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SACKING HERSHEY DID NOT SOLVE PROBLEM

[Article by Tieu Lien: "Nixon Studies Ts'ao Ts'ao"; Hanoi, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 24 October 1969, p 27

A long time ago, according to "The Tales of Three Kingdoms", Ts'ao Ts'ao was well known as a shifty and treacherous scoundrel. Today, Nixon is known the world over as a great perfidious bandit. At wit's end, Nixon is furiously studying Ts'ao Ts'ao's stratagems to find a way out for himself from the present dead end in Vietnam. But how is Nixon learning from Ts'ao Ts'ao? Here is a case in point.

Once, Ts'ao and his troops got bogged down in a battle and the supplies were running low. Ts'ao decided to cut down on his troops' daily ration but was afraid that this drastic action would bring discontentment among his soldiers. Then he hit upon an idea. He called his warehouse officer in and ordered that from then on the daily rice ration for each man would be given out in a smaller measuring cup. With that ruse, Ts'ao succeeded in stalling for some time while waiting for new supplies to arrive. Meanwhile, with their bellies only half full, Ts'ao's men began to curse him and were on the verge of a mass mutiny. His supply of rice finally arrived. Ts'ao immediately ordered the arrest of his warehouse officer, beheaded him, stuck his head on a pole, then issued a declaration saying that the latter had disobeyed Ts'ao's order and was being punished for it. Thanks to that ruse, Ts'ao succeeded in pacifying his troops and went on to another victory.

Today, in his war of invasion against Vietnam, Nixon does not lack rice but flesh (namely American soldiers being used as flesh targets). Trying to follow in Ts'ao's footsteps, Nixon called the head of the Selective Service over and ordered him to draft more targets of flesh for VN. And for more than 6 months, Nixon was able to replace a great number of his men who were lost in the battlefields. However, the young people of America, the students, the people and even the servicemen began to insult and curse Nixon, and rise up in protest against his dastardly deeds. Nixon at once removed the general who was in charge of the Selective Service and proceeded

to spread a rumor to the effect that "Hershey did not follow the President's order, overstepped his prerogatives in the calling of draftees and was consequently punished by the President". Not bad at all for a late pupil of Ts'ao. However, his action far from succeeded in pacifying the majority of the people and the young in America. On the contrary, the protest movement against Nixon's policies was getting stronger than ever before.

Becoming more pessimistic and downtrodden, Nixon began to complain to every one around: "The same subterfuge, but why did it work for Ts'ao the master and fail so miserably for me, his disciple? Ts'ao beheaded his warehouse officer and I, Nixon, fired the head of Selective Service, but why are the people still in such a turmoil?"

Some one told Nixon: "Ts'ao Ts'ao only had his warehouse officer to pin the blame on, that's why beheading him was enough. But you, you have a group of generals conducting the draft; that's why firing Hershey alone is not enough."

Rather confused, Nixon asked his interlocutor:

"You may be right. But what should I do? Fire the Minister of War and all members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff?"

Trying to be cute, his interlocutor continued:

"When Ts'ao ordered his warehouse officer to cut down on his men's daily rice ration, nobody knew about it. But now, when you ordered the generals heading the Selective Service to do wrong, everybody knew about it. Firing these generals therefore would not be enough."

Nixon frantically asked his interlocutor:

"What should I do now?"

"You will have to fire yourself also. Maybe that will pacify the people. And that would also really be following and carrying out Prime Minister Ts'ao's teaching."

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