

## **Our Liaison with Sir David Continues.....**

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### **At the beginning...**

A rough preparation makes things worse. I thought we inexperienced reporters were on the rocks at the beginning of this particular interview. Fortunately, Sir David broke the ice by starting a conversation. I found it hard to interrupt as I thought it would be impolite. I wished I could lead the conversation.

### **Trip to Australia**

Sir David has just come back from Australia, where he visited his daughter in Melbourne. It was just 10 degrees Celsius at night and very windy, so Sir David got to swim only once over the fortnight he was there. But when he returned to Hong Kong, the temperature there rose to 41 degrees Celsius, which was a tremendous change in the blink of an eyelid.

### **Gaining Hong Kongers' trust**

When I asked Sir David what Mr. CY Leung could do to gain people's trust, he deemed it sad that some people don't trust Mr. CY Leung, despite his genuine efforts to explain matters like the unauthorised structures added to his residence, and the unsubstantiated accusations that he is a member of the Communist Party.

Just as Sir David uttered his last words, he pointed to a book lying on the

coffee table. The book, called ‘Zhu Rongji’, could help Mr. Leung better handle criticisms. Sir David was impressed with Zhu Rongji’s wisdom, which was demonstrated when Mr. Zhu wisely answered difficult questions posed by the international press.

He then mentioned that a good leader should have ‘rhetoric’ oration, the art of persuasive or impressive speaking or writing, and charisma. He thought that Mr. Leung should display more charisma to inspire his followers. It’s clear that a charismatic leader can inspire the team, for example, a football team leader may not have the best football skills, but can motivate others through charm, and through persuasive and encouraging comments. At that moment, I thought of Hitler. I couldn’t believe his enormous capacity to influence the hoi polloi. Sometimes, the atmosphere and the people’s sentiment towards the government can make the people in power extremely powerful!

Talking about Mr. Leung’s recent policy address, Sir David asserted that Mr. Leung should learn to deliver a speech like Barack Obama, firing up the people. Sir David liked Obama’s inauguration speech. When it came to inspiring people, Sir David asked us if we had watched the recent movie ‘*Les Miserable*’. Sparked by the topic, my eyes widened as I am a big fan of musicals. What’s more surprising, Sir David played the song ‘*Do you hear the people sing*’. It was such a thrilling moment to listen to a powerful song that I almost sang along. This song instantly took me from Sir David’s living room back to the real story of the French Revolution in 1789. This revolution was a tragedy, completely miserable. He tittered as he said he was thinking of ‘the angry men’ in Sham Shui Po as he listened to the tune.

## **Homosexuals**

When my friend Stefan asked Sir David about the issue of gay marriage, he replied saying the word 'marriage' has a very narrow meaning. He deemed that 'marriage' could only describe a situation in which a man and a woman get together and make vows.

I asked him why homosexuals are considered "abnormal" by some people, and Sir David responded by saying that he did not think they were abnormal, and if that's part of human nature, it's not possible to change. In America, some states legally recognise the 'homosexual relationship' which means gay partners can inherit each other's property. Yet it is a controversial issue with endless arguments on both sides in Hong Kong.

## **Diaoyu Island**

Andy asked Sir David whether the dispute over Diaoyu Island between China and Japan might result in a war. Sir David did not seem to worry about it all. He said the fight over islands in Asia has been going on for a long time. He took the Philippines and Taiwan as examples. Sir David was confident that the conflict could eventually be settled by negotiation, although Japan has always been a hard negotiator.