
Interview: Lee Wing-tat

'Britain's China policy is evil'

Mr. Lee Wing-tat, a spokesman for the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, an umbrella group of about 200 organizations which organized massive demonstrations in support of the students in Tiananmen Square, gave the following interview to EIR on July 7 by telephone from Hong Kong.

EIR: Mr. Lee, I have read the accounts in the British daily newspapers of your denunciation of British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's speech on July 3 to a group of Hong Kong citizens as "bullshit" and an "insult to the intelligence of Hong Kong Chinese."

Could you tell us what you think about British policy toward Hong Kong?

Lee: The Thatcher government is out for its own interests. China is still a very big market. For the past 10 years, whenever there has been a conflict between Hong Kong and China, the British have sided with [Communist] China. For example, they sided with the Chinese in 1986 on the issue of the nuclear plant the Chinese wanted to build across the border from Hong Kong.

Now, after the June 4 massacre in Beijing, there is great anxiety in Hong Kong. People want political assurance. The British government could grant the right of abode [in Britain after 1997] to the population of Hong Kong, but they have refused to do this many times. Yet people from Hong Kong would be a big help to the British economy!

This government is very evil, it is hypocritical.

EIR: Why are the British so interested in the Chinese market, when the Chinese economy is such a disaster?

Lee: The Beijing government is going to continue the "open door policy" after six months or a year. The British government is afraid that they will be cut out of China if they do not do what the Chinese want now.

EIR: Why was there conflict over a nuclear plant near Hong Kong?

Lee: Management is very bad in China. This is why the Hong Kong authorities objected, because they know this. They can not even run hotels, much less a nuclear plant. In Beijing, the hotels are well built, but within six months, the

toilets don't work, the hotels are filthy, and there is no service, because no one in China can run anything. If a nuclear plant were left to be run by the mainland Chinese, this could create a disaster for Hong Kong. However, British companies supplied electrical equipment for the plant, despite protests from Hong Kong.

EIR: Is your alliance going to mount an international campaign to prevent Hong Kong from being turned over to Beijing?

Lee: There is no hope that anything will result from asking the government of British Prime Minister Thatcher for the right to abode for the Hong Kong population.

We are Chinese, and we will stay in Hong Kong to fight for democracy for Hong Kong and for China. Some people here want to persuade the U.K. Parliament to grant the right of abode, but that is not the goal of the alliance. Young people in Hong Kong, because of the student movement for democracy in China and because of the Tiananmen massacre, know that their future depends on whether China has democracy. This is the only assurance for the future of China. If China is still controlled by a few old men, Hong Kong's security and prosperity is only superficial, like a tower built on sand. There is widespread fear in Hong Kong about personal futures, but the concern of most people is to support democracy for China.

EIR: What is the Hong Kong Alliance?

Lee: The Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China is an umbrella group of about 200 organizations, labor unions, student unions, religious groups, service organizations, and many others. There are many similar groups in the world, but this one is the biggest. It represents about 100,000 people, and was the organization that brought up to 1 million people out into demonstrations in Hong Kong in support of the Tiananmen Square demonstrators. The Alliance now wants to contact other organizations that want to promote democracy in China. We want to take collective action.

EIR: Here in Europe, there are many reports that the Beijing government is running harassment and intimidation campaigns against Chinese nationals living here. Are there any reports of such operations in Hong Kong?

Lee: There is no Chinese embassy here in Hong Kong. The only official representation of Beijing is the Xinhua News Agency, and right now it is actually keeping a very low profile. The director, Xu Jia Tun, has not appeared publicly for two months, nor has the deputy director. It is not known at this point where the top Xinhua officials are. The director of Xinhua in Hong Kong is directly answerable to the Communist Party in Beijing. It is a difficult situation here for such officials, and if they try to do something, it would arouse trouble in Hong Kong.