

Comment by Michael C H Jones

Since its establishment in the years to September 1976 ACCCI has been a catalyst association of business people espousing positions and policies usually 3-5 years in advance of Australia, and in some case more than a decade. This has regularly brought criticism from insular company executives not interested in anything but the immediate business opportunity as well as political figures in both major parties at Federal, State and Local levels. Additionally from the late 1980s it has brought sanction from various "tendencies" in the CCP and PRC.

These reactions have never intimidated the leadership of Chamber, particularly it's three Presidents - Carter, Torrington and Jones - all inspired by the work of the Founding Governor of Chamber, the Late W J Liu OBE, who was the English Secretary to the first Republic of China Consul to Australia based in Melbourne during 1912-14.

Hence to Israel.

For nearly 30 years Chamber maintained with increasing difficulty a bilateral approach to the PRC. Men and women who had come to politics in the 1930s were well aware of the contradictions, latent and active, of international affairs and the strategies of "United Front" launched in the early 1920s by Lenin and adopted by all communist parties from time to time to the present. The period from the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1976 to Tiananmen Square in June 1989 were years of hope with Premier Zhao Ziyang as a spearhead. Deng Xiaoping's claim that Tiananmen gave the CCP "20 years breathing space" was publicly accepted by Chamber especially in the context of opposing and ending western countries' trade sanctions in the early 1990s, and working towards China's admission to the WTO from 2002. However China's globalisation particularly from the GFC years beginning 2007 has meant that analysis of Australia China Relations has to be international - this was a clear implication of the Submissions and two Reports of the Federal Parliament's Inquiry into Australia China Relations during 2005-06. This means the positions taken and policies adopted by the PRC on Global Economic Relations and Governance is front and central to our relationship.

The festering international sore of Israel since 1948 has been impossible to ignore by World Powers - ultimately all have taken sides and China will soon become more assertive on the questions of One-State or Two-States and Jewish-State or Secular-State. Pressure from the Muslim countries led not only by China's significant trade partner Iran as against long held and rigid policies currently adopted by western countries like the USA, Australia and some in the EU, increasingly facing domestic constituent protest such as at Marrickville Council - Sydney and from various sections of the Greens Party in Australia, makes this future PRC intervention unpredictable at this stage - but it is coming. Certainly if Iranian naval units with Chinese weaponry are confronted by Israeli forces with US armaments in the East Mediterranean Sea.

ACCCI has already flown it's colours without reference to other groups in Australia, China, USA, EU, India or other countries in Indauspac. Given the nature of population growth in "Greater Israel" a Two-States Solution, Israel and Palestine, in accordance with decades old UN Resolutions is now unworkable - there will be many more years/decades of basically guerrilla warfare on both sides of the religious divide until some form of Secular-State is negotiated under intense international pressure. At least two principles are mandatory, firstly the end of "Exclusivity" and secondly a profound diminishing of "Fundamentalism". In other words both the Jews and Moslems, whether governmental or as a people, are going to have to give ground by withdrawing from non-religious involvements in at least semi-democratic societies.

The worry is that China following the precedents set by the US and EU will be enveloped in diplomatic dead-ends and military embellishments in the furtherance of alleged economic "national interests". Australia could play a very valuable role in advising China against these possibilities as the Indauspac aircraft carrier and resources pit.