

WHO IS DYEING HIS HAIR BLACK ?

During World War II, it was of interest to the Allies just how many German intellectuals supported the ideas of the leader of the Third Reich, Adolf Hitler, Chancellor of Germany from 1939 to 1945.

One may suppose that if most ethnically Chinese people, living in the People's Republic of China (PRC), believe that something is correct and proper, then it must be so: At any particular time, a deer may be a horse if the people in power in the PRC claim this to be the case.

On another day, a deer may be pig if it is so pre-determined.

There is even a Chinese idiom which, roughly translated, goes along the lines: One thousand lies, told, become the truth, unfold.

So be it! After all, what is the use of farting against thunder?

Today, residents of these 416 square miles have learned to love the Government of the People's Republic of China since they are one of the constituent parts of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC and, as such, they are a part of the beloved '*mother*' country.

And uttering endearments in order to express the love of the '*mother*' country can hardly be considered sedition, or the stealing of State secrets, according to the interpretation and intended meaning of Article 23 of The Basic Law of the HKSAR.

There are so many HKSAR people, who, having gnawing aspirations to rise in the ranks in the HKSAR Government, or wishing to insert a toe in the HKSAR Government for the first time (for financial reasons, most of the time), are more than willing to dye their hair as black as pitch or fashion it in the manner of the late Comrade Chairman Mao Ze Dong.

The reason: To match the hair colour with that of the members of the illustrious Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, all of whom are fortunate enough to be able to avoid having to endure grey hair, at least when they are being photographed in public.

One may wonder what is the definitive bar code number for this hair dye, and whether or not it is manufactured in the PRC, or some other country.

One piece of verbal diarrhoea, issued forth from the mouth of a member of the HKSAR intelligentsia, has come to the people of the HKSAR from the Dean of the Faculty of Law at The University of Hongkong.

Professor Albert Chen Hung Yee has gone on record as saying that HKSAR judges and solicitors must pay more attention to the legal system, presently in vogue in the PRC; and, that HKSAR judges and solicitors should understand (meaning, no doubt, more fully understand, one must assume) certain policy issues (clearly meaning the policy issues of the PRC Government).

He said, inter alia: '*The new Constitutional order, which has been introduced in The Basic Law (of the HKSAR), requires the Court to perform an enhanced role in relation to policy making.*

'In Colonial days, the Courts simply interpreted legislation, drafted in clear and unambiguous terms. But, now, they (sic!) (the Courts) have to interpret a Constitutional document, which is drafted in broad and general language ... And they (sic!) (in this case, the word 'they', one must assume relates to magistrates and judges) will

have to engage in some kind of judicial policy-making in terms of balancing individual rights against collective interests, balancing continuity against changes, and, also, balancing one country against two (legal) systems ...'.

Professor Albert Chen is a member of The Basic Law Committee so that one suspects that he speaks from insider knowledge of what the Government of the PRC needs and expects of the governing bodies of its satellites – soon to include Macau, too.

If one subscribes to the opinion of Professor Albert Chen, then a magistrate/judge of the HKSAR may feel obliged to subject his determinations to the Propaganda Department of the Government of the PRC for a correct interpretation, putting a new meaning to Chapter One of the Laws of the HKSAR: The Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance.

Then, there is the matter of understanding the legal system of the PRC where law by rule is legend (not, mind you, English Common Law, which maintains the sacred principle of rule by law) and where, if the legal cap does not fit, then, there is always the political hatter, or milliner, who can re-fit it to suit the circumstances.

Where this all leads is only too clear: Magistrates and judges will have to be appointed in the same way that Supreme Court Judges are appointed in the United States – they are political appointees.

This, in itself, may not be very far removed from the present situation with regard to certain high, HKSAR Government officials: They, definitely, were political appointees ... of the Government of the PRC.

One may envisage a future where '*elections*' for prospective judicial appointees are held in secret in order to determine a prospective candidate's suitability to the position of magistrate or judge.

The adjudicators of these elections would, in themselves, be appointees of the PRC Government since only the PRC Government knows what is best for the sovereign territories of the PRC, be they one-country, one-system, or one-country, two-systems.

All this would follow, closely, the teachings of Gorgias, a Greek philosopher and rhetorician, who is credited with having observed, even as far back as the 5th Century BC, that might is right.

The PRC Government has, clearly, taken a page out of old Gorgias' books, and is exercising its imperial right.

If one studies this minor philosopher, his surviving works, being '*The Encomium on Helen*' and '*The Apology of Palamedes*', one notes something very familiar in his philosophy.

The nut of the thinking of Gorgias was this:

'Nothing Exists.'
'If Anything Does Exist, It Cannot Be Known;'
'If Anything Exists And Can Be Known, It Cannot Be.'

Sound familiar?

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