

The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

Donald the Duck, the Chief Executive of Hongkong, is in trouble in Beijing. It is totally unfair! Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen () is not made of the same material as the First Chief Executive of Hongkong, Mr Tung Chee Hwa (), and he is not going to resign on the spot as did his predecessor. If that is what Beijing thinks, then, Beijing has another thought coming. It is not in the character of Donald the Duck to throw in the towel after having been pummeled onto the canvas by a couple of punches from Beijing heavyweights. It has been accurately reported that Donald the Duck is not the most-beloved of men in the territory, and it is, also, true that he has not caused various political factions to come together in order to work as a team ... under his command. As a cohesive force for Hongkong, he is not and has never, and can never, be such, but, at the same time, he has done little to ameliorate the ever-fermenting political situation. That, as far as President Hu Jin Tao () and Premier Wen Jia Bao () are concerned is the problem. They have both told Donald the Duck to get it on and handle matters in Hongkong 'in an appropriate manner' and to resolve 'some deep-rooted conflicts' with regard to the Hongkong society. Beijing wants peace, quiet and prosperity for Hongkong, and it wants Hongkong trouble-makers to keep their big mouths shut tightly. It is fortunate, actually, that Donald the Duck is made of the stuff of a pachyderm because, otherwise, he may have taken extreme offence to have been called, obliquely, inept as a Chief Executive of these 416 square miles. One of the many problems with puppets is that they can only move when the puppeteer pulls the strings, correctly. Otherwise, they get out of control, you know. This is not to suggest that Donald the Duck is a puppet of Beijing although it does appear that that is not a completely unfair statement because he, as we all know, is merely a fictional character, parading around as a real person. Even his mien is an exemplification of that fictional, Walt Disney character. But he cannot be held responsible for his looks or his lack of perspicaciousness and nous. He just inherited his genes and nobody should blame him for any lack of the grey stuff, just above his ears, or, for that matter, his inability to be a good communicator. That is one of the many reasons that I maintain that it is unfair for Beijing to complain about Donald the Duck. After all: Who placed him in the position as Chief Executive of Hongkong? Certainly, it was not people of the territory that voted him into office because they did not have the wherewithal even to vote, Universal Suffrage, having not been implemented as part of The Basic Law of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. If there is a political problem in Hongkong, then, it must be the maladroitness of Beijing's high muck-a-mucks. If there is political discontent in Hongkong over such matters as no Universal Suffrage, then, that discontent has been caused by people, other than Donald the Duck. Certainly, Donald the Duck cannot be held responsible for anything because, as I have already stated, it is not within the character of this fine Catholic gentleman to be a cohesive force. After all, he is a follower, not a leader.

As a servant of his former British masters when Hongkong was a British Crown Colony, Donald the Duck was quite used to serving many senior people in successive governments of Hongkong. He learned that being servile was a method of pacification. Adopting the Hongkong Government stroke was a method of dodging any political landmines that may have been strewn in his path. Today, he is top dog in Hongkong and there is no way for him to avoid, stepping on political landmines, from time to time. Beijing should have

realised this from the outset of his tenure of office. It is said that one should never take a cowboy off his horse. This, simply put, is because a cowboy only knows how to ride a horse not to walk or run by himself: The horse does the walking, the running, and the farting; the cowboy does the sitting, only . The same logic could be said of Donald the Duck: One should never expect a servant to act like a master; it, just, is not within the character of a servant. A servant is used to taking orders and executing them, not to issuing orders. Once a servant, always a servant. Can you expect a Filipina maid to think about anything – when she is awake, I mean? Of course not! They are not programmed to think. Further, the Government of The Philippines does not want them to think because, otherwise, from where could this country obtain money due to the export of maids? Look, My Dear Grandchild, let me put it to you this way: It is useless to ask a policeman to stand up in order to give speech to an assembly of people, that assembly, not being policemen, because policemen only think when they are seated. Once a policeman, always a policeman. Policemen can only think when sitting, not standing. It is a well-known fact. It is totally wrong to blame Donald the Duck for his lack of intellectual foresight because he never had any in the first place. Beijing should have known this before placing the poor man in a position for which he was, obviously, not suited. I, for one, feel sorry for him. I shall pray for him.

Talk to you next week.

Chief Lady

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