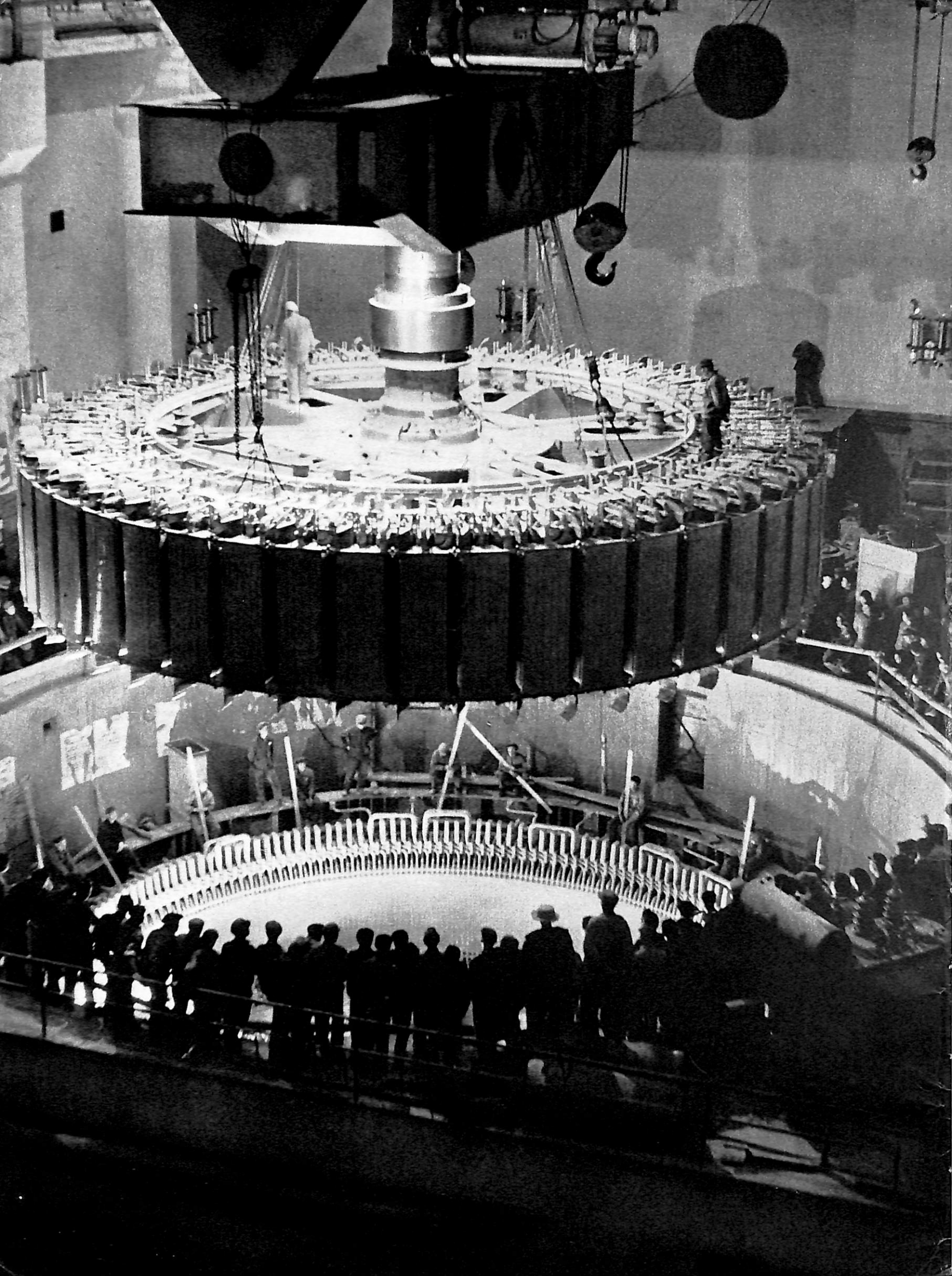


China Reconstructs

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JANUARY 1974





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The Workers are Masters

Staff Reporters

"In the old society we workers weren't worth a blade of grass, in the new society we're the treasures. Chairman Mao led us to liberate ourselves and become masters of the country. Now we're determined to run our mill well!" Workers of the Nantung No. 2 State Cotton Mill often spoke like this to us China Reconstructs reporters, in words that came straight from their hearts.

Situated on the cotton-growing north Kiangsu plain in the lower Yangtze valley, the mill has a history of more than half a century. Before liberation it was a backward private concern with some 1,200 workers and employees, producing only low-grade yarn and plain-woven cloth. Today it has been rebuilt into an advanced socialist enterprise. Economically, it is the socialist property of the whole people — the

state owns all its means of production, appropriates all its products and profits, and shoulders all its expenditures. The number of its workers and staff has risen to 2,855. It produces fine yarn, high-quality cloths, and blends of cotton and synthetic fibers. Since the cultural revolution, it has overfulfilled state production quotas and worked ahead of schedule for eight years in a row. And it has met the targets set by the state for high quality, high output and low cost.

How is such a socialist enterprise managed? What kind of people exercise power in the mill? How do workers take part in an enterprise that is their own? How is an old factory thoroughly transformed? These are the questions we went to the Nantung No. 2 State Cotton Mill to answer.

THE WORKERS ARE MASTERS— I

Leaders and Workers Are Like Fish and Water

Chen Pei-lan (left) passes on her skill to a young weaver.



LIKE the rank-and-file workers, Chen Shih-jung wears an ordinary gray cotton suit, lives in a simple flat and cycles to work from his home to the mill in the city's outskirts. Before being told, we would never have spotted him as the top leader of the Nantung No. 2 State Cotton Mill. This slim middle-aged cadre joined the revolutionary struggle against Japanese aggression in north Kiangsu province when he was a boy of 13. Today, he is secretary of the mill's Party committee.

In new China, the working class is the leading class. And its leadership is carried out through its vanguard, the Chinese Communist Party. The mill's Party committee, of whom Chen Shih-jung is one, is the basic organization of the Party in this mill. It has 15 members. Most are workers, others are veteran cadres or revolutionary intellectuals. The committee exer-

cises centralized leadership over all mill affairs.

The mill's revolutionary committee works under the leadership of its Party committee. Actually, some of the key posts in the revolutionary committee are held concurrently by the secretary and deputy-secretaries of the Party committee. Party secretary Chen Shih-jung is also chairman of the revolutionary committee.

Except when the Party committee meets in full sessions to decide important matters, most of its 15 members work at their regular shifts in the shops. Only the secretary and three deputy-secretaries, together with three vice-chairmen of the revolutionary committee, put in full time as a leading group responsible for everyday work. But, as we discovered, these seven leading cadres also rarely sit in the office. They are usually out in the workshops sum-



Chen Shih-jung (right) discusses a production problem with workers.

Later we asked Chen Pei-lan, "Why do you keep working in the shop?" "To prevent revisionism," she answered without hesitation. "I've been through thick and thin with these sisters for over 30 years. I'm an old worker. They've elected me a mill cadre. So of course I should be with them more, understand them even better and do more for them. I must never lord it over the masses and get divorced from labor, the workers and practical life. To do that would be to toss away the traits of the working class and forget my roots."

ming up advanced experience with the workers and cadres.

Cadres Take Part in Labor

Under the Party committee and the revolutionary committee are 11 offices with a total of over 200 technical and administrative personnel. All of them are called "cadres" in the broad sense. These cadres too take care not to divorce themselves from labor, the masses and actual production. With the mill's leading group at their head, they spend every Thursday at various jobs in the shops, together with the rank-and-file workers. This has become the rule.

In the weaving shop one Thursday we saw a woman worker aged about 50 teaching a youngster how to scan the cloth surface and remove defects. Then she went back among the weavers and made her rounds tending the looms. During the midday break she joined a short production group meeting and, in shop lingo, discussed with the other workers how to further improve the quality of cloth and wipe out "big tummies" (slightly raised flaws on the cloth surface). She was Chen Pei-lan, a deputy-chairwoman of the mill's revolutionary committee, a position equivalent to that of deputy-director before liberation.

Wu Tsui-ti, a veteran worker of this production group and a workmate of hers for more than 30 years, told us with deep feeling, "When Chen Pei-lan came as an apprentice to this weaving shop, she was 17 and I was 14. In those



Chi Hung-ying (third from right), deputy-secretary of the Party committee and chairwoman of the trade union, joins in a workshop study group.

miserable days before liberation, we workers were ruthlessly exploited by the capitalists. They treated us like slaves. There was always an overseer peering over our shoulders. The mill owner hardly ever saw the inside of the shop. Today our mill's leaders wield power on behalf of us, the working class. Our "Old Lady" — that's our affectionate name for Chen Pei-lan — became head of our workshop in 1952. Later she was made deputy-head of the mill. But through all these 20 years and more she has remained close to us, her sister-workers. Her heart has never changed. She is here almost every day, not just Thursdays. She either talks over production problems with us or just works alongside us."

Wang Chin-kuei, a deputy-secretary of the mill's Party committee and also a vice-chairman of its revolutionary committee, is often found in the roving shop. This young cadre, who graduated from a textile technical school in 1960, likes to pitch in with the maintenance and repair workers there every Thursday. Wrench in hand, he checks and repairs the machines as deftly as the veteran mechanics. Concerning the benefits of taking part in collective labor, he said, "Doing a job in the shop we can learn practical things about production from the workers that aren't found in any book. More important, we can learn from the older workers their fine proletarian spirit of complete selflessness."

To enable all workers to check on the adherence of all cadres to this system, a red-paper chart displayed outside the mill office records the number of days each cadre has worked in the shops that month. When anyone works less than the number of days specified, the reason for absence are given on the chart.

Open-door Rectification

From time to time, at special large or small meetings, the mill's leadership asks representatives of both workers and staff to criticize the running of the mill and the work style of its leaders. And every six months the mill Party committee calls all the workers and staff together to criticize its members and uncover problems so that leadership can be improved. This is called "open-door rectification of style of work".

In May 1972 a letter arrived from a cotton mill in another part of the country complaining that a type of yarn spun by Nantung No. 2 Mill was of uneven thickness. About the same time, a veteran worker checking and removing defects from the cloth surface in its own weaving shop brought a piece of reject cloth woven with such yarn to the Party committee office. Pointing to it, she said critically to the secretary and deputy-secretaries, "You're sleeping on your laurels! How can you face the people, turning out such yarn and such cloth!"

Her words shook the leaders of the Party committee. They called it into enlarged session and asked all its members, and those of the revolutionary committee, to help them rectify their style of work. After conscientious study of Chairman Mao's teachings against conceit and complacency, the members made a strict appraisal of the leaders. The standard applied was the Party's General Line, "Go all out, aim high and achieve greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism." They found that because the mill had done rather well in recent years, conceit had begun to sprout in their minds. This caused a slackening of leadership which in turn was reflected in a loss of product quality.

With this preliminary realization, the Party committee called a general meeting of all the mill's workers and staff. With the reject cloth in one hand and the letter of complaint in the other, Secretary Chen Shih-jung made a serious public self-criticism on behalf of the leading group. Sincerely he asked the masses to point out more defects in the Party committee's work to help it to do better.

After the meeting, the entire body of workers and staff, meeting in separate groups, warmly discussed the self-criticism of the Party committee's leaders and freely voiced their views on many matters. They touched on various aspects of the mill's life including production, administration, management and the leaders' style of work.

Then the members of the leading group went to the shops and offices to hear the masses' opinions and criticisms in person. After summarizing these, they drew up practical measures for improving administration, management and the work style of the leaders.

In a further step, again with the support and unanimous participation of the workers and staff, an overall checkup was made on the mill's machines, installations, operations and entire manufacturing process. Necessary changes were then instituted. Moreover, a system was set up under which responsible cadres and workers would go out together regularly to

visit enterprises using the mill's yarn as raw materials and commercial departments marketing its products to collect opinions about them. As a result, the quality of the formerly defective yarn was steadily improved till it was rated as one of the best products in Kiangsu province. Other products of the mill also improved.

Last May the mill held its 12th Trade Union Conference. The purpose was to sum up trade union work in the previous period and to discuss how, under the leadership of the Party, the union could further aid and supervise the mill's leaders at all levels and jack up its own activities in political work, production, labor protection, labor insurance and welfare. Representatives of workers and staff put forward before the mill's leaders 138 suggestions for improving all phases of the mill's work. All these were later put into effect and formulated into standard procedures.

The workers are pleased with the results of the rectification campaign and the advances in the leaders' way of thinking—their greater reliance on the masses and conscious continuance of revolution. Summing up the benefits of "open-door rectification" the workers say, "This is the only way to make sure that leaders who hold power on behalf of the working class can discover their own defects amid praise, and go on progressing amid achievements."

