

WHO'S RUNNING THE SHOW ?
WHO'S MINDING THE SHOP ?

Over the past month or so, it appears that the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) has a new, de facto, supremo who appears, openly, to have usurped the august position, supposedly held by the appointed Chief Executive, Mr Leung Chun Ying ().

The new, de facto supremo is Mr Tung Chee Hwa (), the First Chief Executive of the territory, who attempted, mostly unsuccessfully, to reign over the 416 square miles and its, then, 6.80 million human inhabitants from July 1, 1997, to March 12, 2005.

Mr Tung Chee Hwa is, today, a Vice Chairman of The National Committee of The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

It was reported, late last week, that Mr Tung Chee Hwa received a communication from The Federation of (HKSAR) Students, requested him to arrange a meeting with high-ranking members of the Government of the PRC at Beijing.

He replied to the request, stating, inter alia, that the determinations of The National People's Congress Standing Committee of August 31, 2014 cannot be changed, regardless of the actions of the students and their supporters, all of whom have barricaded areas of parts of the Central Business District of Hongkong Island, the over-crowded shopping area of Causeway Bay, Hongkong Island, and parts of one the most-dangerous areas of the territory: Mongkok, Kowloon.

It is very apparent that the vast majority of people, reading international reports with regard to the fracas, taking place in the 416 square miles that constitute the boundary of the HKSAR, a sovereign territory of the PRC, by the way, are unaware of the root problems – if one may call them so – noting only one word, emblazoned on T-shirts of some students: '*Freedom*'.

In fact, '*freedom*' has little to do with the current Occupy Movement in the territory (although '*freedom*' is a nice, emotive word, is it not?) because, aside from the fact that the resident population of the HKSAR enjoys all (and, in many cases, many more) of the freedoms that the population enjoyed in yesteryear, that which the students, their de facto financiers, their supporters, and their mentors – if one should label them as such – are demanding is the right for qualified Hongkongers to select their own candidates as prospective, future Chief Executives via public nomination rather than the present situation whereby a Nomination Committee will vet potential candidates for the post.

The students claim that they fear that the members of the Nomination Committee will, all, comprise those who show deference to Beijing, forsaking the wishes and aspirations of the majority of the voting population of the HKSAR.

Dissatisfied with the fact that the Current Chief Executive deigned not to talk to the student representatives, directly, and crestfallen when five, high-ranking representatives of the HKSAR Government told a student delegation, in a televised dialogue on Tuesday, October 21, 2014, that their demands could not, and would not, be passed onto the Beijing, directly, the students approached Mr Tung Chee Hwa, once again, seeking

succour.

Clearly, the thinking of the students must have been that Mr Tung Chee Hwa had the power that Chief Executive Leung Chun Ying lacked.

One has to ponder: Could the recent utterances of Mr Tung Chee Hwa be construed as an affront to Chief Executive Leung Chun Ying?

If so, who is, really, running the show?

Mr Tung Chee Hwa's Nemesis

In September of 2002, during the Second Term of Mr Tung Chee Hwa's reign as the HKSAR's supremo, the HKSAR Government attempted to advocate the implementation of Article 23 of The Basic Law of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

Article 23 was, and still is, viewed as leaving the political door ajar, leading to the eventual, gradual deterioration of personal freedoms in the territory.

An unprecedented, hostile reception followed the announcement of the intended (as it was thought, at that time) implementation of Article 23, culminating, on July 1, 2003, in an estimated 500,000 people, taking to the streets, demanding the resignation of Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa.

About 16 days later, Ms Regina Ip (), who was held to have been responsible for the failed attempt to obtain widespread, public approval in respect of the implementation of Article 23, resigned her position in the HKSAR Government as Secretary for Security.

Today, Ms Regina Ip is a member of the Legislative Council.

Mr Hu Jin Tao (), the Sixth President of the PRC, holding office between March 15, 2003, and November 15, 2012, determined to voice his displeasure, openly and publicly, with regard to what he considered was the poor governance of Mr Tung Chee Hwa.

That was in December of 2004.

Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa resigned as the head of the HKSAR Government on March 10, 2005.

Mr Tung Chee Hwa was censured for a number of acts (or the lack of appropriate acts), during his tenure of office, perhaps the most-questionable of which was when his Government granted the Cyberport Project to Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai (), the second son of Mr Li Ka Shing (). Mr Li Ka Shing is the richest man in the HKSAR.

By granted the Cyberport Project to corporate entities, under the direct control of Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai, it circumvented the need to go to open tender, as would have been correct and proper, in accordance with the awarding of HKSAR Government contracts to corporate entities in the private sector.

Corporate entities of Mr Li Tzar Kai constructed the Bel-Air Residences which comprise, among other things, a six-phased, residential development of 31, high-rise towers, pointing 48 floors into the sky.

By obtaining the sole right to this plum contract, hundreds of millions of dollars have been earned by selling flats in this development of Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai.

And the one person whom Mr Li Tzar Kai should thank for the awarding of this very lucrative project is Mr Tung Chee Hwa.

In the words of an anonymous, 20th Century British-born poet:

*The wind cannot be seen
As it whips over the ground.
Through every cranny, through every vale,
And, to the highest of mountain peaks
It announces: I, alone, am the liege!
Laves bubble; waters rush;
And, the Lombardy poplar
Bows to its power, serene,
As if to whisper: Noblesse oblige.*

Over the weekend of November 9, 2014, Mr Xi Jin Ping (), President of the PRC, said (*The wind will indicate which grass is tougher and better*).

One might like to ponder about which of the two Chief Executives of the HKSAR President Xi Yin Ping was referring: Chief Executive Leung Chun Ying; or, Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa?

He, certainly, could not have been referring to the only other HKSAR supremo – because Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen () left office under the dark cloud of an investigation, launched by The Independent Commission Against Corruption.

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