

THE PROBLEMS IN VIETNAM ARE ONLY JUST BEGINNING

Whether or not it is true, **TARGET** () cannot confirm, but according to Mr Bruno Fallegger, the Resort Manager of InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort, the property on which this luxury resort has been built – and it continues to expand its facilities – is owned by a 39, year-old Vietnamese, who is one of the largest, instant-noodle manufacturers in the world.

This medium has a small problem with regard to the statements of Mr Fallegger because, among other things, The Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) is only 39 years old, having achieved unity with South Vietnam, following the vicious, 20-year war with the United States of America, resulting in the eventual victory by North Vietnamese troops who overran Saigon in April of 1975.

The purported owner of the property in Danang, according to Mr Fallegger, on which sits the InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort, today, if, indeed, he is only about 39 years old, raises a number of seeming anomalies:

- (a) The legal owner was only born in 1975, or thereabouts, at the time that the SRV was officially introduced as the best, acceptable governmental philosophy for the country;
- (b) Property in the SRV is supposed to be owned by the State, only, not by any individual, living within the State; and,
- (c) In the event that the 39, year-old individual has leased the property from the State for a limited period of time, from where could he have amassed sufficient money to be a major player in the international, noodle-making industry in addition to being able to put a sufficient amount of money on the table in order to persuade the SRV Government to lease him the property?

But, on the assumption that this ‘*noodle king*’ is the legal ‘*owner*’ of the Danang property, it is indicative and demonstrative of the terrible inequality that exists within this very young country, with the very rich, becoming richer and richer, while the tens of millions of the very poor continue, silently, to suffer their lot.

The Riots Of Early May

In the first fortnight of May, there was widespread rioting in the SRV, especially in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi (the Capital City of the country) and, at first, the Government took little to no action to dissuade the rioters from their avowed intent at venting their anger.

For what reason(s) did not the Government take action at the first sign of agitation among the populous, only to the powers that be in this Marxist-Leninist country can answer.

The original targets of the rioters were factories and businesses that were supposed to be owned by individuals/corporate entities of the People’s Republic of China (PRC).

The result was that the rioters made quite a number of errors, taking out their frustrations on Taiwanese-owned enterprises as well as PRC factories – and any other factories that they happened to espy.

At the height of the rioting, at least two PRC nationals lay dead with another 16 PRC nationals, having been

critically injured.

The PRC Government sent ships to the SRV to rescue more than 3,000 of its citizens, living in the country.

The root cause of the rioting was said to have been the determination of the PRC Government to drill for oil in an area that is claimed to be well within the SRV's 200-miles Exclusion Economic Zone of the South China Sea.

When the SRV riots turned very ugly, the Government stepped in and arrested an estimated 1,400 people, all of whom, in addition to rioting, had turned into avid and very determined looters.

In fact, as the world watched the situation, unfolding in the SRV, it was only too apparent that the people, taking part in the mêlée, were more interested in grabbing whatever goods they could obtain than in being patriotic by demonstrating their frustrations at the PRC's actions, taking place within 120 miles of the coast of their country.

At this point, with members of the proletariat, entering places of business, mostly owned by foreigners, and carting away refrigerators, television sets, iPhones, clothes, boxes of food, etc, it should have been very clear to the outside world that these people went venting their anger at their plight more than any consideration, predicated by patriotic reasoning.

Of the 93 million-plus, human population of the SRV, about 10.50 million people are living below the poverty line. That number of people represents about 11 percent of the entire population.

The actions of the PRC Government in permitting (or ordering) The China National Offshore Oil Corporation to send in a deep-water oil rig into an area, known to be well within the SRV's 200-miles Exclusion Economic Zone, and, then, defending that oil rig and its operators by ramming SRV's Coast Guard ships as well as bombarding them with water cannons, was aggressive in the extreme.

It was a very strong message to the SRV Government that the PRC was here to stay.

It was the first time in the past two decades that the PRC Government had acted in this manner. It could be said to be uncharacteristic of this Government toward one of its neighbours.

It is well known that the Chinese had, on and off for about 1,500 years, successfully invaded Vietnam and subjugated its population to its will.

Anti-Chinese feelings die slowly in the SRV, it seems, and it takes little to provoke the proletariat into action against the Chinese as was demonstrated in early May.

A Bowl Of Rice, If You Please

When American missionaries first ventured into areas of the world where Christianity had few or no deep roots, they soon discovered that offering food to the natives, in order to seduce them into embracing Western Gods, was a very effective method of obtaining converts.

A bowl of rice is a strong incentive for a heathen to adopt the Christian ethic, it was soon learned – even if only for a short period of time.

The SRV, today, whether or not it appreciates the truth of the matter, is a country in transition; and, its Government must have come to the realisation that it has to embrace a market-led economy in order to appease the populace.

It has to find a way to put rice on the tables of everybody.

The construction of the InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort and its access roads is just a small

example of how the SRV has come to that realisation.

But the Government is dragging its feet – and the hungry are not anxious to wait too much longer for what they must feel is their right.

While the poor of Danang squat on stools at street corners, downing a bowl of noodles, well-fed, Asian and Western tourists dine at plush restaurants, spending on one meal that which is sufficient to feed the average Vietnamese worker for the best part of a month.

One can only conjecture how the poor of Danang feel toward the rich tourist, being chauffeured round the city in their swank clothes, wearing a wristwatch and a diamond ring.

The SRV has never tolerated an open society and, in fact, the Government has become more and more repressive at the first indication of discontent among the population.

One has the ability to kill a person with little trouble at all, but one cannot kill an idea ... it has the ability to live for eons.

The economy of the SRV is in tatters while, at the same time, more and more people are entering the workforce of the country, all of whom, no doubt, have aspirations of bettering the lot of their parents.

The SRV Government has to meet the challenges of today, boldly – or there could well be further and more widespread discontent, leading, perhaps, to a very difficult and, likely, insolvable situation for the present Government.

The SRV Government has to reform the economy, excise corruption within its ranks, and cause all manufacturing enterprises – the State's as well as private enterprise's – to give workers better conditions of employment.

Failure to act decisively will be at the Government's own peril.

If the Government cannot achieve the above within a reasonable time period, the canker will spread, eating away at the Government's ability to maintain the support of the very people that it has striven (and promised) to govern, fairly.

In short, the Government has to rebuild the country from its foundations for the benefit of all, rather than for the few.

-- **E N D** --

**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.*