Blackboard newspaper in the spinning shop.



Network of Management by the Masses

LEADERS of the mill behave like ordinary workers and the rank and file take part in all aspects of management—such is the living application of the principle that “Workers are masters of the plant”.

Chu Yuan-chi, a young machine-maintenance man, is at the same time a member of the “three-in-one” economic management group of the mill. Of medium height, he wears overalls to meetings just as he does at work. The Nantung No. 2 State Cotton Mill has more than 800 “worker-managers” like Chu Yuan-chi elected by the rank and file. As direct representatives of the rank and file they take part in all phases of management—production, finance, technology and questions of workers’ life and welfare. And they do so at every level—in the production groups, the shops and entire mill.

‘Three-in-One’ Management Groups

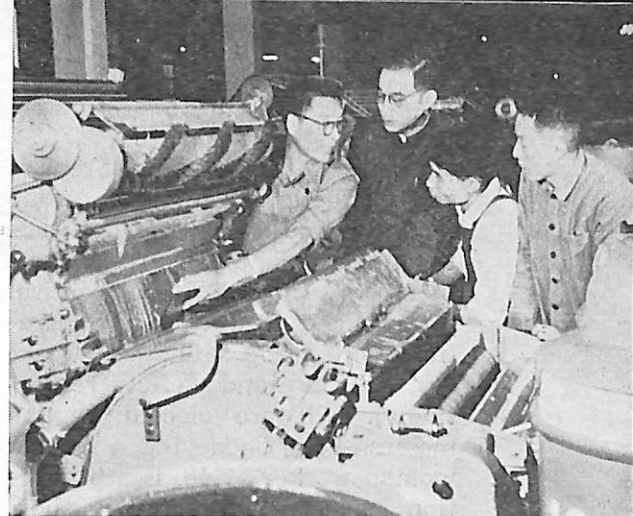
The mill’s economic management group consists of one of the deputy chairmen of the revolutionary committee, the leaders of the financial and supply and marketing offices, and representatives of the

rank and file. Chu Yuan-chi said to us, “We workers want to help make sure that the leaders at all levels manage our mill in line with the principle of achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results, because only then can we contribute more to our country’s socialist construction.”

Then he gave us a concrete example. The carding machine removes impurities and cotton waste and produces slivers for the roving frames. At one time the quality of the rovings was going down. Some management personnel thought the fault lay in the slivers and proposed that their purity be ensured by removing some good cotton as well as waste from the laps. Members of the economic management group objected. A workers’ representative said, “To improve the quality of rovings by wasting good cotton is like killing a hen to get eggs. How can we squander what the peasants worked so hard to grow? Sure we must turn out excellent products. But we must find ways that both increase output and reduce waste.” Some people, however, felt this was entirely impossible. Then members of the group went down to the carding shop and asked everyone to rattle their brains. Members of the repair crew crawled inside the machine, observed the components in operation, and found ways to improve its efficiency and reduce waste. The operators, too, altered their methods. Within six months, they had raised the quality of the rovings and saved 45 tons of cotton.

“There are eight offices in charge of production in your mill. Does each of them have a ‘three-in-one’ management group like yours?” we asked.

“Yes. For example, the group in the machine and equipment main-



A ‘three-in-one’ group analyzes the working of a rebuilt carding machine.

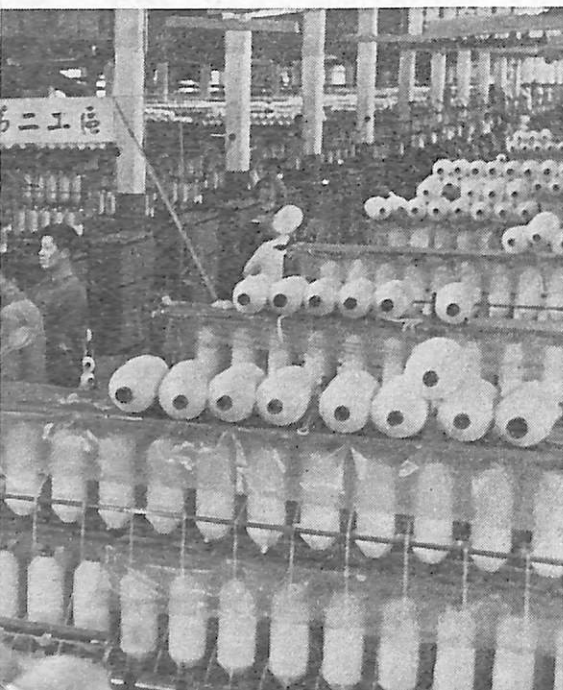


Installing the new high-speed spindles.

tenance office helps keep machines in good order. The production technology and quality control group helps those two offices analyze the quality of products, study the work processes and improve operations. All these groups carry on both regular and special-purpose activities (meetings, investigations and inspections) to help the mill’s leadership solve problems in managing it, and to advise and check up on the responsible offices in their duties.”

The ‘Five Responsible Members’

The mill has 127 production groups in five shops—roving,



spinning, weaving, machine repairs and synthetic fibers. Each group has its production leader, trade union leader, and "five responsible members" (in charge of political propaganda, quality and operations, accounting, safety, and workers' daily life and welfare respectively). All are elected by the masses. Feng Chen-ying, a veteran woman worker at 46, is a production leader in the spinning shop. Aided by the "five responsible members", she and the trade union leader head the winding group of 42 workers, which has overfulfilled its production quotas and kept up high quality year after year.

To enable all workers to air their views, the group, like others in the mill, meets at regular intervals. Every Wednesday or Friday, the production leader, trade union leader and "five responsible members" get together to discuss its situation and problems. Every Saturday a general meeting is held in the locker room at which all the workers discuss the progress of production, commend the outstanding workers and make suggestions on how to improve management.

These worker-managers in the shops are both competent and filled with a deep sense of responsibility toward socialist revolution and construction.

The group's trade union leader conducts its hour-long political studies twice a week. These are closely linked with the developing revolutionary situation at home and abroad. During our visit, we heard the workers enthusiastically discussing the political report and report on the revision of the Party constitution delivered at the recent Tenth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party.

In the shop we saw the member responsible for quality-operations helping workers to check the quality of their products and talk over ways for improvement.

At various places in the shop, we came across blackboards listing each worker's output, its quality and the amount of materials consumed—to write them up was part of the work of the member responsible for cost accounting.

There were also wall newspapers, produced under the charge of the member responsible for political propaganda, prominently displayed and rich in content. Some of their articles criticized Lin Piao's theory that "geniuses make history", which minimizes the decisive role of the laboring people. Others described advanced production methods.

If a worker's child falls ill, the member responsible for daily life and welfare visits his home to express the group's concern and see what help is needed.

The worker-managers told us happily that the mill's leaders were much interested in their work and encouraged them to do it well. They had asked the workshop heads to hold meetings weekly, in rotation, with the members concerned with the different fields in order to study the specific management problems involved. The "five responsible members" also have joint sessions once or twice a month with the corresponding offices at the mill level. There they convey to the administration the wishes and demands of the workers, receive guidance in professional matters, and study the Party's policies and directives on the running of socialist enterprises in connection with the management problems they encounter.

Everybody's Concern

The worker-managers are a key force in production. Emulating the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work of the Taching oil-workers, they give the lead to all the other workers in doing their part to run the mill well.

Sometime ago, workers in the shuttle group of the weaving shop found that the rate of spoilage of shuttles was quite high. Some were broken after only a few days of use.

"Is there someone who doesn't take proper care of the shuttles?" pondered Hsu Yun, the member responsible for cost accounting. This old worker, born in a poor peasant family, thought that there should be strict housekeeping in all things, and such waste must not go on in a socialist enterprise.

Others in his group agreed. After discussion, they asked the political propaganda member to prepare a poster entitled "We Shuttles Accuse". Written in large characters on sheets of white paper, it was put up where everybody would see it. "We could have gone on doing our job," the shuttles complained, "but because you've used us so badly, we've been turned into junk." A heap of broken and chipped shuttles was displayed under the poster.

The poster stirred up hot discussions among the workers and drew the attention of the mill leadership. Soon the weavers took steps to improve operation and tighten the control of the shuttles, so the rate of spoilage quickly dropped. Hsu Yun led the dozen workers in his own group to overcome difficulties and repair shuttles that had already been discarded. They made their own special tools to renovate shuttles and other loom accessories. Thus they saved 100,000 yuan of expenditures for the state in two years.

The worker-managers are helping the trade union organize a socialist labor emulation campaign in the mill. Its purpose is to fully arouse the socialist enthusiasm of all the workers so that production tasks handed down by the state can be fulfilled and surpassed. In socialist emulation, it is not only output that is compared, but also political awareness, quality, safety, economy and spirit of unity—all five count. Inspired by the campaign, workers in the mill's shops are showing an eager spirit of mutual help, learning from each other and catching up with each other.

In the course of socialist labor emulation, each group or shift in a shop makes an appraisal of its own performance every three months. The mill writes up a summary once a year, and the Communist Party committee calls a mill-wide meeting at which awards are presented. The outstanding shift, group or individual wins the title of "Outstanding Unit" or "Outstanding Worker". Those who are particularly outstanding in all five respects are awarded the title of "Model Worker of the Mill".



Young workers of the roving shop practice joining slivers in their own time during the labor emulation campaign.



Workers learn mechanical drawing in the mill's night school.

THE WORKERS ARE MASTERS—3

Workers Take Part in 'Law-Making' and Transforming the Old Mill



A workers' sparetime propaganda team rehearsing.

THAT workers are masters in the Nantung No. 2 State Cotton Mill is also shown by their participation in all the important actions to transform it. These include the reform of its rules and work system and a mass movement for technical revolution to transform the equipment.

Changing Rules and Regulations

When asked about changes in the mill's rules and work system, veteran worker Ku Ping-hua had a lot to say. "Participation in changing them is an important political right of the workers," he declared. He referred to the rules and work system as the mill's "laws", and emphasized that these have served different classes at different periods.

Ku is a master workman and his job is maintenance in the weaving shop. He began to work in the mill before liberation and has many

bitter memories of the old days when the mill's "laws" took the form of tyrannical regulations. The capitalist owners made use of them to oppress and exploit the workers. One humiliating rule treated the workers as thieves, requiring that they be subjected to body searches by the mill guards every time they came off shift. The words of the capitalists were in fact the law. They could lengthen the work hours to 12 or even 14 a day at will. And any worker who put up the slightest resistance was fired on the pretext of having violated mill regulations.

After Nantung was liberated in 1949, the barbarous regulations with which the mill owners enslaved and exploited the workers were abolished. The mill, under the Party's leadership, achieved great increases in production. But its administration was influenced by the revisionist line of "manage-

ment by experts" and "material incentives" promoted by the arch traitor Liu Shao-chi and his ilk. This was reflected in the rules and work system. The rules, numbering thousands, had been drawn up by a few people in the management offices. Some of these rules did not rely on bringing the active spirit of the masses of workers into full play. On the contrary, they relied on a small number of persons to "manage" the many, and on rewards and penalties to push up production.

During the cultural revolution, the workers, after criticizing Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line, wanted to reform and improve the rules and work system. In 1969, with the support of the new revolutionary leading body, special three-in-one groups, with workers as their main force and cadres and technicians participating, were set up at all levels of the mill for this pur-

pose. In accordance with Chairman Mao's teachings that we must trust and rely on the masses, the groups visited every shift to mobilize all the workers and staff to air their views on the subject. To acquire the experience needed to do this work well, the three-in-one group at the mill level chose Ku Ping-hua's maintenance shop for a try-out.

Fired with enthusiasm, Ku and other workers got out the original book of rules for the maintenance of equipment and discussed its 628 articles one by one. They made a serious "one divides into two" analysis of the merits and defects of each and discussed which should be revised, which dropped and which kept intact. Every worker, basing himself on abundant experience, drew up a set of draft regulations for the shop. They then coordinated all the drafts and produced a set of new regulations to be tried out and amended in the course of practice. After a final editing by the mill's leading three-in-one group and the equipment office, the new regulations were adopted.

This experience in revising regulations through full reliance on collective wisdom was soon spread throughout the mill. Workers, cadres and technicians in every one of its shops and offices studied in detail the regulations affecting their particular lines of work and made necessary changes or additions in the light of the rich experience accumulated by the masses. Next, the proposals from the masses were systematized by the three-in-one groups and management offices. Then they were sent back to the masses for trial and further modification. In this way, all the mill's several thousand regulations were thoroughly studied, discussed and revised.

