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Ashok Dhillon has 40 years of front-line business experience in Canada and International markets. He incorporated his first construction company in 1974, and since then has founded and led companies in construction and international power development.

Over the last 20 years Mr. Dhillon, has led and worked with top Canadian talent in the legal, engineering and accounting firms, such as Fasken Martineau, Russell & DuMullen, Stikeman Elliott; Hatch, Monoco Agra, New Brunswick Power, SNC Lavalin; and Ernst & Young, Arthur Anderson, and Grant Thornton. And in London, worked with Perkins Couie and Morgan Grenfell. Mr. Dhillon's companies have partnered and worked with Pan Canadian Oil & Gas, WestCoast Energy, TransCanada Pipelines, and international companies such as AES, Enron Power, Hyundai Heavy Industries.

Mr. Dhillon has worked and negotiated with highest levels of Governments in Canada and India. He has pursued and won mandates to develop power plants in Canada, and foreign jurisdictions such as Hungary, Iran, Pakistan and India with uncompromising ethical standards. His extensive experience in securing and negotiating multi-hundred million and billion dollar mandates in power project development, gives him in-depth knowledge and intuitive insights into macro and micro, national and international, geo-political and economic realities and trends.

Mr. Dhillon has been invited to speak on international business at various forums, including as an expert witness for the Standing Senate Committee, Government of Canada, on "The Rise of Russia, China and India".

## China and Russia – Openly Snub America

The flight of Edward Snowden from the United States to Hong Kong, after disclosing top secret information on the NSA (National Security Agency) surveillance activities, was intriguing enough as it was building up to be a modern day international spy story, with the lone 'agent' on the run from a super power. But after his escape from Hong Kong to Russia with the presumed co-operation of the Chinese and Russian authorities, in spite of America's strong demand of immediate extradition from Hong Kong, the story is taking on a much more serious turn.

The American administration is understandably shocked and outraged at the open snub by China and Russia to its international standing, in what is arguably a very sensitive internal intelligence matter. The fact that this snub took place literally days and weeks after the Presidents of China and Russia had spent personal time with the American President, working towards international and bilateral co-operation, and issuing joint statements stressing the success of these meetings, makes this put-down all the more mystifying and disturbing.

One could not have imagined China and Russia jeopardizing and damaging their long term political and economic relations with the U.S. for one 'rogue' American citizen, no matter what his 'noble' or real intentions were in disclosing the classified information. But that's exactly what they did. The question then is, why they would so blatantly choose to antagonize and insult the United States, especially as we mentioned, after having just actively cultivated good relations so recently, especially in China's case.

In last weeks' posting we had wondered whether Russia had got China's proxy support in preventing the West's active involvement in the Syrian conflict, and by their combined heft, out-muscled and pushed back the plans of the Western leaders indefinitely. By this recent action, allowing Edward Snowden's escape from

Hong Kong to Russia, it would seem that we may be right in suspecting such an understanding. Russia and China certainly must have a pre-determined agreement of co-operation against the United States and the generally united Western countries that most of us would not have guessed. Apart from their known recently announced economic co-operation agreements, it is now clear that their understanding runs a lot deeper than that and extends to political and perhaps military co-operation too.