

## US must stop meddling in Hong Kong's internal affairs

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Now, thanks to the release of unedited US State Department cables by WikiLeaks a few days ago, the whole truth has come out in the wash. There truly is such a task force lurking in the shadows, but it is not located in Western District as many people would assume. Rather it is in Central – at 26 Garden Road to be exact. And that is where the US Consulate General is housed.

Although it is an open secret that the US Consulate General in Hong Kong, which has been in existence since 1843, has a long track record and notorious reputation for meddling in other countries' internal affairs, and always keeps itself busy collecting intelligence related to Hong Kong and the mainland, never before have we have seen such concrete evidence.

The latest leaked confidential cables released by WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy website, confirm what we have long believed – that the US has never stopped playing an active role in manipulating Hong Kong political affairs. In other words, Uncle Sam has been caught red-handed this time.

So far, WikiLeaks has published a full archive of more than 250,000 US diplomatic cables since last November. Among the remaining full cache of 134,000 classified documents dumped a few days ago, nearly 1,000 are Hong Kong-related cables sent by the US Consulate General in Hong Kong to the White House.

By trawling through all the information, we can gain a rare glimpse of what is going on behind the political scenes and what under the table deals have been made. The most stunning part of the leaked cables reveal that the "Gang of Four" in Hong Kong – namely Anson Chan, Martin Lee, Jimmy Lai and Joseph Zen Ze-kui – are regularly invited in public and secret as guests to luncheons and dinners held by the US Consulate General.

One thing worth mentioning is that Anson Chan, as the convenor of the opposition, is the major source of the US' knowledge and attitudes towards Hong Kong.

According to the WikiLeaks revelation, Chan and Joseph R. Donovan Jr., the former top US diplomat in

Hong Kong, were having more constant-than-normal contact. This sort of intimate "working relationship" enabled the two to chat without reserve and to interact vigorously. The disclosures also tell us how Anson Chan encouraged the US to "remind" Beijing repeatedly and endlessly about its handling of Hong Kong affairs.

She also urged Washington to mount pressure against Beijing when it comes to universal suffrage, and for the US to voice staunch support for Hong Kong's constitutional development.

To be a diplomat is a honorable and decent job. It is universally accepted that all consul-generals and other diplomats should abide by relevant conventions and local laws when they are based overseas. Their prime mission should be to stick to enhancing economic and cultural cooperation between their own country and the country they are stationed in.

There are approximately 100 consulates in Hong Kong. Just imagine, if all the diplomats stirred up trouble the way Uncle Sam does, then there would be no way Hong Kong could sustain its globally admired prosperity and stability.

The detailed insights into the US' brazen meddling in Hong Kong affairs made us shiver, and has drawn a furious response from all sectors of the society. I don't think the US Consulate-General would dare to step ahead to face the facts, or to verify the relevant information.

The US Consulate General, facing the embarrassing fallout of WikiLeaks, should take this humiliation as food for thought.

It is our sincere hope that the US Consulate General will stop interfering with other nations' internal affairs and minds its own business. If the US truly cares about Chinese people's wellbeing, it should raise issues through open and transparent channels in a decent manner, rather than by behind-the-scenes manipulation.

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