This process of "from the masses and to the masses" was repeated five times in two years. Now the mill has set up an entire system of tentative regulations for management. They cover personal responsibility, quality inspection, cost accounting, maintenance of equipment, operation techniques, safety in production, attendance, etc. These new rules and regulations are more precise and better

suitable to actual conditions in production than the old. They bring into play the revolutionary drive and creativeness of the broad masses.

Technical Innovation

Most of the equipment of the Nantung No. 2 State Cotton Mill was made in the 1920s and 30s. Its old machines were quite inadequate for the development of production after liberation. During the Great Leap Forward in 1958, the workers raised demands for wide-ranging technical innovations to revamp the equipment. The mill set up a special "Office for Transformation of the Old Mill" to lead mass activities for this purpose. Workers and technicians together modified one component part after another of the spinning machines and looms, appreciably raising the output and quality of both yarn and cloth. During the subsequent few years, the average of technical innovations, large and small, was about 100 annually.

A new wave of technical innovation began with the cultural revolution. Special groups were formed at both mill and shop levels. Composed mainly of workers, with cadres and technicians participating, they performed "major surgery" on the old equipment.

The workers were aware the mill's spindles, which could not be operated at the high speed necessary for greater output, were a key trouble spot. The critical speed of the old spindles, the speed beyond which they would start to vibrate and wear excessively, was 12,000 revolutions per minute. Was a change-over to high-speed operation possible? The mill leadership organized a small group to try to make high-speed spindles. It consisted of three maintenance workers from the spinning shop, a cadre from the equipment office and a technician.

"We had no experience in the matter," Yin Chin-yuan, a member of the group, recalled. "We lacked necessary equipment. We didn't even have shop space. So we built a reed shed outside the shop, put in a few old machines and began to work, improving the design as we went along. We drew several

hundred designs and performed some 50 experiments before we finally turned out our first batch."

But when tried out on a frame in the spinning shop, these new spindles proved very unstable and wobbled as if shaking their heads. "They shook their heads," Yin Chin-yuan recalled. "But we didn't shake ours!" Encouraged by the shop leadership and their workmates, the group kept on testing and improving the vibration absorbers to eliminate the wobble.

The other workers cooperated enthusiastically with the experimenters. Those in the repair shop made parts for the group. Spinners worked hard to learn how to operate the high-speed spindles, while at the same time fulfilling their original quotas.

Finally after more than a year of hard work, good high-speed spindles were produced, with a unique simple construction that enabled them to operate normally at speeds between 18,000 and 20,000 revolutions per minute.

In a few months, all the mill's 30,000 spindles were replaced with high-speed ones by the small group in cooperation with the maintenance and repair workers. The output of yarn per thousand spindles jumped from 39 to 44 kilograms per hour, and quality kept improving as spinners raised their skill.

This was the beginning of a chain reaction, which has kept the mill's movement for technical innovation developing in breadth and depth ever since. Now only the skeletons of many old machines remain. All their other parts and components have been supplanted by new ones. Since 1972 over 200 innovations large and small have raised the degree of mechanization and automation. This has increased the productivity of labor while reducing its intensity. The spinners have mechanical doffers and boxtrucks for carrying rovings. The weavers have started to use special vacuum cleaners on their looms, instead of wiping them by hand. All this makes work light and efficient. Automatic knotters and a conveyor belt for aligning bobbins have replaced manual work altogether.

AT 28TH U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Chairman of Chinese Delegation Chiao Kuan-hua's Speech

Below we publish the full text of the speech by Chiao Kuan-hua, Chairman of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China to the 28th Session of the U.N. General Assembly and Vice-Foreign Minister, at the plenary meeting of the U.N. General Assembly on the afternoon of October 2, 1973.

— Editor



Delegation chairman Chiao Kuan-hua speaks at the plenary meeting of the U.N. General Assembly on the afternoon of October 2, 1973.

Mr. President,

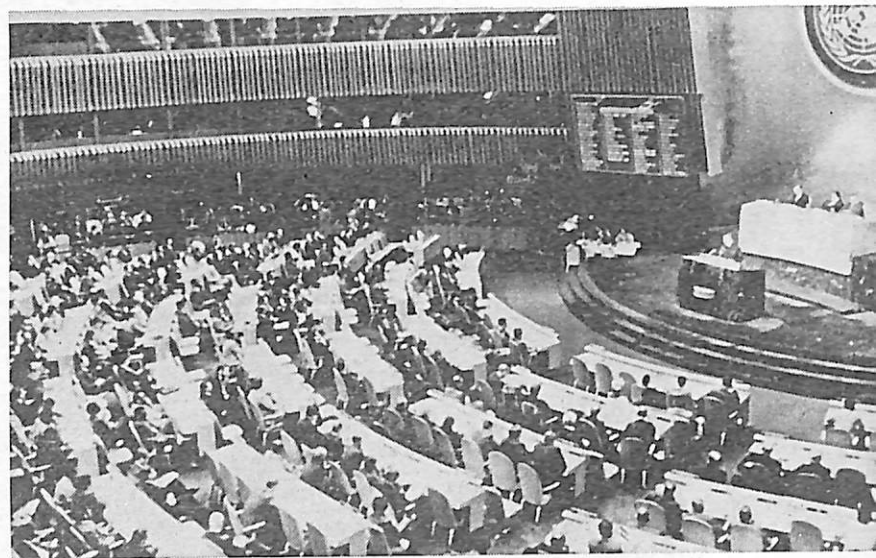
Since the 27th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, some notable events have successively taken place on the international arena. First, there was the cessation of the war in Viet Nam and Laos. Secondly, there were the talks held and agreements concluded between the two superpowers — the United States and the Soviet Union. Thirdly, there was the convening of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe. In the meantime, the Third World has further awakened and grown in strength, and the African, Latin American and non-aligned countries held a series of important international conferences. What is the characteristic of the present world situation? Is the international situation really moving towards a general detente? This is a question in which people are interested. The Delegation of the People's Republic of China would like to state its views on this question and a number

of other questions which the current session of the General Assembly is confronted with.

First. What is the Characteristic of the Present World Situation?

The Chinese Government has long held that our world is now going through a process of great turbulence, great division and great realignment. The basic contradictions in the world are all sharpening, and in particular the contradictions between imperialism and colonialism on the one hand and the oppressed nations and peoples on the other and the contradictions among the imperialist countries, especially those between the two superpowers. Although no new world war has broken out since World War II, local wars resulting from imperialist aggressions have never ceased. The great victory of the heroic Viet-

The plenary meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.



namese people's war of resistance against U.S. aggression and for national salvation has once again proved that imperialism and all reactionaries are paper tigers. A small nation can defeat a big one and a weak nation can defeat a strong one, so long as they dare to struggle, are good at struggle and persevere in struggle. It is not the people who fear imperialism; it is imperialism which fears the people. Revolution is the main trend in the world today. Now that the war in Viet Nam has ended, can it be assumed that the world will henceforth be tranquil? Obviously not. When the Korean war was ended in 1953, some people thought that no more gun-shots would be heard in the world. Not long afterwards, however, the Suez war broke out and then the Viet Nam war started. And even today, the war in Indochina has not stopped completely, for there is still fighting in Cambodia. Tension in the Middle East has not relaxed in the least. The colonialists and racists are carrying out armed suppression against the African people, and the African people are developing armed resistance against them. The aggression, subversion, control and interference against countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America by the superpowers are continuing without end. A recent case in point is the military coup d'etat in Chile. President Salvador Allende died a martyr at his post. We express profound condolences on his heroic death. At the same time, we hold one should not forget how harmful the absurd theory of so-called "peaceful transition" is to the anti-imperialist revolutionary struggles of the Asian, African and Latin American people, a theory which has been advocated by another superpower. To dismember a sovereign country by armed force and to legalize and perpetuate the division of a country have also become a tendency on the part of the big powers in their attempt to dominate the world. In the economic field, the gap is widening between the rich and developed countries and the poor and developing countries, and even among the developed countries there exist many contradictions, and hence detente among them is far from being the case. The recent Fourth Conference of the Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries strongly condemned racism, Zionism, colonialism, imperialism and hegemonism and strongly demanded a change in the present state of affairs in the world, demonstrating a further awakening of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples. In a word, we consider that the characteristic of the present situation is one of great disorder throughout the world and not tranquillity. And the main trend amidst this great disorder is that countries want independence, nations want liberation, and the people want revolution.

Second. Why Is There No Tranquillity in the World Today?

We have always held that all countries in the world, big or small, should be equal; that all coun-

tries, irrespective of their social systems, should establish normal state relations on the Five Principles of mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence; and that international disputes should be settled peacefully on the basis of these principles without resorting to the use or threat of force. This should apply to relations between big powers, to relations between a big power and a small country, and all the more so to relations between a strong and a weak, or between a rich and a poor country. It was on these principles that China started to improve her relations with the United States and established diplomatic relations with Japan. In their joint communique issued in Shanghai, China and the United States further declared that they should not seek hegemony in the Asia-Pacific region and were opposed to efforts by any other country or group of countries to establish such hegemony. The same principle was reaffirmed in the Sino-Japanese statement on the establishment of diplomatic relations between them. In our view, the above-mentioned principles are the minimum criteria of equality of all countries in international relations and indicate the correct way to the relaxation of international tension.

As sovereign states, the United States and the Soviet Union are fully entitled to take measures they deem appropriate to improve and develop their bilateral relations. However, we cannot but point out that the agreement on the prevention of nuclear war signed by them goes far beyond the scope of bilateral relations. One may ask: Who has given them the right to enter into what they call "urgent consultations" in case of a dispute between either of the parties and other countries and even between any other two countries? The phrase about disputes which "appear to involve the risk of a nuclear conflict" is open to any interpretation, and their so-called "urgent consultations" are bound to be followed by actions dictated by their own interests. Does not this mean that they may interfere at will in the relations among all countries on the strength of the huge numbers of nuclear weapons in their possession? China absolutely will not go begging for nuclear protection from any country, nor is she afraid of nuclear threat from any country. But we feel duty bound to state our views on this matter since it concerns all the people of the world.

The signing of such an agreement by the Soviet Union and the United States is by no means accidental but is derived from the so-called principle which they agreed upon in 1972 that the Soviet Union and the United States have "security interests based on the principle of equality." What is meant by "security interests based on the principle of equality"? To put it bluntly, it means rivalry for world hegemony—wherever one goes, the other will do the same. What they have done is simply to wrap up this content in the form of an agreement.

In fact, this agreement is a mere scrap of paper. It contains no explicit undertaking on the non-use of nuclear weapons, still less does it envisage the com-

plete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. The U.S. Government was more frank when it stated that the agreement was only a general statement of policy which did not involve any particular positive actions that either side had to take, and pointed out that agreements were not always maintained and there was nothing self-enforcing about this document.

However, the Soviet leaders have made a great fanfare, lauding this agreement to the skies, alleging that it ushered in "a new era" in international relations and opened up "historical vistas for strengthening universal security as a whole," and that it was "indeed of historic importance for all mankind." They have their motives for so eulogizing the agreement. One may recall Khrushchov's famous remarks: "Even a tiny spark can cause a world conflagration," and "we (the Soviet Union and the United States) are the strongest countries in the world, and if we unite for peace there can be no war. Then if any madman wanted war, we would but have to shake our fingers to warn him off." In this way, if the Soviet Union could be bound together with the United States, would not the whole world have to cringe to them? However, in our view, things may not necessarily turn out that way.

It is not so easy for the Soviet Union to bind herself to the United States. Shortly after the signing of the agreement, the Soviet Union pressed forward with her underground nuclear tests and hastened the development of missiles with multiple warheads. The United States will not take this lying down. Why? Because the desperate struggle for nuclear superiority and world hegemony still goes on. The contention between the Soviet Union and the United States now extends all over the world. A vivid proof can be found in the recent subversion of a government in Asia and another in South America. Their scramble is becoming increasingly fierce. This is the reason why there is no tranquillity in the world today. So, what peaceful coexistence is there to speak of? There is only a travesty of peaceful coexistence; the substance is coexistence in rivalry. But whether such coexistence can last is of course another question.

