

WHY NOT JUST KILL HER ?

It is, indeed, a great pity that the Government of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) removed Ms Cheung Man Yee from the post of Director of Broadcasting in such a silly manner.

The actual removal was not a bad idea, but did it have to be executed in such a sloppy and amateurish way?

There were so many options, available to the HKSAR Government, for her removal, without all the suggestions of political overtones – which are, totally, untrue, as we all know.

The Tung Chee Hwa Administration could have taken a few pages out of the books of extinct great governments (protection of intellectual property rights would not apply), all of which had very good and fixed principles for removing political '*thorns*' from within those former administrations.

For instance, the Tung Chee Hwa Administration could have discovered that Ms Cheung was suffering from a '*change of life*', and, as such, needed an immediate change from the rigors of managing the affairs of Radio Television Hongkong (RTHK).

It could have been discovered, alternatively, that Ms Cheung had shown ample evidence of being a manic depressive, probably caused by problems of reading too much bourgeois, democratic literature at home with her family.

A more difficult case for official HKSAR Government removal, of course, would have been to state that she was guilty of the crime of association with less-than-desirable elements in the PRC – such as engaging in talks with well-known PRC dissidents.

Then again, there was the tried-and-true, internationally accepted solution for removal of the unwanted, sometimes known as removal with extreme prejudice, or, simply put: '*Kill her!*'

Yes, there were a number of options, open to the Tung Chee Hwa Administration, but it is only too apparent that it was ill advised, and, as a result, people all over the world are going to have a '*go*' at the HKSAR Government over this matter, which should have been handled in a much better way.

Ms Cheung, of course, is a bit of bitch, and has been a bitch over the past 13 years: She has, constantly, been demanding independence for Radio Television Hongkong.

The reason that she adopted this silly stance has never been made public and there is no evidence that she is on the '*take*' from the US Government's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), or any other covert government agency, anywhere in the world, for that matter.

The main problem, of course, is that she is, just, too '*clean*'.

When you get somebody of the ilk of Ms Cheung, who does not seem to be a bungling administrator, and has never been seen to do much that is legally wrong, it is difficult to drum up universal support for her removal.

It would have been much easier to remove her from her previous post by having the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) start an unwarranted investigation into her, and her extended families', bank accounts, how she, or her family, was able to buy this and that, forcing her to prove that she was not corrupt, rather than confronting her with evidence of corruption – which appears to be non-existent.

The ICAC has this power, contained in Chapter 201 of The Laws of the HKSAR: The Prevention of Bribery Ordinance.

This Ordinance reverses the onus of proof so that the accused has to prove his innocence (in this case, her innocence) rather than the State prove his/her guilt.

It was a pity that the ICAC was never advised to move in, in an open investigation into the affairs of this lady, because, then, there would have been ample grounds for suspension of Ms Cheung from her duties – even though she is guilty of no wrong-doing — until after the investigation, which could have taken years to conclude.

Ms Cheung is being transferred to Tokyo where she will take up the post of Principal Hongkong Economic and Trade Representative, replacing Mr Paul Leung Sai Wah.

She is, of course, amply qualified for such a posting, having had no experience in matters, relating to her new job.

Presumably, the Tung Chee Hwa Administration is employing the Henry Ford Principal of governance, in this case.

The Henry Ford Principal, simply put, is that a chief executive of a manufacturing concern places a completely new face, one with no knowledge of the position or its requirements, in a position of power in a specific division.

This is done in order that that person, placed in such a position, is not influenced by determinations of existing senior staff, staff who, more often than not, are unable to see the (manufacturing) wood from the (assembly line) trees.

Henry Ford was, of course, the Founder of the US Ford Motor Company, which first saw life in 1903.

He introduced the concept of the standardisation of interchangeable parts in the manufacture of motor cars, and of the conveyer-belt system of production – both ideas of which are in practice, today.

Yes, Henry Ford was a great innovator, and his legacy will remain with the world for centuries to come.

Not so the HKSAR Administration of today, however, since it is, clearly, very inept in managing its affairs; and, the handling of the removal of Ms Cheung from RTHK is just one example of its ineptitude.

Reports of Ms Cheung, saying that she welcomes the change of posting, are a bit stupid because, after all, what else could she say?

For many years, she has fought to maintain the editorial independence of RTHK in spite of the fact that this HKSAR Government information service has demonstrated that it is, from the PRC Government's point of view, a critic of that totalitarian regime.

Ms Cheung never had the right to allow RTHK to take this independence stance; and, she should have realised, years ago, that, without express permission from the Tung Chee Hwa Administration, she might not do such naughty things.

Now, of course, it is a bit late to regret her appointment as head of one of the HKSAR Government's information services, in the first place.

But that is water under the bridge.

The question, that was facing the Tung Chee Hwa Administration, until recently, was how to get Ms Cheung into the water under the bridge – and cause her to drown herself.

The HKSAR Government and the PRC Government could not disallow her to go to the PRC, proper, because, in theory at least, she was an employee of the PRC Government, even though a rebel employee of sorts.

For people, such as Legislative Councillors Szeto Wah, Martin Lee and Emily Lau, et al, it is easy to achieve removal of such '*thorns*' from public view and prominence, because no rational reasons have to be given for acts of proscription from entering the Chosen Land.

But, for Ms Cheung, the HKSAR/PRC Government had to do better than just using platitudinous statements, enabling her removal from office.

A motor-car accident would have been too stupid for words because nobody would have swallowed it.

The best solution for her removal appeared to have been to kill her – and to blame it on the new Pakistani Military Dictatorship, the Timorese rebels, or the Tibetan monks, who still claim to want independence even though their liberation by the victorious forces of the People's Liberation Army has been such a boon to that archaic religious province of the PRC, where the national language of the PRC is, still, not even spoken.

Come to think of it, the way in which the Tung Chee Hwa Government handled the removal of Ms Cheung could well spell the end of this Government's regime, too: Heads could roll.

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