

IS THIS THE BEGINNING OF THE UNRAVELLING OF MALCOLM TURNBULL

Peter Adamis Abalinx 22 November 2015



Big Mal and Obama at a recent meeting.

Recent we have been unwittingly been exposed to trade dealings between Australia and China via news media who were also taken aback by the information being televised on national television.

In the first place, the dialogue between Obama and Turnbull was unprecedented in that it was even allowed to go to air in the first place. This raises questions whether it was intentional on behalf of the Americans to demonstrate to Turnbull that he was not playing the game so to speak as previous governments had done in the past.

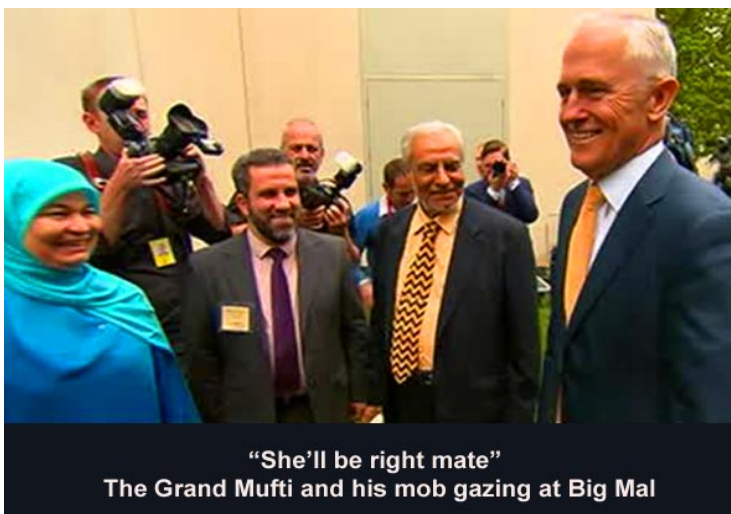
The Americans like the Russians and the Chinese go to great pains to ensure that electronic whisperers and eavesdroppers are not privy to conversations between leaders unless it's in their interests. In this case, one wonders how these juicy bits of conversations are actually aired publicly and not filtered through a medium observing such matters. I was always under the impression that there was a delay of a few seconds of what is actually said and what is aired, but then again I am not a guru in electronic eavesdropping techniques and not qualified to answer the question.

One questions the wisdom of Turnbull and his response to the concerns raised by Obama regarding the leasing and/or sale of the Darwin Port facilities. I blame the Australia intelligence chiefs for this oversight and their poor analysis of the long term presence of Chinese being involved on Australian sovereign territory. You can bet your bottom dollar that China would never allow a foreign country to have a like minded presence within its own borders. The Chinese like many other nations jealously guard their borders in the knowledge that any foreign presence will have an adverse effect on their people and their longevity as united nation.

Further to the proposed Chinese presence is the matter of our Defence facilities that use the same port, our Woomera missile regions, the Intelligence gathering facility (relocated from Singapore), our air defence assets in the region and the presence of our allies the Americans who are now being engaged in joint military exercises and will have a permanent home on our Northern shores. Call it what you want, 'yellow peril', 'xenophobia', racist, nationalistic, effects on our culture and/or downright fear of the long-term unknown.

Whatever the case may be our Trade Ministers has done a remarkable good job at failing to sell it to the Australian people. Turnbull on the other hand has failed to advise the Australian people of this fact possibly in fear of a public backlash. Alternatively the Foreign Minister who has gone into hiding after an adverse reaction to her involvement in the downing of Tony Abbott has wisely been absent from making a comment on Australian assets. A far cry from someone who enjoyed the limelight and being touted as future a Prime Minister. The Foreign Minister can well remember that the duty of every Australian government is to safeguard the interests of Australia and its people. What happened to Australian interests coming first?

Turnbull on the world stage is certainly out of his depth at the moment and is a relatively new comer to the world of politics. He is seen by other world leaders as the new kid on the block eager to please and to be seen as a serious and an integral member of the "world council" of leaders, such as what occurred at the recent G20 conference in Turkey. What is uncomfortably certain in Turnbull's case is that he lacks the experience o his deposed leader Tony Abbott and has not been appropriately briefed by the various departments responsible for advising the Prime Minister.



Grand Mufti and Big Mal.

One gathers the impression that Turnbull is eager to please, accommodating to a point, a moderate and one who is currently demonstrating appeasement when direct action is required. Something akin to Tony Abbott's style which Turnbull is going to great pains to demonstrate otherwise?

His reaction to the Mal Brough/Peter Slipper affair is one and Turnbull should have been seen as demonstrating more loyalty to a Minister who helped him in deposing Tony Abbott. Then we have Turnbull demonstrating appeasement towards the Grand Muftis comments at a time when direct action was required and a stern warning that such comments from a leader of the Islamic community was not in the best interests of Australians.

On the other hand Turnbull is faced with healing the wounds with the Right wing conservatives and those members of the Liberal party who have been intensely loyal to Liberal party ideology and political philosophies. Given that now the public has been made aware of the months of intense planning, undermining, knifing and disloyalty of Tony Abbotts leadership by members close to Turnbull.



Now that Tony Abbott is no longer the main focus of the media, the same media is taking pot shots of him because he is being outspoken and doing whatever back bencher must do and bring matters of importance to the people of Australia. Journalists cannot have their cake and eat it too. That title belongs to another called the "whisperer".

Any sane political observer of Australian political scene was aware that under a Tony Abbott government, the Liberals would have still won the next Federal elections and that the timing of the leadership coup had to occur before the new member in Western Australia won his election. This election would have been seen that the policies and leadership style of Tony Abbott were working and as such the plotters struck accordingly. Was it worth the cost one may well ask and was the initial damage was the risks taken? The public may be convinced that the plotters certainly thought so and still believed that what they did was correct.