The Soviet leaders noisily proclaim that as a "socialist" state, the Soviet Union is the "natural and surest ally" of the developing countries. In the past, some people in China also believed this. Because they saw the Soviet Union as the homeland of the great Lenin and the Chinese revolution a continuation of the October Revolution. Therefore, how could the Soviet Union, as a socialist state, fail to give the developing countries wholehearted internationalist assistance? But since Khrushchov rose to power, thanks to the long and direct experience we gained as a result of the Soviet Union's demand for the establishment of a joint fleet in the China Sea, withdrawal of experts, tearing up of contracts, border intrusions, subversions, etc., we came to realize that this was not the case, and that what the Soviet Union practiced was not internationalism, but great-power chauvinism, national egoism and territorial expansionism. Therefore, we will not blame those friends who have so far failed to see this



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for lack of experience. How can a socialist turn into an imperialist? There is in fact nothing strange about it if one goes a little into the history of the international communist movement. Wasn't Karl Kautsky once a somewhat well-known Marxist? But he later betrayed Marxism and capitulated to imperialism. It was Lenin who passed the final historical verdict on Kautsky in his well-known pamphlet *The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky*. People can change, so can a state. It has changed, and what can you do about it?

Lenin pointed out: "We judge a person not by what he says or thinks of himself but by his actions." This applies to a state as well. What has the Soviet Government done to other countries in these years? This is clear to the broad masses of the people of Czechoslovakia, Egypt and Pakistan, to the people of Cambodia who are fighting dauntlessly, and to other peoples who have been subjected to its aggression, subversion, control, interference or bullying. The actions of the Soviet Government have amply shown that it is "socialist in words, imperialist in deeds," as Lenin said.

The Soviet-U.S. agreement on the prevention of nuclear war cannot hoodwink many people or intimidate the peoples of the world, but can only arouse indignation, misgivings and disillusionment. The tide is mounting against the hegemonism and power politics practiced by the superpowers.

Third. Who Is Really Against Detente?

Shortly after the war in Viet Nam came to an end, the U.S. Government pronounced 1973 to be "the year of Europe." This was followed by the first stage of the conference on security and cooperation in Eu-

rope — a conference advocated by the Soviet Government for many years. All this indicates that Europe is the focus of contention between the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, and that the so-called European security conference is nothing but one of the forms of contention. Its proceedings showed, however, that it went far beyond the scope to which the two superpowers wished to confine it. At that conference, many countries stated pointedly that deeds and not empty promises are called for in the matter of security; that European security must be based on the safeguarding of national independence and sovereignty; that one must not become mentally disarmed and off guard simply because the European security conference has taken place; and that in order to guarantee European security, military blocs must be disbanded, foreign military bases dismantled, and foreign troops withdrawn, so that the relations between European countries may be established on the principles of mutual respect for independence and sovereignty, complete equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Moreover, some countries pointed out that the security of the Mediterranean and the security of Europe were inseparable and that there could be no security for Europe when the Mediterranean is under the armed threat of, and the contention by, the two superpowers. All this is tantamount to a direct blow at those who seek by means of this conference to consolidate the occupation of many European countries, which resulted from World War II or the events thereafter, and to proceed further to disintegrate Western Europe and dominate the whole of Europe. The European security conference is still going on. But judging from the proceedings of its first stage, it will further expose the ambitions of that superpower which seeks to divide and disintegrate Western Europe.

While stepping up her arms expansion and war preparations and her worldwide contention with the United States for spheres of influence, the Soviet Union is clamoring for "spreading the zone of relaxation to the whole world." Accordingly, she has lately picked up once again the long-ignored trash known as the Asian collective security system. This is most amusing. It reminds us of the American by the name of John Foster Dulles who, after the war in Indochina was brought to an end by the first Geneva conference in 1954, hastily rigged up the so-called Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, which was directed against China and whose members were mostly non-Southeast Asian countries. The Soviet Union is a European country and the chief of the Warsaw Pact alliance. Why should she be so eagerly concerned about the "collective security" of Asian countries? Has the ghost of John Foster Dulles gone to the Kremlin? Actually, would it not be less devious and more direct simply to expand the Warsaw Pact to Asia?

Lately, the Soviet leaders have tried to pin an additional label on China, namely "opponent of detente". As the Chinese saying goes, this is putting Mr. Chang's hat on Mr. Li's head. Since you say you are so anxious to relax world tension, why don't you show your good faith by doing a thing or two — for instance, withdraw your armed forces from Czechoslovakia or

the People's Republic of Mongolia and return the four northern islands to Japan?

We hold that imperialism means war. There is danger of war so long as imperialism exists. Today, when the various types of basic contradictions in the world are sharpening, the danger of a new world war still exists, and the people of all countries must be prepared and must not let themselves be misled by the temporary and superficial facade of detente. Only thus can we better strive for a bright future of the world. In the final analysis, the destiny of mankind is decided by the people in their hundreds of millions who persevere in struggle and unity, and not by the one or two superpowers.

Fourth. The Cambodian Question

The Chinese Government resolutely denounces the U.S. Government for continuing to support in various ways the puppet regime in Phnom Penh and wantonly interfere in the affairs of Cambodia. The regime of the traitorous Lon Nol clique, which is now installed in Phnom Penh, was imposed on the Khmer people by the U.S. imperialists and their allies and has been illegal from its very inception. The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia under the leadership of Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk is the sole legal government of Cambodia. The People's Armed Forces of National Liberation of Cambodia under its leadership have liberated over 90 percent of Cambodia's territory with over 80 percent of the population. The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia has been recognized by nearly 50 countries. The participants of the recent Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Algiers have declared that the Royal Government of National Union under the leadership of Prince Norodom Sihanouk is the only legal government of Cambodia, and earnestly requested all countries which love peace and justice to give it formal recognition. This is a voice of justice. The Chinese Government holds that the continued usurpation by the traitorous Lon Nol clique of the seat in the United Nations is a contempt for all countries that uphold justice, for the Fourth Conference of Non-Aligned Countries and for the United Nations itself. The Chinese Government firmly maintains that the present session of the General Assembly should take a decision immediately to expel the representatives of the traitorous Lon Nol clique from the United Nations and restore to the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia under the leadership of Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk its rightful seat in the United Nations.

Fifth. The Korean Question

There are now before the General Assembly two draft resolutions on the Korean question — one spon-

sored by the United States, Britain, Japan and other countries, the other sponsored by Algeria, China and other countries. Regarding the former draft resolution, the Chinese Government considers that the position for retaining the United Nations command and the U.S. forces in south Korea and for the entry of both north and south Korea into the United Nations is unreasonable and contrary to the Joint Statement of North and South Korea issued on July 4, 1972, although it contains the positive element of dissolving the so-called "commission for the unification and rehabilitation of Korea".

The withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question are long overdue. According to the provisions of the Korean Armistice Agreement of July 1953, a high-level political conference for the settlement of the Korean question ought to have met within three months after the armistice agreement became effective. The conference was not held only because of the obstructions put up by the U.S. side at the time. Subsequently, the question was again discussed at the 1954 Geneva Conference. The then U.S. Secretary of State Mr. John Foster Dulles peremptorily rejected all reasonable proposals, thereby blocking once again a solution to the question of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. The United States was then absolutely unwilling to withdraw its forces from south Korea. What could be done about it? Well, if you would not withdraw, we would. In 1958 the Chinese People's Volunteers unilaterally and unconditionally withdrew from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Consequently, there are no foreign forces on one side in Korea, while large numbers of foreign forces, mainly U.S. forces, are stationed on the other side. This most unreasonable state of affairs cannot but constitute an obstacle to the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Is south Korea so lacking in national self-respect that it must rely on the support of foreign forces? Obviously, such a state of affairs cannot be tolerated by the people in south Korea. Subsequently, thanks to the initiative of President Kim Il Sung of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a joint statement of north and south Korea on the independent and peaceful reunification of the country was issued on July 4, 1972, leading to the start of a dialogue between the north and the south. This was a big step toward the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea and the peaceful settlement of the reunification of Korea by the Koreans themselves. With the issuance of this statement, the Korean Armistice Agreement signed 19 years ago, to a great extent, ceased to play the role it once had. The Koreans in the north and the south have themselves agreed upon refraining from committing armed provocations, big or small, and upon taking active measures for preventing incidents of unexpected military conflicts. Is this not the best guarantee for the maintenance of the armistice?

It is captious to say that dissolution of the United Nations command and withdrawal of foreign forces would nullify the 1953 armistice agreement. It should

be recalled that the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed between the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers on the one hand and the United Nations command on the other. According to that kind of reasoning, would not the withdrawal of the Chinese People's Volunteers mean that the Korean Armistice Agreement had long been nullified? Since the Chinese People's Volunteers could withdraw from Korea, why cannot the foreign forces in south Korea under the signboard of the United Nations command do the same? The continued presence of the so-called United Nations command and of foreign forces in south Korea is at variance with the principle agreed on by the two sides in Korea that "reunification should be achieved independently, without reliance upon outside force or its interference." In point of fact, it is the very presence of this outside force that has emboldened the south Korean authorities to reject a number of reasonable proposals put forward by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, thus causing the dialogue between the north and the south to bog down. The Kim Dae Jung incident which occurred not long ago has shown how abjectly the south Korean authorities depend upon foreign forces. In order that conditions may be created to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea, the United Nations command should agree to disband and all foreign forces stationed in south Korea should agree to withdraw.

As for the entry of both north and south Korea into the United Nations, this is plainly an attempt to legalize and perpetuate the division of Korea, which runs counter to the principle agreed upon between the north and the south that "great national unity should be promoted first of all as one nation, transcending the differences of ideology, ideal and system". In his five propositions put forward on June 23 this year, President Kim Il Sung of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has pointed out that the north and the south should not enter the U.N. separately and that if they want to enter the U.N. before reunification of the country is achieved, they should enter it as one state at least under the name of the Confederal Republic of Koryo after the confederation is enforced. This proposition is entirely reasonable and merits the sympathy and support of all countries that uphold justice.

Sixth. The Question of Bangla Desh

At the time of the 26th Session of the General Assembly in 1971, the Soviet Union supported India in dismembering Pakistan by armed force. The General Assembly and then the Security Council adopted resolutions by overwhelming majorities calling for ceasefire, troop withdrawal and repatriation of prisoners of war by India and Pakistan. At its 27th Session in 1972, the General Assembly further adopted two interdependent resolutions calling for the repa-

triation of Pakistan prisoners of war and expressing the desire for the admission of Bangla Desh to the United Nations. It was not until August 28 this year that an agreement on the repatriation of prisoners of war and civilians was reached between India and Pakistan. This agreement has come much too late, but its ultimate conclusion is to be welcomed. The agreement reached is on paper, and there will have to be a process before it can be turned into reality. Complications may yet arise. The Chinese Government holds that the question of admitting Bangla Desh into the United Nations can be considered once the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council are implemented without qualification. But this can be done only after the thorough implementation of the U.N. resolutions, and definitely not before.

Seventh. The Middle East Question

Although the two superpowers are both trumpeting about a general world trend towards detente, a tense stalemate of "no war, no peace" still prevails in the Middle East. When the Soviet Union dismembered Pakistan in 1971, no one said there was the risk of a nuclear war. Neither has anyone made a similar warning in connection with the current U.S. intervention in Cambodia. It is only in the Middle East that, at the mention of an attempt by Arab countries to repulse Israeli aggression and recover their lost territories, the air is filled with cries about a risk of nuclear war between the two superpowers. Why is this so? Because the situation of "no war, no peace" created and maintained by the two superpowers serves them best in their scramble for spheres of influence, oil resources and strategic positions in the Middle East. In appearance the two superpowers are each supporting one of the antagonistic sides, but in essence they are like two clay figurines which have been kneaded together and then remoulded, so that there is something of each in the other. Take the case of the aggressor Israel. Can she be so unbridled in her truculence if she receives only supplies of American weapons but none of Soviet manpower? In our opinion, the so-called risk of a nuclear war has been deliberately fabricated to scare people. It is futile to count on the superpowers to bring about a settlement of the Middle East question. Nor will the situation be changed by any resolution adopted by the United Nations. The only way out is to act independently and rely on one's own efforts. China has never had anything to do with the Israeli Zionists. China firmly supports the Palestinian and other Arab peoples in their just struggle against Israeli Zionism. We believe that, so long as they uphold unity and persevere in struggle, the Palestinian and other Arab peoples, with the support of the people of the whole world, will certainly surmount all the difficulties on their road of advance, recover their sacred territories and regain their national rights.

