

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE, IF YOU PLEASE

When Americans and Europeans first come to Asia, regardless of their academic achievements and backgrounds, they, invariably, come a cropper when dealing with their Chinese counterparts in matters, relating to business dealings.

The trouble is, more often than not, that although the Americans and Europeans think that they are talking the same language, actually, they are not – they are worlds apart.

And that, in the opinion of **TARGET** (), is going to be the biggest stumbling block between that which the Government of the United States of America wants to achieve in its dealings with the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and that which the Government of the PRC wants to achieve in its dealings with the Government of the US.

The California Meeting

In the first week of June, President Barack Hussein Obama met with President Xi Jin Ping () in a California desert retreat where, it was claimed, the two leaders had wide-ranging discussions – in their two-day meeting!

First, one must ask: How could these two leaders of the largest economies of the world have been able to have '*meaningful, wide-ranging discussions*' on any particular subject within such a short space of time?

But, when Saturday, June 8, 2013, came and went, little of any substance was announced by either the US side or the PRC side about the '*meaningful, wide-ranging*' discussions'.

One was left to conjecture as to what, really, was achieved during those two days of talks, that is, in-between, masticating, defecating, urinating and sleeping.

TARGET would suggest that very little was achieved and that was the reason that nothing of a definitive nature was announced.

National Security Advisor to the White House, Mr Tom Donilon, is quoted as having said, inter alia, that the two Presidents talked in depth about the situation in respect of North Korea's nuclear programme.

'They agreed that North Korea has to denuclearize, that neither country (the US and the PRC) will accept North Korea as a nuclear-armed state and that we would work together to deepen cooperation and dialogue to achieve denuclearization,' Mr Tom Donilon said.

Mr Tom Donilon was simply reiterating that which had already been stated on many occasions over the past few months.

There were said to have been talks with regard to cybersecurity, with President Barack Hussein Obama, presenting detailed examples to President Xi Jin Ping of the PRC's perfidious acts of cybertheft of US property.

Mr Tom Donilon, on this subject, said:

'... if it's (the matter of cybersecurity) not addressed, if it continues to be this direct theft of

United States's property, that this is going to be (a) very difficult problem in the economic relationship and was going to be an inhibitor to the relationship really reaching its full potential ... It is now at the centre of the relationship: It is not an adjunct issue ...'.

Following the meeting of the world's most-powerful leaders of the two largest economies of the world, the PRC Government came out with a statement to the effect that the PRC, too, has been the victim of cybertheft.

Mr Yang Jie Chi (), a State Councillor of the PRC Government, said, after the California meeting:

'China, itself, is also a victim of cyber attacks and we are (a) staunch supporter of cybersecurity. On cybersecurity, China and the United States both are faced with similar challenges. Cybersecurity should not become a root cause of mutual suspicion and friction between our two countries. Rather, it should be a new bright spot in our cooperation.'

One might conjecture: What did President Barack Hussein Obama hope to achieve when he accused the Government of the PRC, in very definitive terms, of cybertheft of US property?

Did the US President expect from the PRC President, words to the effect:

'Sorry, Sir. It won't happen again.'

Intellectual property theft is, certainly, not new to this world of ours, but, in today's high-technology environment, intellectual property theft is just that much easier to accomplish than in days of yore.

It may be considered more than a little odd to many people that, prior to recent events, the theft of PRC State Secrets by the US Government and the theft of US State Secrets by the PRC Government, in addition to thefts of intellectual properties, belonging to corporate entities of both nations, little has ever been said of those matters and, certainly, the subject of such thefts has never been a matter for the US Congress, the US Senate, or any other law-making body of the US Government to raise in forums.

The Ballad of East and West

In the immortal words of Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936), in his poem, *'The Ballad of East and West'*, the first four lines are:

'OH, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet,

Till Earth and Sky stand presently at God's great Judgment Seat;

But there is neither East nor West, Border, nor Breed, nor Birth,

When two strong men stand face to face, tho' they come from the ends of the earth!'

As man continues to wage war on his fellows, never tiring of the act of legalised murder, perpetrated down through the centuries, so it must be true to state that man continues to lack the ability to talk the same languages as his fellows – although he would make the claim that he does understand his fellows' languages.

His inability to try to understand, to any great extent, the thinking of others, those whose cultures are vastly different from one corner of the world to another; and, that which caused, at its very core, for that manner of thinking to be dominant, so understanding concepts by those, being alien to their own cultures, becomes difficult, if not impossible to achieve.

With the best intentions in the world, it is highly unlikely that President Barack Hussein Obama will, ever, really understand the thinking of his counterpart, President Xi Jin Ping, in respect of '*enterprises of great pith and moment*', to borrow a phrase from William Shakespeare's play, '*Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*'.

As **TARGET** has penned on a number of occasions, there is that story of the well-meaning, American economist who was asked by the Government of India to find a solution to the problem of feeding the billion-plus, human inhabitants of the country, many of whom were starving.

The economist found it incongruous to understand the reason that the Indian Government did not simply order the butchering of the tens of thousands of cows, roaming the countryside, the many towns and cities of the country, and give the meat to those who were hungry.

'Where [ignorance is bliss](#), 'tis folly to be wise.'

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