

MONEY TALKS AND BULLSHIT WALKS

It was always known, but now it is confirmed.

The Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) can be 'bought', directly or indirectly, if one has enough money.

Conversely, if one is not well heeled, tough luck: PRC justice may be denied the individual.

The recent revelations, of July 5, that a resident of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC, suspected of being involved in the kidnapping and murder of a 13-year-old boy, also a resident of the HKSAR, had been arrested in Zhuhai and turned over to the HKSAR Police Force, appears to be proof positive of the above propositions.

If the suspect had not been turned over to the HKSAR Police, it is a *dead* certainty that he would have been shot ... and the cost of the bullet that killed him, being demanded of the relatives of the dead miscreant.

This case involved a ransom of \$HK2.40 million, with the HKSAR Police Force, requesting the PRC Authorities to return the ransom money and the HKSAR resident who, it has been suggested, had been arrested in Zhuhai on or about July 1.

The case was particularly horrible because the body of the 13-year-old victim, Wu Ho Him, last seen on April 21, 1999 in the HKSAR, was discovered on a slope on Fei Ngo Shan on July 3.

An unknown 37-year-old man, Mr Cheung Chi Keung, has been charged with the murder.

The case contrasts markedly to that of the kidnapping of the son of mogul Li Ka Shing, Mr Victor Li Tzar Kuoi.

In this case, an HKSAR crook by the name of Cheung Tze Keung kidnapped the son of Mr Li Ka Shing and, though Mr Li Ka Shing has denied that he pushed Beijing to obtain revenge on his behalf, many people maintain that it was he, and he alone, who rated the treatment that the PRC Government meters out to its 'favourite sons' -- especially very wealthy sons.

The criminal act of 'Big Spender' Cheung Tze Keung took place in the HKSAR, but his trial was held in the PRC, in Guangdong.

Naturally, as is always the case in crimes of this magnitude, Cheung Tze Keung was found guilty, and promptly shot -- and his relatives were ordered to pay for the cost of the bullet which sent him to his criminal Heaven.

If Cheung Tze Keung had been returned to the HKSAR to stand trial, the most that would have happened would have been for him to be incarcerated in the HKSAR for 20 years or so (there is no capital punishment in HKSAR, at least, not yet).

And, then, two-thirds into his sentence, assuming that he was a good little prisoner, Cheung Tze Keung would have been free to continue his life of crime.

And he, his wife, his 2 children, and Mr Li Ka Shing's \$HK1 billion -- or so it has been suggested was the sum of money which was paid to Cheung Tze Keung's 'army' of kidnappers and murderers for the release of Mr Victor Li -- would have been happy for the rest of their natural lives.

Which would have proved that, in some cases, crime does pay.

Of course, Mr Li Ka Shing was not the only victim of Big Spender's 'army' of PRC-and- HKSAR-recruited cutthroats.

The Kwok Family, of Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd, also suffered at this crook's hands when Mr Walter Kwok Ping Sheung was, also, kidnapped by the Cheung Tze Keung 'army', and about \$HK600 million was paid for his safe release.

It had been reported that Cheung Tze Keung, an HKSAR resident, ordered members of his 'army' to visit the homes of people, such as Mr Li Ka Shing, armed with guns, collecting cash, first, as a requisite for the release of their illegal prisoner.

One of the major differences between the crime, perpetrated by Cheung Chi Keung, who allegedly killed, or had his gang kill, a 13-year HKSAR boy, and that of Big Spender Cheung Tze Keung et al, who was only convicted of kidnapping HKSAR residents and gathering ill-gotten billions of Hongkong dollars, was that Big Spender Cheung Tze Keung and his 'army' did not go in for killing their famous prisoners.

But Big Spender Cheung Tze Keung got a bullet in his head, while the most that can now happen to Cheung Chi Keung is receiving a sentence from an HKSAR Court, equal to spending the remainder of his natural life in jail with no chance of parole.

Mr Li Ka Shing and the Kwok Family members have never come forward to admit the details of the kidnapping in an open statement to the HKSAR Press.

Neither have they given out details of the ransom, whether or not it was paid in cash, and the details of the apprehension of the 'army' members in the PRC.

But the late Cheung Tze Keung, while in prison in Guangdong, awaiting the day that he was to be shot, was not afraid to tell the exciting story of the kidnappings, during the trial.

During his trial, it all came out: He was the crook who masterminded the kidnappings.

And he, blatantly, confirmed his success story -- just weeks before he received a bullet in his little brain.

(One may only speculate as to the reason that he would make admissions that he must have known would lead to his receiving the death penalty, unless he, mistakenly, thought that by making a full confession, implicating 'army' members, he could throw himself on the mercy of the Court and, by so doing, he could avoid being sent to the execution squad)

Messrs Li Ka Shing, Victor Li and Walter Kwok are thought never to have made official reports to the HKSAR Police Force (at least, it has never been officially stated), but, nevertheless, the Gang An -- the armed police force of the PRC Government -- caught the 'army' members and, promptly, the PRC Judiciary took appropriate steps to teach these crooks a lesson that they would never forget ... nor will they ever, now, remember those lessons.

The search for other 'army' members continues with a report, on July 10, that a Mr Wu Man had been arrested in Thailand and, somehow or other, ended up in the hands of the Guangzhou Police.

The point of all this is that, though the HKSAR Police Force knew of the Li Ka Shing Family and Kwok Family kidnappings, as did the Gang An, no application was made -- at least, none was reported to have been made -- for the return of the 'army' members to stand trial in the HKSAR for their crimes.

The PRC criminal system believes in applying methods of sentencing which have deterrent benefits on the rest of the 1.30 billion human population of the PRC.

Death, of course, is the most frightening deterrent to most people, viewing this draconian sentence as being the potential rewards of a life of crime.

By not requesting the return of Cheung Tze Keung and his 'army' members to the HKSAR to stand trial, a quick *kill* was an almost certainty.

There have been reports that the matter of Mr Victor Li and Mr Walter Kwok went all the way to the top of the PRC Government pile -- to Premier Li Peng, in fact.

Premier Li Peng, having a little tete-a-tete with Mr Li Ka Shing, would have been well aware of the situation with regard to the kidnapping of his son and, no doubt, would have made reference to the situation to Mr Li Ka Shing -- at least, in private.

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