

Exchange of email messages: Michael C H Jones and Rachel Lebihan

Date: Tue, 20 Dec 2011 17:25:06 +1000
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To: Rachel Lebihan <rlebihan@afrc.com.au>
CC: j.zerby@bigpond.com, tonypun@hotmail.com, david@holbol.com.au
Subject: Yesterday's telephone conversation Re: Australian Financial Review media inquiry

Hello Rachel,

I have to admit I was a little surprised to take your call at my Belrose property yesterday just after 5 PM - as you know the jazz had to be turned down and the wine put aside. We talked for about 30 minutes and I hope you were not "overwhelmed" by my overview of China - however that is what you wanted as I had indicated that I did not have up to date comments on educational matters.

To confirm my general statements:

- 1) The context to China is that the Communist Party is in full control running a system permeating from the top right to the very bottom and through ALL institutions - education policy is one of these key institutions. Therefore everything Australian universities do falls into a much greater field from Chinese perspectives
- 2) Secondly State Sovereignty is not debatable even at the margins in China, and that extends to ethnic Chinese who may have citizenship of other countries such as Australia. Hence if the deal, business or otherwise, is done it is ultimately with the CCP irrespective of contracts, courts, rule of law, overseas citizenship etc - that is why the Chinese authorities regularly jail Australians of Chinese ethnic background - it is only a matter of time before Australian citizens of other ethnicity are jailed if they fall foul of the Party and even for actions committed outside China.
- 3) The Chinese have until about a decade ago, and still subject to fierce debate within the CCP, kept a low profile concentrating on economic "warfare" or Global Economic Relations unless the above two principles were threatened re internal riots and the external South China Sea as two examples. But they follow the USA very closely and that is why I have recently written that "yesterday's US precedents are tomorrow's Chinese guidelines", thus Chinese "state sanctioned" assassinations are just around the corner re the US, or for that matter Israel, designate various people 'enemies of the state' and assassinate them in other countries after Presidential 'breakfast ' meetings - why then should China do otherwise, after all they view the Dalai Lama in the same way as the US viewed Bin Laden.

Given the above I bring to your attention material in the G20 section of the ACCI Website under United States as below:

New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/16/opinion/politics-over-principle.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha211>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/15/us/politics/obama-wont-veto-military-authorization-bill.html?ref=opinion>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/30/us/politics/senate-approves-military-custody-for-terror-suspects.html?ref=opinion>

The question is about values and attitudes re what are Australian educational institutions trying to do with their academic exports to Chinese governmental institutions let alone their SOE/companies. Look at who attends these courses in Australia and in China. As I said to you the Party educational institutions and funded university departments are akin to Canberra, they get the best from everywhere in the world including Australia as they manage their over 80 million members. Are Australian institutions just after the revenue and do they or the government care about 'educating' better authoritarian governance/administration?

The Chinese know what they are doing - and democracy, libertarianism and pluralism are not in the language. Australia waits for America's lead as per usual - it is what Malcolm Fraser and others have been on about - but the USA is not leading. If the US can designate anyone, anywhere as an 'enemy', including alleged 'enemies' of their allies like Australia, and then let their military loose to jail indefinitely without charge - why cannot China? There goes Australia's 'democracy, rule of law etc educational exports.

Michael

PS Do a little study about the Confucius Institutes in Universities/High Schools not only in Australia but around the world - there is an item in the Chamber's Website WCEC section - with a Comment from myself re to whom they report.

Hence the question: are they just Chinese language/cultural bodies or something else - a bit like asking whether the tidal wave of Chinese hacking of economic institutions/companies around the world is purely accidental.

The fundamental question is how does Australia deal with China - and that includes education. Maintaining standards re democratic values and attitudes which includes social justice might be a start. And being consistent in our international actions is part of that.

> Hi Rachel,

>

> My contact details over Christmas are diverse - perhaps as normal since I have never carried a mobile.

>

> 1) My ACCCI President's Office is at North Sydney - 89202997

> 2) My research office is on my property at Belrose - 94513130

>

> There are a number of other offices Chamber uses but a message can be left at these numbers.

>

> I will be at North Sydney until 8 PM tonight, at Belrose over the weekend and on Monday til about 8 PM, then at North Sydney Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, and from then non contactable at the beach house in Umina.

>

> However I must advise that education is not my area of expertise, so I may not be able to answer your questions. My role in recent years has been in geo-strategic matters relating to global governance/norms/institutions.

>

> Regards

>

> Michael

>
> > Hello Michael,
> > I am working on a piece about Australian universities developing
> > close links with universities in China. Monash
> University, for example, is on track to become just the third
> international university to set up a campus (in partnership with a local
institution) in China next year.
> > I was hoping to speak to you briefly over the next few days, if
> > possible, about what that means in terms of developing
> trade relations between the two countries and the benefits for
> Australian institutions in terms of connecting in to the innovation and the
human dynamism of such an enormous - and growing - economy.
> > If you can let me know if there is a good time - and number - to call you
on, i'd really appreciate it.
> > All the best,
> > Rachel
> >
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