However despite all the defensive action being spoken about by the plotters, what is evident now is that what they did neither was nor in the interests in the best interests of Australia but in the best interests of themselves and as such will soundly be defeated at any future preselection unless they perform remarkably well in their new roles.

This now bring us back to the State of Victoria and the Liberal Party heartland. The Senators and members involved in the plotting have now been rewarded with jobs which they believe are commensurate with their skills, knowledge and experience and now they have come to realise that they need to perform. One member who brought their child to parliament to be breast fed did so unwisely as normal sensible parents would not dos so as it was not in the best interests of the child. Another member who was involved in the Disability insurance did such a shambles of his portfolio that Kevin Andrews had to send additional staff members to help his junior minister out.

Not to be let out is that other little bloke who I must say is a wily and canny political strategist who has the knowledge and experience to do well in any portfolio but has been saddled with assisting Arthur Simonides. One may ask why he has been saddled with Arthur. Is it to keep an eye on him, to ensure his loyalty given his past indiscretions, or is it merely to utilise his strategic political skills. This author is of the belief that it is the latter. The Foreign Minister who had a high profile under the Abbott Ministry has been sidelined by Turnbull, who I must say going by media reports cannot bear to have another member take the limelight while he 'struts' the world stage like a crusader.

Turnbull must feel like a modern day Crusader spreading his brand of Aussie goanna oil to his peers at leadership conferences, but which one must say are shallow indeed and devoid of any depth and experience. One could also say that Turnbull's approach to date has been narcissistic, bordering on developing and sustaining that self image of him in a world of animation virtual reality. Still Turnbull has time to heal the wounds amongst the conservative right wing of the liberal Party in every state by first talking with Tony and seeking his advice in matters which Turnbull certainly lacks in. Leaving Tony Abbott and most of his capable ministers out of the front bench is like what the Americans did in Iraq and paid for it dearly.

In Iraq the Americans removed all of Saddam Hussein's military and replaced them with new recruits trained by a coalition of forces of which Australia contributed much to. However despite all their good intentions the Americans created a huge vacuum that was quickly filled by Saddam Hussein's ex military and thus contributed to creating ISIL/ISIS and now renamed Daesh. It would have been better for America, and Iraq that a certain number of ex Saddam Hussein's army were also involved and thus put a stop to any military power vacuum in the region.

With this in mind and with the lessons of war still fresh, Turnbull should have come to the same conclusion that the vacuum being created by his overthrow of Tony Abbott was going to create a political vacuum that has the potential to bring down Turnbull and his government. In short, what all this means is that with Tony Abbott being considered in the political equation, the right wing conservatives of the party have the potential to bring down the Turnbull government one way or another. Can the Liberal party afford such a schism within its ranks? I think not. Any canny politician worth his salt will tell you that when the odds are stacked against you, that is the time to seek allies and friends from every corner to shore up your defences in the event of a political attack and subsequent fall from favour.



Prior to the next election, Turnbull and his supporters would have had made political gains that have public support and at the same time woo and made amends with members of the right wing conservatives of the Liberal Party. The Liberal Party is a broad church so to speak and is made up of volunteers who stand at the polling booths election after election.

These same volunteers attend functions, events, support their local members, and walk the long miles of streets, hand out how to vote cards, attend meetings, preselections, conferences, sit on policy forums and carry out a host of other volunteer tasks. They do so because they believe in the Liberal Party conservative values and the broad church philosophies. Without these dedicated volunteers the functions of the Liberal Party would come to a close.

This reminds me of comments made by a previous Liberal party Treasurer who recently stated on news media that "*The Liberal party does not reward loyalty and that it only rewards success*". As a Liberal Party and right wing conservative I just could not believe what I heard being uttered by the former Treasurer and what his words meant to the myriad of Liberal party supporters who out of loyalty volunteered their services to the same Liberal party.

It was like a knife being inserted in between my rib cage and twisted to the left and right with the aim causing maximum damage to my organs and thus brings about a premature and hasty political death. What a most foolish and unwarranted remark from someone who I felt understood and knew better. But 'what the heck' others would say, that's politics. Well dear ex Treasurer, try telling that to the myriad of liberal party volunteers who have supported you in the past, including me.

Last but not least is the sad affair of the Liberal party State Director who is now being charged misappropriating funds. One wonders what drove him to do it. He had the world at his hand, some would say a political future and others would say he was a scoundrel that deserved all that he got. Whatever the case may be, the damage financially alone is not enough without taking into consideration the long term damage to volunteer confidence being in decline and party members having had a gutful of deceit, deception and disarray.

With all off the above going on and more behind the scenes, will this mean the beginning of the unravelling of Turnbull and his new congregation of 'minstrels'? The honey moon is about to come to an end and "Big Mals" performance overseas and on the domestic level will come under scrutiny. Nevertheless, I wish him well in his role as the representative of Australia but I fear he may soon implode and unravel the real Malcolm Turnbull.

In the state of Victoria, thank God that we still have Michael as the President of the Liberal Party. An intelligent and compassionate leader who understands the volunteer's passions and what makes them support the Liberal Party in Victoria. One hopes that Michael's charismatic leadership style can somehow heal the rifts and wounds which are still festering within the ranks of the right wing and conservative membership before they come to a boil.

As always I apologise for the grammar and punctuation for I speak from the heart and what is dear to me as an Australian. I like many others, seek and look forward to a secure future for all Australians, their children and grandchildren, an environment that is free of fear, ignorance and political stupidity.



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