Eighth. The Question of Opposing Colonialism

An excellent situation prevails in Africa. In the past year, the African people have achieved a series of new victories in their struggle to win and safeguard national independence and oppose racism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism and hegemonism. Through their struggle, they have come to realize more and more the necessity of armed struggle and mutual support. The 10th Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity held last May issued the resounding call to "eliminate all forms of colonialism on the African continent". The conference documents fully manifested the unity and cooperation of the African countries and their militancy against the common enemies, as well as the determination of the African people in the territories which have not yet become independent to expand their armed struggle for national liberation. With imperialist and superpower support and connivance, the racist regimes and colonialist authorities in Africa are resorting to more insidious and brutal means in their desperate struggle to buttress their tottering rule. They have long refused to implement the U.N. resolutions which reflect the just demands of the African people. What deserves special attention is that while the old-line colonialists are on the decline, neo-colonialists of different shades are trying to take their place by means of cunning and deceptive manoeuvres. The superpowers are sowing dissension among the African countries so as to fish in troubled waters. The African people are still faced with the task of a protracted, complicated and tortuous struggle. Africa belongs to the great African people. The Chinese people stand firmly by the African people. We resolutely support the peoples of Mozambique, Angola, Azania, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Guinea-Bissau, Spanish Sahara and other regions in their just struggle for national liberation. We warmly hail and give recognition to the new-born Republic of Guinea-Bissau. We resolutely support the just struggles of all African countries against aggression, subversion and the sowing of discord by colonialism and neo-colonialism and in defence of state sovereignty and African unity. We are confident that the awakening African people will continue to win new victories in the course of their coming struggle.

Ninth. The Question of Opposing Maritime Hegemony

The determined struggle for 200-nautical-mile maritime rights initiated by Latin American countries has won increasing support among the numerous small and medium-sized countries. Both the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the O.A.U. and

the Conference of the Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held earlier this year, expressly declared that a coastal state is entitled to establish an exclusive economic zone or a zone of national jurisdiction with the maximum limit of 200 nautical miles. And landlocked states are also entitled to share sea-bed and fishery resources. On this problem of maritime rights, the numerous small and medium-sized countries are waging a gigantic and vigorous struggle against the maritime hegemony of the superpowers. With a view of seeking hegemony on the seas and oceans, the superpowers are trying in vain to preserve the outdated law of the sea and are doing their utmost to restrict the territorial sea and scope of jurisdiction of all countries. They insist that the 3-nautical-mile or 12-nautical-mile rule for the territorial sea is sacred and inviolable, arguing that the expansion of the territorial sea and the zone of jurisdiction will narrow down the open sea. This is a bluff. What sacredness and inviolability! The 3-nautical-mile rule was a man-made stipulation, and so was the 12-nautical-mile rule. They reflect the reality of the time when the seas and oceans were controlled by colonialism and imperialism. What is there that is so sacred and inviolable? As to the assertion that the larger the territorial seas and the zones of jurisdiction, the smaller the open sea, the question must be asked: What is the open sea? The so-called open sea has in fact always been the "private sea" of a few strong naval powers. The numerous small and medium-sized countries have now stood up; they constitute the majority and demand a change in the so-called law of the sea, which is advantageous only to the imperialists. What fault can one find with this? In a proposal submitted by the Soviet Union and her allies to the U.N. Industrial Development Board on June 2, 1972, they said that "the sovereignty over the natural resources is depending to a great extent upon the capability of utilizing these resources by the industry of the developing countries. . . ." At the meeting of the Sea-Bed Committee held in Geneva on August 22, 1973, a Soviet representative said that the developing countries could not increase their catch even if they had a 200-nautical-mile zone, because they lacked the technical know-how, fishing capacity, etc. These statements simply mean that the greater the might, the greater the right. This is the logic of imperialism, pure and simple. Why are the superpowers so violently opposed to the position of the small and medium-sized countries for enlarging the territorial sea and the zone of jurisdiction? It is not difficult to see the underlying motive if only one takes a look at the contention between the United States and the Soviet Union for maritime hegemony in the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean and their rivalry in setting up bases and plundering the fishing and sea-bed resources there. When the territorial sea and the zone of jurisdiction are enlarged, their "private sea" over which they act the overlords will contract. How can the superpowers not desperately oppose that? However, their opposition will eventually prove futile. So long as the numerous small and medium-sized countries are

united by seeking common ground on major points while reserving differences on minor ones and persevere in tenacious and protracted efforts, their struggle against maritime hegemony is bound to triumph.

The struggle against maritime hegemony is an important aspect of the struggle waged by the numerous developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America to protect national resources and develop the national economy. It is also a new focus in the current struggle against hegemonism. In other economic spheres, the developing countries are also more closely coordinating their actions and strengthening their unity in the struggle against exploitation, plunder, dumping and monopoly by imperialism and big-power hegemonism. The bilateral and regional economic cooperation of the developing countries is growing, and the various organizations of raw material-exporting countries are expanding. More and more developing countries have come to realize that in order to consolidate political independence, it is imperative to attain economic independence, and that in order to develop the national economy, it is imperative to rely on their own efforts and strengthen their mutual support and cooperation. It was by plundering and exploiting the people of Asia, Africa and Latin America that colonialism and imperialism accumulated their fortunes. Therefore, the people of these continents are fully entitled to demand repayment of this debt. However, in the light of China's own experience, they will never repay the debt and, what is more, they will create more difficulties for those countries which are defending their national independence and developing the national economy. It is futile to harbor any unrealistic notions about them. We must persist in opposing imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism. We must rely on ourselves, rely on the people, wage arduous struggle and exert sustained efforts. We believe that, by so doing, the developing countries will certainly become prosperous.

Tenth. The Question of Disarmament

The Chinese Government has always stood for disarmament. But what we stand for is genuine disarmament, and not phoney disarmament, still less empty talk about disarmament coupled with actual arms expansion every day. At present, we face the harsh fact that the superpowers are hawking disarmament, and the Soviet Union in particular is most energetic about it. Nearly every year she comes up with some sort of proposal on disarmament at the General Assembly. Last year, she boasted of the great significance of her agreement with the United States on the so-called limitation of strategic nuclear weapons. And this year, she is even more vehement in lauding the so-called epoch-making significance of the Soviet-U.S. agreement on the prevention of nuclear war. Meanwhile, she has sanctimoniously proposed a 10 percent

reduction of the military budgets of the five permanent members of the Security Council and the utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries. This is Khrushchov's old ware, which has been peddled for more than a dozen years and has not deceived many people. How are military budgets to be assessed? To study this problem alone, a committee will have to be set up and work for many years. Can military budgets really be reduced? Anyway, nobody has ever seen this happen. We think it is better to stop this kind of empty talk, and stop it quickly. If you are really the "natural and surest ally" of the developing countries, you should come up to this rostrum and declare openly that your military aid to all developing countries which is used to resist foreign aggression is gratis and free of charge, that you will not be a merchant of death, and that although you have charged them previously, you will not press for the payment of debt and interest, especially not to do so in the case of the struggling Arab countries. Be forthright and simple! Declare publicly that you will cancel all the military loans, that there is no need for repayment and that you will let them be gone with the wind! Won't that be more practical?

What general disarmament? Actually, in the world today, it is the two superpowers that are engaged in an uncontrollable arms race. Their aim is nuclear superiority and the nuclear hegemony with which to dominate the world. To put it bluntly, any disarmament must first of all be the disarming of these two superpowers. But can this be realized? On this point, the U.S. Government is somewhat more candid than the Soviet Government. It admits that military expenditures cannot be reduced in the context of rivalry between the two hegemonic powers. As to the numerous small and medium-sized countries, the real problem they face is definitely not disarmament, but the strengthening of their necessary and independent defence capabilities. Even Western Europe is inadequate in defence capabilities. How much more so are the large number of small and medium-sized countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America? What have they got to disarm? To talk about general disarmament in these circumstances is gibberish. If such proposals were really accepted, it would mean to ask the whole world to completely disarm itself in front of the two superpowers and allow itself to be ordered about.

The Chinese Government is in favor of convening a world conference on genuine disarmament. But there must be the necessary pre-conditions and clear aims for the conference. That is, all nuclear countries, and particularly the two nuclear superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, must first of all undertake the unequivocal obligation that at no time and in no circumstances will they be the first to use nuclear weapons, particularly against non-nuclear

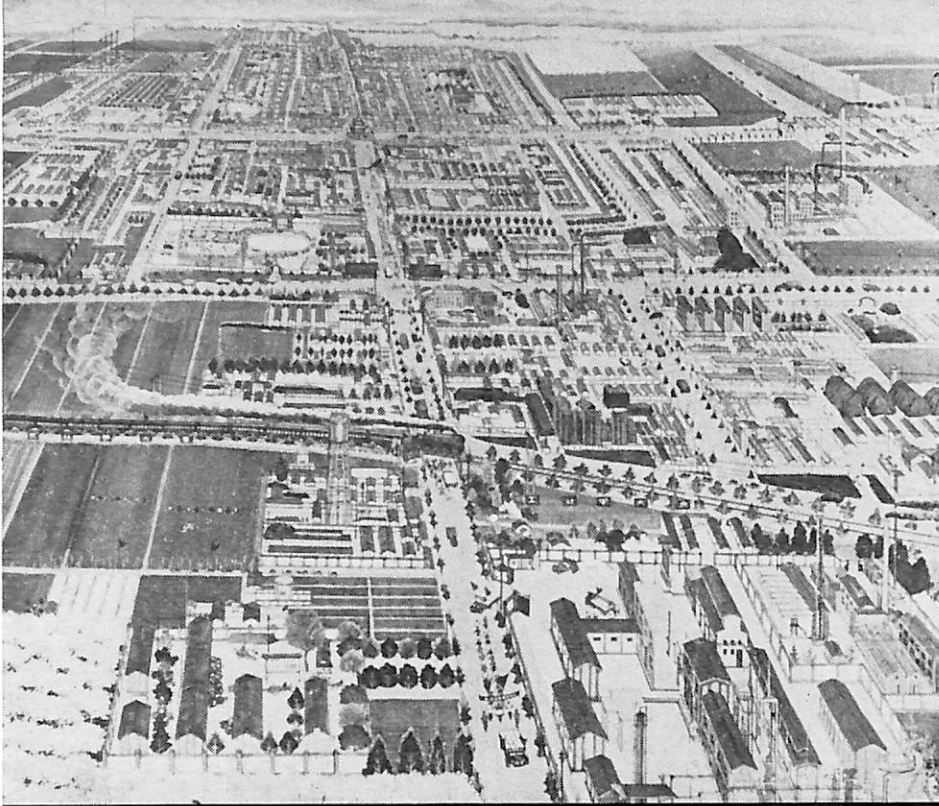
countries and nuclear-weapon-free zones — for example, the Soviet Union should undertake obligations in respect of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America — and they must withdraw from abroad all their armed forces, including nuclear missile forces, and dismantle all their military bases, including nuclear bases, on the territories of other countries. Only thus will it be possible for all countries, big and small on an equal footing, to discuss with equanimity and solve the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and other questions free from any threat of force.

Some people charge that China's position on the disarmament question is "either all or nothing." This is a distortion. One may ask: What difficulties are there for nuclear countries first of all to undertake the obligation, as the first step towards nuclear disarmament, that at no time and in no circumstances will they be the first to use nuclear weapons, particularly against non-nuclear countries or nuclear-weapon-free zones? Is this not a truly effective first step towards the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons? But these disarmament-advocating "saints" would not even agree to undertake this minimum obligation. Does this not suffice to show that they are actually imperialists who persist in arms expansion and aggression, menacing the people of the world and aspiring to world hegemony?

Mr. President,

The People's Republic of China is taking part in the activities of the United Nations for the third year. We wish to say frankly that what we have experienced in the United Nations has caused us to become worried. Speeches are multiplying and resolutions piling up in the United Nations, yet it has not been able to look into matters which it ought to (for instance, the question of the prevention of nuclear war) and is impotent in the solution of many major world issues (for instance, the Middle East question). If things continue this way, what future is there for the United Nations? However, we are not disheartened. We believe that the present conditions in the United Nations should be changed and the Charter should be revised. How can the United Nations go on working in the same old way it did more than twenty years ago, when the world has already changed? The Third World has risen up. The United Nations must be able to give expression to the desires of the numerous small and medium-sized countries, truly give effect to the principle of the equality of all countries, big or small, and cease to be controlled by the superpowers and their small number of followers if it is to be worthy of its name. China is ready to work together with all countries which love peace and uphold justice for the achievement of this noble aim.

Thank you, Mr. President!



"New Face of Huhhsien" by Tung Cheng-yi.

Cultural Notes

Peasant Painters of Huhhsien



LATE last year the National Art Gallery in Peking put on an exhibition of paintings by peasants of Huhhsien county, Shensi province. Every day thousands of people came to see the 179 paintings.

In old China, the Huhhsien peasants, like those throughout the country, suffered from cruel oppression and exploitation by imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism. They lived in misery, cold and hunger. Very few were able to learn to read or write.

