

The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

I have never thought very much of, or about, the Chief Executive of Hongkong, Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen (). His statements of Thursday, May 14, 2009, uttered in the Legislative Council Chamber, makes me understand the reason that his mien is inconsistent with my innate proclivity to enjoy his company or even to gaze upon his countenance. His statements of late consolidate my opinion of him and tend to support my belief that I should not waste my time, thinking about this little man who, clearly, has very serious mental problems. I call him 'little' because, aside from the fact that he is, in fact, a short-arse, he is, also, a midget in his thinking. (I am happy that Hongkong has yet to pass a lese-majesty law because my comments about this Catholic leader of about 7 million, Chinese residents of these 416 square miles would, without question, be contrary to such a draconian piece of legislation.) Last Thursday-week, in case you have forgotten, Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen was asked about his opinion in respect of the June 4, 1989, Tiananmen Square, bloody massacre. He responded: 'I understand Hongkong people's feelings about June 4, but the incident happened many years ago. The country's development (meaning China's development not Hongkong's) in many areas has since achieved tremendous results and brought economic prosperity to Hongkong. I believe Hongkong people will make an objective assessment of the nation's development ... My views represent the opinion of Hongkong people, in general, and the opinion of citizens has affected my view. What I have said is how I feel about the view of the people of Hongkong ... '. Translation: Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen maintains that people can be bought and sold; it is just a question of the price. This reminds me of the story of an elderly man who approached a comely young lady, offering her a champagne dinner if she would spend the night with him. Upon receiving a curt and very negative response, the man offered the lady a new Mercedes 500 motor car if she would spend the night with him. Again, there was a curt and very negative response. Being tenacious, the man, then, offered the lady \$HK10 million in cash for the pleasure of her company in his bed for the night. The lady looked at him, most admiringly, hesitated for a second, clearly measuring her response and, was about to give a positive response when the man pressed the advantage, saying: 'On second thoughts, how about \$HK10,000?' The lady yelled: 'What do you think I am? A prostitute!' To which outburst, the man said, politely and firmly: 'Madame, we have established what you are and your constructive profession; the only question is the price.'

It is said that everybody in this world has a price and Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen, obliquely, has admitted that he is a political prostitute, a man who, for the sake of his ambition, can be bought ... if his price is met. And it is clear that his price has been met – by Beijing. This suggests, also, that he is of the opinion that the Government of China has paid the price for the innocent blood that it had shed at Tiananmen Square about 2 decades ago. That price appears to have been prosperity for Hongkong people, but they must keep their mouths shut, tightly, with regard to the horrors that took place in Beijing when about one million Chinese students begged for freedom and democratic reforms and were met with tanks and soldiers of the People's Liberation Army ... and their blood stained the stones of Tiananmen Square.

Omar Khayyam , a Persian mathematician, astronomer and author of one of the world's best-known works of poetry, was born in Neyshābūr (now in Iran) in about 1050 A.D. and he is thought to have died in

about 1122 A.D. His name means 'Omar the Tent-maker'. In his *Rubáiyát*, Omar Khayyam wrote, among other things:

*'The Moving Finger writes, and, having writ,
Moves on; nor all your Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.'*

This was written at least 900 years ago and it is as true, today, as it was in the days of Omar Khayyam. There is much to be learned from history because history is a window to the future – if one has eyes to see; if one has ears to hear; and if one has the quality of a brain, allowing one to assimilate historic facts so as to avoid the mistakes of ages past. The ignominious acts of governments, including those of China, cannot be washed away due to the fact that the acts took place 2 decades previously or at any time in the past. The ignominious acts of Japan in bombing Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941, cannot be washed away because they happened 68 years ago. Japan's ignominious acts in China, when Nanjing fell to the Imperial Japanese Army in December 1937 in horrific circumstances, can never be forgotten even though the Japanese Government of today would like to rewrite its history books so as to exclude the horrors that took place 72 years ago. In that episode of history, known as The Rape of Nanjing, there were at least 40,000 deaths of civilians and former soldiers, and 20,000 rapes of innocent Chinese women. The fact that Japan is the world's third-largest economy, today, does not remove the stain that is Japan's legacy for history to record for ever ... 'Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.' It is a nonsense for Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen to claim that, because of the passage of 2 decades, the ignominious episode, now known as The Tiananmen Square Massacre, should be forgotten because, inter alia, the Chinese Government is assisting Hongkong, economically, today. For the Chinese Government of 1989 to attack and to kill defenseless Chinese male and female students at Tiananmen Square in the centre of the Capital City of China, Beijing, it is a stain on the government of the day: It, too, cannot be washed away. History will, no doubt, record this single act as one that is barbaric in the extreme. History is studded with acts of barbarism by governments of nearly every country of the world. And that includes many outrageous acts of the Holy Roman Empire which, in the 12th Century, comprised most of the territory of modern-day Austria, Belgium, The Czech Republic, Eastern France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Western Poland, and Switzerland. And one should not forget to mention that horrors that successive governments of England bestowed upon its people in centuries past.

What is fresh in the minds of the people of Hongkong, today, is the June 4, 1989, Tiananmen Square horror because it is a reminder to us, all, how things can go terribly wrong; and, how easy it is for one to extinguish the life of a young student ... or the lives of many hundreds of students. The students wanted a change in the Chinese Government. They wanted things were being executed in China, differently: They wanted freedom from fear, among other things. The 1989 Government of China demanded a return to the status quo ante. The Chinese Government determined that the way to accomplish its ends was through the use of brute force – against students who were utterly defenseless and, even if any one of them had had a weapon, it is unlikely that he or she would have known how to use it. And, yet, Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen would have the audacity to make the statements that he uttered in the Legislative Council Chamber on Thursday, May 14, 2009.

Shame on him!

Talk to you, next week.

Chief Lady

***While TARGET makes every attempt to ensure accuracy of all data published,
TARGET cannot be held responsible for any errors and/or omissions.***

*If readers feel that they would like to voice their opinions about that which
they have read in **TARGET**, please feel free to e-mail your views to
editor@targetnewspapers.com. **TARGET** does not guarantee to publish
readers' views, but reserves the right so to do subject to the laws of libel.*