady or any other lady or gentleman, sitting in this august body, although there is no reason that the Government may not attack any and all of the themes, contained in one or more of the speeches and/or proposals of the Legislative Council members. One should not attack the bearer of a message, but there is no reason that one may not attack the content of the message. The very fact that the Chief Executive of Hongkong permitted such ignominy is utterly degrading of the Administration and is indicative, also, of the weakness of this Government and of a number of its high-level officials. For what reason, when Legislative Councillor Chim Pui Chung () was sworn in after serving a jail sentence in Hongkong, did not the Government attack him? Think of what could have been said by The Secretary of Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak Sing, about Legislative Councillor Chim Pui Chung: 'The Honourable, former jailbird, Legislative Councillor Chim Pui Chung, sits here, today, after obtaining a striped suntan behind bars, claiming to represent one class of people in Hongkong. Does the Honourable gentleman represent the members of his constituency or does he represent himself? Would he consider himself to be a plutocrat or a democrat?' Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang, unlike Mr Chim Pui Chung, has an unblemished history and has never even been accused of any wrongdoing let alone been found guilty of felonious acts. This is unlike Legislative Councillor Chim Pui Chung who is a felon. Yet the Government sat quietly by after Mr Chim Pui Chung was sworn in, in the Legislative Council Chamber without any kind of an attack, being launched. Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang, as far as I am concerned, is a very brave lady because she determined to take on the might of Beijing in an election where the odds were stacked against her to win a seat in the Legislative Council. Her opponent, Mrs Regina Ip Lau Suk Yee (), got a very rude awakening when Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang honestly beat her in an open election. The people of Hongkong had spoken and that should have been sufficient for the Hongkong Government to accede to the wishes of the electorate, be the electorate right or wrong in the choice of a representative. Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang, today, must speak for all of the people of these 416 square miles and she must be honest and faithful to the people who pledged their troth in her. It is not for the Government of Hongkong to attack her, but for the Government of Hongkong to work with her for the benefit of the territory and of its peoples.*

*If the attack on Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang by the Government of Hongkong is to be considered the way of the future, it only serves to indicate what a rum Government there is in Hongkong. Mrs Anson Chan Fang On Sang has been a high-ranking member of the Hongkong Government under the First Chief Executive, Mr Tung Chee Hwa (), and she, intimately, knows of the workings of Government. Now, she sits on the other side of the bench and is well placed to be able to work for the people of Hongkong and, at the same time, understand and to appreciate the problems of Government and its many and varied considerations. She is much better qualified, actually, than Mrs Regina Ip Lau Suk Yee who, in my opinion, is something of a political prostitute, as I have written to you before. The likely result of these attacks on Mr Anson Chan Fang On Sang by the Administration of Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen is that she may well be re-elected by a wide majority at the next Legislative Council election if she chooses to run, once again. The electorate will remember how she calmly sat by as unwarranted personal barbs were hurled in her direction. She could not have enjoyed the attacks, but she determined that one had only to understand and to appreciate the calibre of those Hongkong Government officials who were leading the attack upon her person. It is said that when a person spits on one's face, all that one can do is to allow the spittle to dry and, then, wash away the horrid mess. One should not lower one's dignity to the level of the spitter.*

*Talk to you in 2008, My Dear Grandchild.*

*Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you – and every one!*

*Chief Lady*

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