

## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*I was more than a little miffed when I learned the Mr Tsang Yok Sing (), the President of the Legislative Council of Hongkong, had been invited, officially, to visit Israel. The only question that I had was: Why? Why was I not invited? I telephoned the Consulate General of Israel and spoke, briefly, to a Ms Ernie Yuen, who said that she was the Press Officer. My telephone call to her, I presumed, was being recorded so I started off by trying to give Ms Ernie Yuen, my name and telephone number. But, before I could finish one word, she said: 'Yes! What do you want?' I, then, proceeded to try to obtain the reason that Mr Tsang Yok Sing had been invited to visit Israel. She said: 'You want to know why Jasper Tsang is going to Israel. Is that right?' 'Yes,' I answered. 'OK, I'll have to talk to somebody to find out. I'll call you back,' Ms Ernie Yuen said. I, then, said that I had tried to give her my telephone number, but she had stopped me. She did not respond so I gave her my name, which I spelled out, carefully, followed by my telephone number. 'I'll call you back with the answer,' Ms Yuen said, 'before the end of the day ... That is before 5:30 p.m.' And, with that, she just hung up. So much for good manners. Of course, Ms Yuen is working for the Government of Israel and we, all, know about the manners of the Sabra, an Israeli, born in the modern state of Israel. At about 4:15 p.m., much to my surprise, Ms Ernie Yuen did return my call, stating that I would have to send to the Consulate General of Israel, my question, in writing: 'For what reason was Mr Tsang Yok Sing invited to go to Israel?' I responded by stating: 'Please be informed that I respectfully decline.' I requested of Ms Ernie Yuen that she repeat my response to the demands of the Consulate and, after about one minute of attempting to repeat it, she understood its meaning (at least, I think so) and, with that, she just hung up, saying, nonchalantly and in what I would call an offensive manner: 'OK!'*

*I do not understand the reason that Mr Tsang Yok Sing was invited to visit Israel, but it can do no harm and, if anything, he will be able to understand a little about the country, its diverse peoples, and their many customs. There are about 7.35 million people in the country, 76 percent of whom are Jews, 16 percent are Muslims, 1.74 percent are Arab Christians and just Christians, 1.60 percent are Druze, and 3.90 percent of the human population are listed as being 'unspecified' . Mr Tsang Yok Sing will, also, be able to understand the reason that, when you give 2 Jews one problem, there will, invariably, be 3 contrary opinions as to how to solve the problem. Jews love a good argument, but, when an outsider criticises the Jewish State or, for that matter, any Jew, good or bad, the hairs on the back of the neck of any Jew, listening to the criticism, stand up like an erect phallus, and, then, watch out! Such a situation is quite likely to become extremely dangerous for anybody, male or female. Unluckily for the Sabra, they have been born into a world where danger could be lurking at every corner of the world. This has caused them to adopt their present mien of belligerence – sadly. For the enemies of Israel, they know of the power of the Sabra and of the Israel Defence Forces, which number about 3.46 million males and females between the ages of 16 years and 49 years. The Israeli Defence Forces are among the strongest single military force in the Middle East. Also, it is well known that Israel is a country, harbouring weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weaponry, although the country has never employed them – at least, not openly. It is going to be interesting to learn whether or not Mr Tsang Yok Sing was given a demonstration of the military might of Israel.*

*On a very positive note about Israel, it is well accepted that it is one of the very few countries in the world, today, where, if one can prove that he or she is a Jew, that person is welcomed to make the country his or her home. On a very negative point, however, about the Jews, in general, throughout history, they have been the bad boys on the block – internationally. It is said that the Jews are their, own, worst enemies. To a large extent, they are arrogant and are very insular in their thinking. The Jews of most countries do not even try to assimilate with gentiles (non-Jews) of the world so that their knowledge of others has to be very limited.*

*Which brings me to the reason for this letter: Is it not time for Israel to consider adopting a proactive stance with regard to positive propaganda about the Jews, in general, and the State of Israel, in particular? The masters of modern diplomacy, today, have to be the Government of the People's Republic of China. In its hunger for raw materials, China has gone to some of the poorest countries in the world and has offered tens of billions of US dollars in aid to these countries. In return, China has offered to initiate joint ventures on a win-win basis. The number of commercial partnerships that China has been able to cement with the governments of other countries, around the globe, is too numerous to write in this letter, of course, but it is well known. Who dreamed up this policy of guiding China's present international relations, I have no idea, and it has never been published, but whoever it is/was, he or she is brilliant. One must not forget that it was not that long ago that the world looked at China as being another international pariah. Today, China is viewed as one of the most-respected countries in the world. What is, I wonder, the policy of Israel with regard to international relations with other countries, other than the United States of America? Is there one? I doubt it. And this is one of the biggest problems of this powerful country of the Middle East in spite of it, having some of the greatest minds in the world. This is not meant to be a platitude, but an undeniable fact: The Jews have contributed, greatly, to culture, to medicine, to electronics, to music ... you name the category and, somewhere, a Jew is there.*

*But just try to telephone the Consulate General of Israel in Hongkong and talk to somebody and, immediately, one is turned off. One of my heroes is Edmund Burke, a 19<sup>th</sup> Century British statesman and political philosopher, who is reputed to have stated:*

***'The arrogance of age must submit to be taught by youth.'***

*Talk to you, next week.*

*Chief Lady*

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