After the liberation, these peasants stood up politically, taking their place among the masters of the country. They not only developed production so that life improved continually. They also launched a mass movement to wipe out illiteracy.

In 1958, impelled by the surging Great Leap Forward in China's industry and agriculture, the county set up an amateur art class on the construction site of a reservoir. Guided by Chairman Mao's revolutionary line in literature and art, a lot of ordinary peasants broke through old mental shackles as to what they could or could not do. With hands that previously had held only hoes, they took up artists' brushes and began to paint as well as farm. What they painted were the heroic deeds of the county's people in the arduous battle to conquer nature. In fact, they were using the new art of the proletariat to take over the field of culture and ideology in the rural areas.

Since then the ranks of amateur painters in the county have grown until they now total five hundred. Among them are ordinary commune members, cadres of the communes, brigades and teams, middle school graduates, formerly illiterate peasant women, old people and some children. Today over 70 percent of the county's production brigades have their own amateur artists.

In the past 15 years Huhhsien's amateur artists have created altogether over 40,000 works. They

Peasant amateur artists painting amid their workmates.



Old Party Secretary by Liu Chih-teh



Serenading the Good Harvest by Wang Chih-chieh

How Our Children Grow

by Liu Chih-kuei and Hsin Chiang-lung



Target Practice in a Work-Break by Chang Chun-hsia



Our Commune's Fish Pond by Tung Cheng-yi



Digging a Well by Fan Chih-hua



take the form of wall paintings, New Year pictures, picture-story series, papercuts, woodcuts and paintings in the traditional style. They have been displayed through blackboard and wall newspapers, mobile shows, lantern slides and small-scale exhibitions. These are works that come from life but are on a higher plane than actual everyday life. They are clear-cut in theme, sincere and wholesome in feeling, bright and rich in color, and compact, bold and fresh in composition.

Most of the county's amateur artists had drunk deeply of the bitterness of the old society. Hence they have an especially strong sense of the happiness of life in the new. Their works breathe furious condemnation of the old order. They sing the praises of the Communist Party and Chairman Mao, who led the peasants to stand up and liberate themselves, and of the new socialist countryside and the new life.

TUNG Cheng-yi, 55-year-old member of the Chengchiao commune, had lived in the county town before liberation, when it was a poor, backward place of thatched huts and narrow lanes. He had witnessed how, under the leadership of the Party and Chairman Mao, the development of production and construction had rapidly transformed it after liberation. In 1962 he painted a picture to reflect the great changes there in the previous 13 years. In 1973, he again climbed the old Bell Tower which commands a view of the whole town, walked through every street and looked at every new building, making sketches wherever he went. Then, with meticulous attention to detail, he painted "New Face of Huhsien".

Three other paintings by ordinary commune members are "Our Brigade's Sewing Group" by Chang Chun-hsia, "The Village Supply and Marketing Co-op" by Ko Cheng-min and "Every Family Has Savings" by Liu Hui-sheng. They depict happy scenes from the new, good and constantly improving life of the people — trying on new clothes, buying industrial products and putting savings in the bank. Showing rural med-

ical workers giving peasant children a checkup, "How Our Children Grow" by Liu Chih-kuei and Hsin Chiang-lung conveys a sense of the joyous, healthy life and growth of new China's youngsters under the care of the Party and the people's government.

The Huhsien peasants are not engaged in "art for art's sake". They use their brushes as powerful weapons in revolutionary struggle. They coordinate their themes with the main task of the Party at each period. Their art serves proletarian politics and the three revolutionary movements of class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment.

In 1962 Chairman Mao issued the call, "Never forget class struggle". To help give education in the class struggle, Huhsien's amateur artists produced picture-histories of communes, villages and individual families which were exhibited in over 150 brigades.

In the course of the cultural revolution, they have used the weapon of their art in coordination with the revolutionary criticism campaign in the countryside. Their pictures have helped expose the criminal attempts and schemes of swindlers like Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao to overthrow the dictatorship of the proletariat and restore capitalism.

During the upsurge in the mass movement to learn from the national agricultural pacesetter, the Tachai brigade, they did paintings on worksites, in the fields and on village streets. Their theme was the people's heroic struggle to "transform the mountains and rivers". In the Chinsan brigade of Chintu commune, the amateur artists fought against drought alongside their fellow commune members. And in spare moments they painted the poster "Fight the Drought till Heaven Bows before Us, Fight the Drought till the Grain Is in Our Hands". The poster played a big role in inspiring the united effort that brought victory — a good harvest averaging six tons per hectare.

With their rich experience of life, Huhsien's amateur artists produce works that are vivid, natural and unaffected. Persons they paint

have clear-cut individual characteristics. When they present scenery, whether towering mountains or flowing streams, crisscrossing power lines or field ridges, the treatment is realistic and straightforward. They portray life with deep insight and sensitive perception.

In "Spring Hoeing", the woman painter Li Feng-lan employs bright colors and lively, detailed brushwork to depict a group of women happily at work. In "Digging a Well", its creator Fan Chih-hua was not satisfied with just showing the activity at the well-head. To fully express the enthusiastic vigor of the commune members in their struggle for water, he adopted an angle of vision from above to the very bottom to show the digging at several levels. Lively and imaginative too is "Our Commune's Fish Pond" by Tung Cheng-yi in which the leaping, rainbow-colored fish symbolize the growth of a commune's diversified economy.

Among the most popular of the Huhsien paintings is "Our Party Secretary". The artist Liu Chih-teh moves viewers by his concrete delineation of a vital person. He does not resort to postures or symbols detached from typical situations or typical character. The elderly secretary's weatherbeaten face, his grizzled hair, big rough hands and plain clothing all show that he continues to work with his hands, that his heart has never left the people, that he is a man steeled through many trials, yet warm and approachable. In painting him pausing in the act of lighting his pipe, the artist captures a very expressive moment to emphasize this rural cadre's deep immersion in reading a Marxist classic.

It is not by chance that Liu Chih-teh could paint such a portrait. Himself a brigade Party secretary, he is thoroughly familiar with the life and thinking of such cadres. And as a preliminary he made sketches of many Party secretaries from life.

The exhibition proves that the working people, who are the creators of society's material wealth and the masters of history, are also the creators of mankind's spiritual wealth and the masters of the new culture.

How I Began to Paint the Countryside

LI FENG-LAN



The author paints her mural, "Joyful Cotton Picking", on a village wall.

I AM an ordinary peasant woman. In 1958 I started to paint in my spare time. Since then I have completed 300 pictures. Not long ago, three of them, "Spring Hoeing", "Our Fertilizer Factory Goes into Production" and "Sowing in the Rain", were shown at the Exhibition of Paintings by Peasants of Huhsien county, Shensi province, held in Peking. This is a tremendous encouragement to me.

Before liberation, no one would even dream of a peasant woman like me doing art work. When I was small I loved to draw and cut things out. In my home village, we had the custom of decorating the windows with papercuts every New Year. Each time the festival came around my mother would make these "window flowers" and, sitting by her, I would learn to cut

them out. Sometimes I did the whole job — drawing, cutting out and pasting them on the windows myself. The neighbors said I had a quick mind and clever hands.

But in those days there was no chance for me to go to school. Our family was very poor. I had many younger brothers and sisters. From the time I was very small I had plenty of household chores to do. During the day I went out to gather firewood. In the evenings I had to help mother spin thread and weave cloth.

In 1949 when liberation came I was already 15. But I could not read or write a single character. Soon the village organized a short-time literacy class. It was my first opportunity to study and I started to learn to read and write.



Getting opinions on her painting from fellow commune members.

In 1958, when the Great Leap Forward began in agriculture, our Huhsien county started building a reservoir. To liven up cultural life and heighten enthusiasm, the county Party committee started an amateur art class on the worksite. There the members worked, and there they painted.

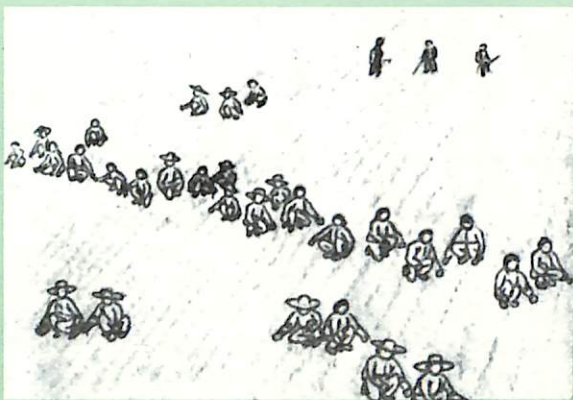
When I heard that each commune had been asked to nominate one or two members for the class, I immediately signed up and my commune Party committee promptly approved. It was in that class that I first studied Chairman Mao's *Talks at the Yenan Forum on Literature and Art* and realized why we should paint for the workers, peasants and soldiers. During the stirring construction work I painted, with some help from professional artists, a poster called "Heroes Lock Up the Dragon" to show the heroic spirit of the commune members who were conquering nature. This was my first step forward in the field of art.

IT WAS no easy matter for a working woman like me to take up creative art. I worked in the fields most of the year and had family duties at home. I could only paint in the little time I had for rest. Moreover, some conservative people looked askance at a village woman painting and made cold, sarcastic remarks. But I thought of Chairman Mao's teaching: "If socialism does not occupy the rural front, capitalism assured-



Spring Hoeing by Li Feng-lan

Sketches for "Spring Hoeing" by Li Feng-lan



ly will." And I recalled how, after the liberation, the class struggle in the cultural field in the countryside continued to rage. Among the means by which the overthrown landlord class still tried to corrupt people were old paintings, full of feudal superstitions. We had to fight against this. It was up to us poor and lower-middle peasants to take over the field of culture in the countryside, and never allow the reactionary classes to dictate to us again. I vowed to myself, "With Chairman Mao backing us and pointing the way, we will paint. We'll never retreat!" In this spirit I've kept on painting, despite all difficulties, for 16 years now.

With little education, I had never had any basic training in painting. Sometimes, hard as I tried, I still couldn't paint what I wanted to. Once I did a picture of militiamen training. When the young people saw it, they said the figures were all short and squat like "Plump Sister-in-law" in the old folktale. I decided to make a special effort to grasp the essentials of painting, and started learning to sketch. Usually I tried to remember scenes I encountered, which I would later draw at home. Or I would take a sketch pad along to the fields or to meetings and sketch during rest periods. Sometimes, while making the fire or cooking a meal, I would suddenly think of a good scene and do an outline sketch right away. As time passed, people who saw my work began to commend my progress, saying, "Now your things look real." Gradually I turned out quite a lot of papercuts, wall paintings, posters, serial-picture-stories and lantern slides.

WHEN the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution came, I plunged into the fierce struggle with my paint brush as a weapon. In murals and lantern slides I angrily repudiated Liu Shao-chi's counter-revolutionary revisionist line. When the struggle reached a sharp point, an overthrown landlord and some other bad eggs in our village started to make trouble secretly, provoking quarrels among some commune members, setting one against the other to disrupt our unity. I decided to expose these

class enemies with my painting. I did a series of "family histories", showing how poor and lower-middle peasant families had been exploited and oppressed by these very same scoundrels before the liberation. This series was put on show in the village. All the scenes were like bullets striking at the class enemies, and their heads began to droop. Some young people, who had not seen through these enemies before, woke up after looking at the pictures. Finding how much they deflated the enemy, many poor and lower-middle peasants said happily: "That's right, that's the way to fix them!"

Since the cultural revolution, there's a fresh spirit in our village. People often ask me to do paintings on new themes, like Tieh-mei from *The Red Lantern*, Yang Tzu-jung from *Taking Tiger Mountain by Strategy* and other heroes and heroines of the model revolutionary Peking Operas. I've taught an amateur art class in the village primary school and helped paint posters on walls along the village streets. I've tried harder and harder to show what was new in our socialist countryside.

IN AUTUMN 1971 our Kuang-ming commune got a very good cotton harvest. The bolls blossomed out like silver flowers. During the rush season we women worked from dawn to dusk. We picked cotton in the fields, and drove wagons or pulled carts on the roads, to deliver and sell cotton to the state. Everywhere there was the sound of our laughter and song. Moved deeply by the scene, I wanted so much to paint it. Forgetting food and rest, right after work one evening I started on "Joyful Cotton Picking". But it didn't come out well the first time — just a plain picture of women picking cotton. When other commune members saw this first version, they said: "Feng-lan, the bolls look real all right and the women have on their new clothes, but where's our revolutionary spirit?"

