

...Donald Tsang found himself promoted to chief secretary, and his job of financial secretary went to an outsider, investment banker Antony Leung, who impressed Hong Kong people by taking an 80% pay cut in the process. After justice secretary Elsie Leung, he was only the second official member of Tung's cabinet team from outside public service. Although it wasn't unprecedented for a businessman to serve in the post, civil servants saw Tung's decision as a snub. Tsang would obviously have been given his promotion to the number-two position only on condition of loyalty to Tung, and he would not have taken it unless he was confident he could deliver. He was known to be ambitious and dedicated to following orders, but, although he didn't quite rank alongside the saintly Anson, he was also popular: a local boy made good from a lower middle class background, and the sort of person Hongkongers trusted. When Tung described Falun Gong as an 'evil cult' Tsang explained away his boss's remarks in such a way as to satisfy all but the most semantically demanding. A clue to his difference in style from Anson came on July 1, exactly two months after he took office, when the annual honours list was released for the public holiday. The British tradition of awarding MBEs, OBEs and knighthoods to the great and good had been carried over largely in its entirety; only the names of the medals were changed. This was largely attributed to pressure from local tycoons, quite a few of whom had an almost compulsive fascination with these symbols of hierarchy and lobbied hard to be awarded them. But, unlike the old British honours, the new ones could also be offered to and accepted by members of the patriotic, pro-Beijing camp. And, after letting Anson go, Tung awarded the highest honour, the Grand Bauhinia Medal, to Yeung Kwong, director of the 'struggle committee' that instigated pro-communist rioting in 1967 in which over 50 lives were lost. It was a sop to the old patriots, many of whom had been shunned by society and largely disowned by Beijing, but it was received with open or concealed disgust in many other circles. (The official reason for the award was services to the trade union movement.) The other two recipients of the GBM that year were Li Ka-shing and accomplished medical doctor Sir Harry Fang (an uncle of Anson Chan). They didn't say how they felt about sharing the honour with someone most of Hong Kong considered a terrorist..