Foreword to Readers

The transfer of sovereignty from British colonial rule to the Motherland, China, was in itself unique in the history of China and indeed of the world. Unlike the transfer to independence in all former colonies, this was a reunification of a piece of Chinese territory with its rightful owner.

Another unique feature of the transfer was the "one-country-two-systems" introduced by China's former leader, Deng Xiao-ping. Hong Kong was to retain its former status as a capitalist region with a high degree of autonomy. That was no easy task, a task not made any easier by the fact that five years from its implementation, Britain, contrary to Article 158 of the Basic Law, took a U-turn that wiped out all hope of a through-train for the Legislative Council, the Municipal Councils and the District Boards.

Although this U-turn demolished the through-train, fortunately for Hong Kong, China saved what she could of the agreements and decided to abide by the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, while having to make interim arrangements to replace the through-train plan.

I feel greatly honoured to be able to stand as a witness to this page in history, having lived in Hong Kong for 46 years, and having seen at first-hand that, just as China had faithfully kept the unequal treaties made between China's Ching Dynasty and the colonial British in the nineteenth century, so she was likely to abide by this unique arrangement for the return of sovereignty to China in 1997.

My record of these events as told in the letters exchanged between myself and the colonial power, will indicate that the through-train was stopped by Britain and her local allies, misnamed "democrats", a convenient name to espouse the western colonial power. These "democrats", having stopped the through-train, now complain of not being passengers on it.

Those of us who worked hard to salvage the "through-train" from its wreckers have been denigrated and painted unwillingly into a political corner because we spoke the truth and refused to toe the political line of the "democrats". Without the daily public fanfare exhibited in the media by our opponents, without the prejudiced support of the western press and ignorant foreign politicians who judged what they did not understand, some of us, including myself, battled hard to keep the train on track.

This record of mine is intended as a historical one. I apologise for its rough presentation of what are merely copies of letters sent privately to politicians and the press of my own country. Without expert secretarial assistance I have had to two-finger type the letters myself in the midst of a busy schedule of work. The only merit I can claim is that I sincerely did my best to help a smooth transition of sovereignty. My mistake was to support in
their political careers people I thought were democrats, only to
discover that their agenda had very little to do with democracy
and everything to do with rallying supporters against China. Once
I made this discovery, those one-time friends did their utmost to
destroy me. What they miscalculated is that I am not easily
destroyed, and their efforts succeeded only temporarily. In the
longrun, truth will always prevail. In the event, patriotic forces
rallied together, and July 1 became a day of glorious reunification
with the Motherland. A new era began, with Hong Kong people
ruling Hong Kong.

If this episode in history can prove that truth will eventually
prevail, I believe that it will be a lesson from history to influence
generations to come, both here and in the world.

Elsie TU

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