After collecting everybody's opinions I made a second sketch. It had fields of unpicked cotton as background, with a few women picking and one patch finished. In

the foreground were seven women each pulling a handcart brimming over with new cotton. They were running as if racing with a young man driving a cotton wagon. Although this version still had shortcomings, everybody said it was much better than the first. Then I understood what had been wrong with my previous effort. It was mainly that it didn't show the commune members' revolutionary fire in building socialism.

Our part of Shensi province, the Kuanchung area, is wheat country. In spring when the winter wheat turns green again, we women do the hoeing. The countryside is especially beautiful then. Garden-like wheat fields of tender green contrast with pink peach blossoms in full bloom. Going to work at such times I can hardly tear my eyes away. And I have always wanted to paint the scene to show the moving beauty of the new socialist countryside and how enthusiastic we women commune members are in building it. So, while I worked, I started to carefully observe the people working around me. And during rest breaks I made sketches of them. It was on this basis that I started, amended and finally created "Spring Hoeing". It contains 16 persons, each of whom I had previously sketched. The middle-aged woman in the blue jacket in front is based on sketches of our women's team leader in our brigade.

I started this painting in 1972. And from then till it was finished I kept collecting opinions and made many changes. The painting exhibited in Peking last year was the fourth version. In it the portrayal of the people had improved somewhat.

With support from the brigade Party committee, four of our young village girls and I have organized an amateur art group. The county cultural center often sends professional artists to help us and we've learned a good deal from them. There can be no end to painting for the workers, peasants and soldiers. Our new socialist countryside has so much that needs to be painted. I am determined to persevere along Chairman Mao's revolutionary line in art, and to paint more and better to give expression to our new era.



Gathering medicinal herbs in the deep mountains.



Physical checkup for a child of Hani nationality.



'A Hospital Carried in Baskets'



Training local "barefoot doctors".

Medical workers of a unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army under the Kunming command, while accomplishing their tasks in the prevention and cure of illness in the army, often form medical teams to tour national-minority villages in the southwestern province of Yunnan to serve the laboring people there. In the last three years, with baskets on their backs, members of these teams have covered more than 15,500 kilometers on foot across many mountains, forests and streams. They not only carry the necessary drugs and equipment, but pick medicinal herbs on the way. In addition to treating patients, they have trained over 700 "barefoot doctors" among the fraternal nationalities, contributing to the advance of medical work in national-minority areas in this border region of China. The local people are deeply appreciative. They call the teams "our hospitals carried in baskets, which serve us wholeheartedly".



While on tour, medical team members work together with the minority people.



They are good friends with villagers of the minority nationalities.

New Generation of Skiers



Yu Ying-chun (right) and other skiers start on a new course of training.



Making their own skis.

IN winter, when the mountain villages, fields and valleys around the Wuchu River in Heilungkiang province are covered with snow, the ski run at the foot of Szufangtingtse mountain is a busy place. Here the skiing class of the Young Amateurs' Athletic School of Shangchih county does its winter training. Young skiers, their bodies bent forward, glide downhill. White frost encrusts the girls' plaits, but there are beads of sweat on their foreheads.

Set up in 1958, the class has some forty students. They are of Han and Korean nationality, aged 12 to 17. In spring and summer they do all-round training—running, ball games and gymnastics—in their spare time. In the autumn, on land covered with wheat straw, they do drills in the basic movements of skiing thrice a week, one or two hours each time. When the skiing season, and their winter vacations, come around they camp out on the

mountain-sides, doing their homework in the mornings and evenings and skiing for 5 hours each day.

The trainees all work hard to master the techniques of the sport, and deliberately temper their wills in the process. Yu Ying-chun, a brave, lively and studious girl made rapid progress. After a year's training, she won second place in both the three and five-kilometer cross-country events for young girls in the county. One day her coach suddenly asked her to learn downhill skiing. She hesitated and said, "It's risky on the steep slopes and I may get hurt. Can't I just keep on as before?"

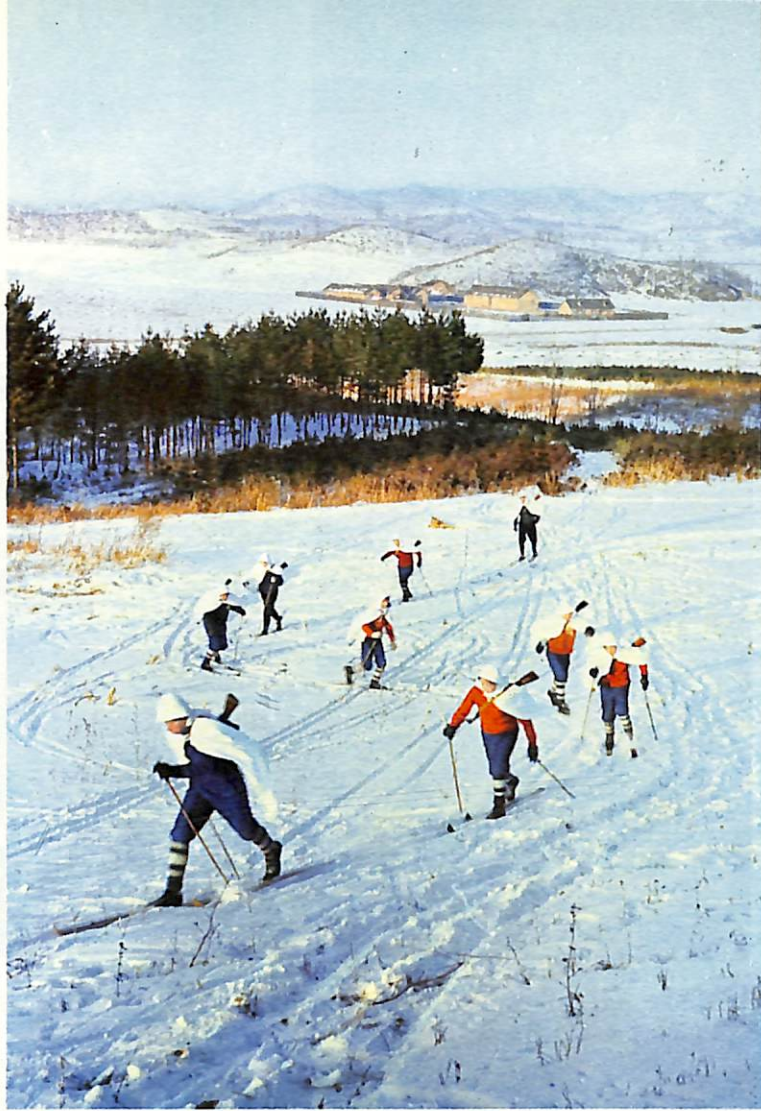
"If you concentrate your mind and learn technique, you won't hurt yourself," the coach advised. "You have the desire to be a good skier and are agile and resourceful, so I'm sure you'll do all right on the slopes." Encouraged, Yu Ying-chun threw herself into her new training the next day.

She began by learning to make turns on the slope. Eager to get the hang of it, she wanted to grasp all the techniques at once. But the skis were hard to manage. When she wanted to go east, they'd go west. Sometimes she would fall before she could even get started. Covered with snow she looked like a snow man. But she kept at it, even in snowstorms and strong north winds. To become more expert quickly, she often made extra runs. After a week's training she made the 200-meter downhill course in 18.2 seconds. After two weeks she mastered the elementary techniques of downhill skiing.

In the past few years the spare-time school has run five courses and trained 200 skiers from factories, offices, people's communes and schools. During holidays, the instructors and students take turns to tour communes in the county, giving exhibitions as a form of coaching, promoting skiing in the county.



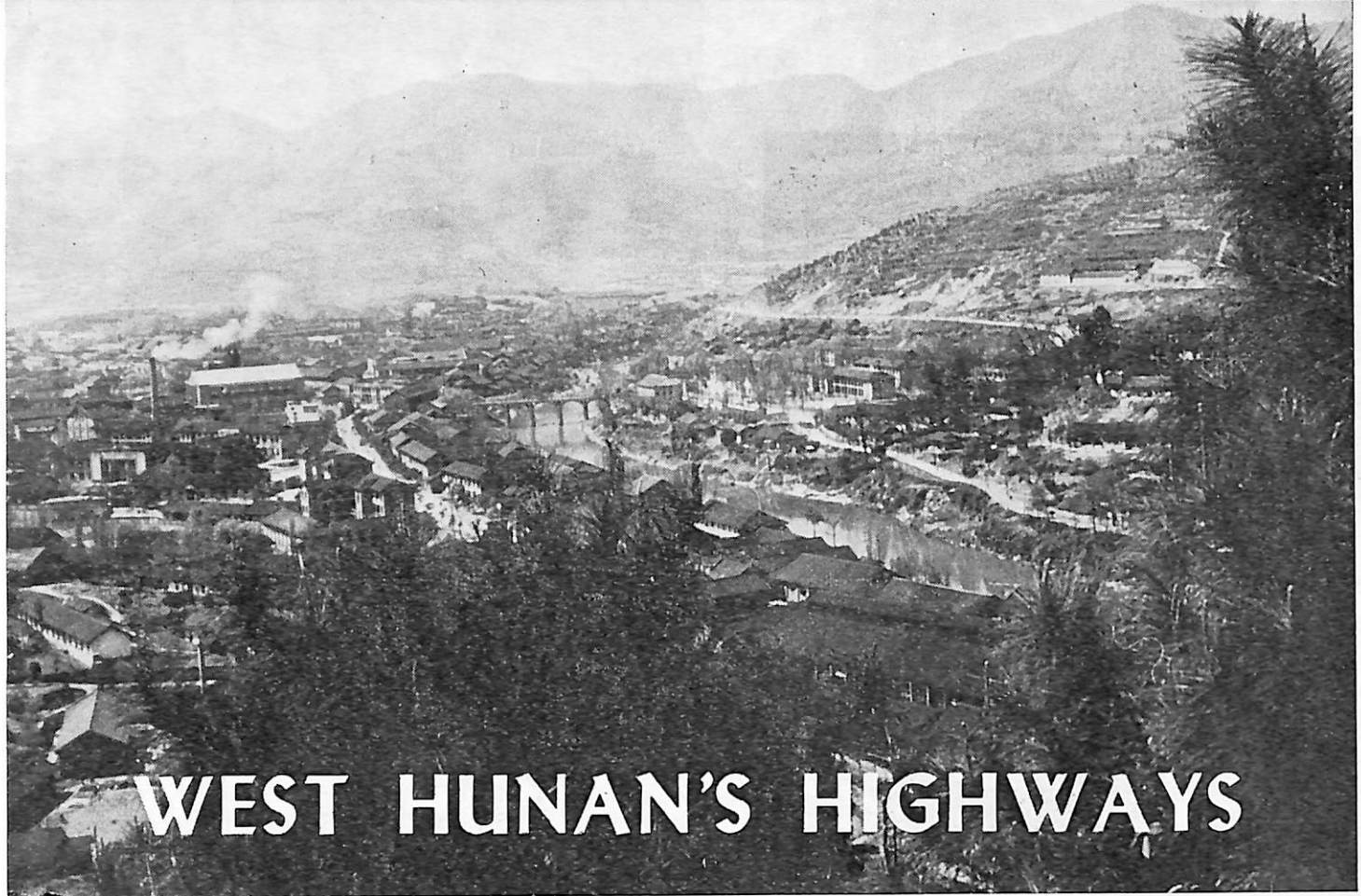
First try at skiing.



Improving skiing skill in a militia drill.

Trainees hard at practice.





WEST HUNAN'S HIGHWAYS

Chishou

THE West Hunan Tuchia and Miao Autonomous *Chou* lies in the Wuling Range. A new network of highways winding over 2,700 kilometers through steep mountains where once only birds flew now connects the *chou's* 10 counties and 70 percent of its communes, carry-

ing trucks full of building materials and mountain produce.

Historically, the people of the Tuchia and Miao nationalities in Hunan province were oppressed and trampled upon by the reactionary ruling classes. They were forced from their original homes in

the rich plains deep into the Wuling Mountains to the west, where the only transport was by carrying poles and pack animals. Poor transportation added to the high prices of daily necessities while local products had to be sold cheaply. Bled white first by the feudal rulers and then by the Kuomintang, looted by local bandits and fleeced by unscrupulous merchants, the people of the mountain region — Tuchia, Miao and Han alike — had to exchange ten liters of rice for half a kilogram of salt, and this had to last a family six months. They would eat a mouthful of local bread made of sweet potatoes and ground creeper roots and lick a cloth salt bag hung among their clothes for flavor. For generations, many families had only coir clothing to wear by day and corn husks for cover at night.

Through the centuries the Wuling mountain people of all nationalities had united in an unyielding struggle against reactionary rulers. In 1928, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, they established a revolutionary base area and raised the red flag of Soviet political power amid Wuling's

Road bridge in west Hunan.



peaks. After the victory of the liberation war in 1949, the Chinese People's Liberation Army units stationed in west Hunan, together with the local people, fought to wipe out bandits and overthrew local tyrants, and carried out land reform.

The West Hunan Tuchia and Miao Autonomous *Chou* was formally established in 1957. With an area of 21,460 square kilometers, it has 2,000,000 people of Tuchia, Miao, Han and other nationalities.

Chasm Becomes Thoroughfare

In order to rapidly overcome the backwardness of transportation, economy and culture in this minority nationality area, the people's government decided to build new highways in west Hunan. Inspired by the Party and government's instructions to help our fraternal nationalities build highways, the PLA men, cadres and people of all nationalities built roads through the mountains and bridges over the rivers. The total length of the roads is 15 times that before the liberation.

In many places these highways had to cross sheer cliffs where even birds could find no place to alight, but this did not dismay the road builders. The 88-kilometer stretch on the north-south trunk highway crossing the main peak of the Wu-ling Range is difficult terrain all the way. On the most dangerous 9 kilometers, the builders hung from vine bridges and ladders, to drill blast-holes in mid-air. In 70-some days of hard work, they removed 1,050,000 cubic meters of earth and stone, in some places 100 cubic

meters of rock for every meter of highway.

Swift rivers flow in west Hunan's deep ravines, so highways require many bridges. The Li River, which the north-south highway crosses, is steep and turbulent, so that trucks cannot be ferried when it is in flood. In the winter low-water season of 1970, the local people built piers for a bridge, working in the water in spite of the cold. Lacking a steel crane, they made a wood-frame one. They completed an open-spandrel bridge 242 meters long in just eight months.



Tractor in the mountains.

With the development of transportation, a continual stream of equipment and materials has been provided by the state to help build up this minority nationality area. The highways have stimulated the exchange of commodities between city and countryside, and promoted the prosperity of the whole mountain region. The changes in Chishou — capital of the autonomous *chou* — are an example.

Changes Brought by the Highway

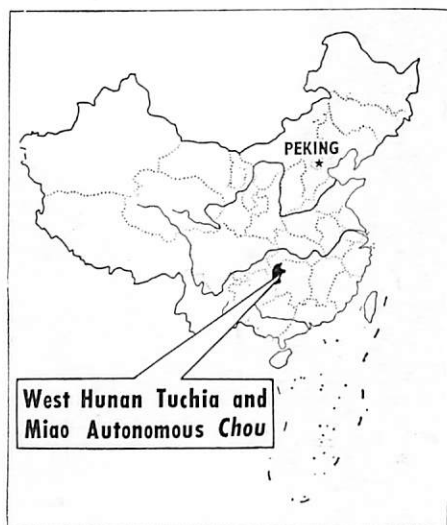
"Chishou" means "good place" in the Miao language, but in the old days it was just a market townlet full of straw huts. It could not even produce screws, and not even matches were on sale. Today Chishou is a brand-new industrial town. Its tree-shaded tar main road is flanked by a department store, hotels, movie theater, cultural center, gymnasium and People's Square. Its stores display light industrial products from all over China. The city has 48 plants, among whose products are machinery, building materials, chemi-

cals, knitwear, paper and electric power. Locally-made motive-power machinery, pumps, chemical fertilizer, insecticide and cement go by highway to the mountain villages.

Since the building of the highways, all kinds of commodities for daily use, brought in from other places, may be bought in remote mountain stores. The highways also help provide conditions for mechanizing agriculture. The La-erh region in the remote mountains of Fenghuang county used to farm by the slash-and-burn method, and plows there were pulled by people.

Since the people's communes were set up, over 100 pieces of machinery, including tractors and generators, have reached La-erh by highway. Its people have started mechanized plowing, and grain production is already twice that before liberation. Today the region is thriving. All its villages have electric lights and public-address systems. Tractors and other machines are very much in evidence.

Following upon the development of industry, education in the autonomous *chou* has also advanced rapidly. Formerly Chishou had only three schools. And in the remote mountain areas, people were still reckoning with stones and knotting ropes to record the passing days. Now Chishou alone has 22 primary schools, three middle schools, a nationalities normal school and a special secondary school teaching public health. Over 95 percent of the autonomous *chou's* school-age children are in school. And Chishou University, set up here in 1958, serves the Tuchia and Miao peoples.





Mountain road.

This new road bridge over the Yu River carries north-south traffic in the Tuchia-Miao Autonomous Chou.



A convoy of Tuchia boats.





Hsiang Chen-yu (Tuchia nationality, right), member of the *chou* Party committee, and Yang Ching-chen (Miao nationality), member of the Paoching county Party committee.

At Chishou University, which trains minority-nationality cadres.



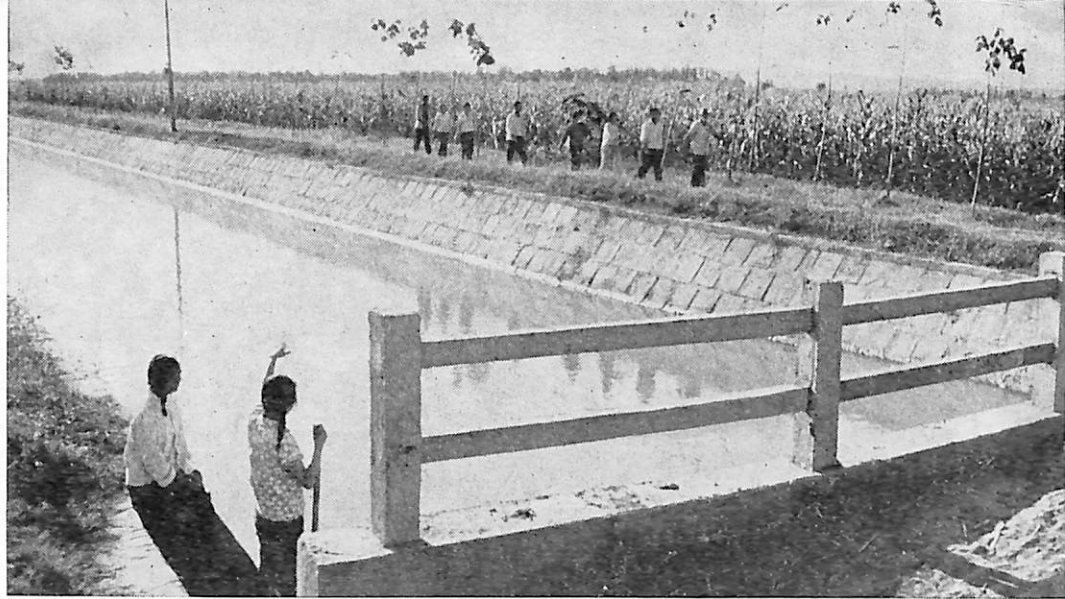
A store sells special products for minority nationalities.



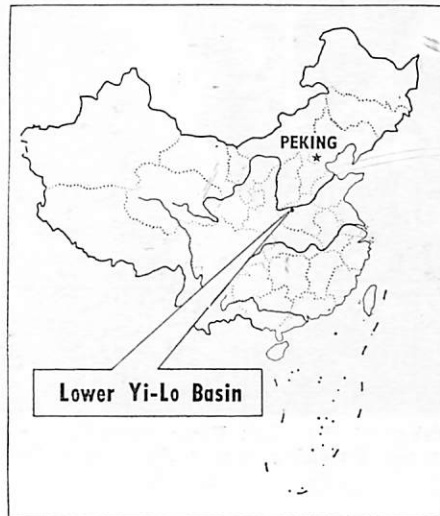
Wresting Crops from Harsh Nature

China Reconstructs Correspondent

Members of the Yuehtan brigade deep-plowing in preparation for sowing.



This channel is part of a water conservation project built by the Lungmen commune in the outskirts of Loyang.



ONE of the chief wheat-producing areas of Honan province is the alluvial plain of some 500 square kilometers formed by the convergence of the Yi and Lo rivers, two branches of the Yellow River near the ancient city of Loyang.

The weather in the lower Yi-Lo basin last year was bad for farming. There had been no heavy snowfalls the winter before, or soaking rain in the spring. Besides, the area was hit repeatedly by wind storms and insect pests. But the members of its 17 communes, relying on the collective strength of this type of organization, fought stubbornly against all the calamities and wrested a good wheat harvest from harsh nature.

From 18,930 hectares of their land sown to wheat they reaped an average of 3,945 kilograms per hectare, more than double the yield of 1,882 kg. secured in 1965, the year before the cultural revolution. And the total crop was 3,000 tons more than the good harvest year 1972.

When I went to the area the wheat was earing. Though no rain had fallen for over 50 days, what the sky failed to provide had been made up by man's effort. So the wheat fields were moist as if there had been no drought. They had been irrigated by pumping water from wells and conducting it from the rivers. When the latter were too low or dry, the people dug into the riverbeds for subsurface water.

At Kungssu brigade in Huikochen commune, I saw how the



Scene in the Yi-Lo basin, where commune members overcame natural calamities and reaped a good wheat harvest.

commune members were battling the drought. Half the brigade's land depended on pump-wells for irrigation. When the need was greatest, local factories, offices and schools turned to candles for their night study to make sure that every watt of electricity could support agriculture by keeping all the well-pumps at work.

Technician Li Chih-hsueh of the No. 1 Well did not leave his pump room for a moment. "A drop of water means a grain of wheat!" he said. After the fight was won, people noticed with concern that he had dropped a lot of weight. But his only feeling was joy that the wheat shoots stood so sturdy.

Li Chih-hsueh recalled how, when he was 18, a severe drought had hit Huikochen and ruined all the crop. His parents had had to flee with him to Shensi province. After liberation he graduated from a secondary technical school in Shensi. Returning to visit his parents in his birthplace, he was deeply moved by the struggle of its people to transform their poor land. So he decided to stay and pitch in.

When the first well was sunk, Li volunteered to run its motorized pump. Afterwards he lived and ate in the pump room, three kilometers away from his home, checking and repairing the machinery, inspecting the watercourse and, during droughts, operating the pump night and day. He has been doing this for three years. The well under his care ensures the irrigation of 40 hectares, three times the area it was designed to cover. It is the pacesetter in the commune.

UNDER the big willow that grows by this well I talked with several old commune members.

Liu Kun-yi, a 77-year-old poor peasant, had fled from drought many times before liberation. "If one like this year's had hit us in the old society," he said, "everybody would have left long ago. Although we're right by the Lo River, we used to farm dry fields, with no water channels on the flats or wells on the ridges. As for motorized wells, nobody had ever seen one. We poor people lived on tiny crops. When drought came, we saw starvation ahead and, taking our children, would wander away from home begging for food."

In the severe drought of 1942, over 7,900 people — half of Huikochen's population — had gone off, and more than 1,000 had starved to death. Today, water conservation works irrigate four-fifths of Huikochen's farmland. When the weather begins to get dry, the sluice gates are opened and fields get the water they need.

Early last May (1973) the basin was attacked by strong winds and heavy rain. Good forecasting by the weather bureau gave timely warning, which telephone operators, radio announcers and technicians quickly communicated to communes, brigades and teams. The people promptly stopped watering the fields, opened the outlets of the drainage ditches and made other preparations.

When the storm broke, the commune members rushed down to the

fields. As soon as it ended, they drained off the water, cutting losses to the minimum. Yuehtan brigade, at the junction of the two rivers, was the worst hit. But even there only two-fifths of a hectare of wheat suffered from lodging.

From 1972 on, the people have been selecting early-ripening and wind-resistant seed as a precaution against the hot dry wind that usually blows here in late May. No sooner is it forecast than they irrigate the crop to moisten and cool the soil. So the drying of green stalks by this wind has been effectively reduced.

THE new power of the basin's people to withstand natural calamities is linked with their struggle to change the basic conditions of production. This struggle, centering on large-scale water conservation and soil improvement, has been waged since liberation and especially since the people's communes were formed.

The lower Yi-Lo basin is one of the cradles of China's culture. Nine dynasties had their capital in Lo-yang. Through the centuries, the rulers merely fought for power and possession of the cities and the land. But it was the laboring people who had opened up and developed the area, and they were oppressed and exploited by the reactionary ruling classes and enslaved by cruel nature.

In the pre-liberation years the area suffered continuously from flood, drought and other natural calamities, and was afflicted by reactionary troops and bandits, so

that the people could hardly keep alive. Particularly serious were the disasters of 1935-37 when the flood waters rose three years in succession in both the Yi and the Lo rivers, breaching their dykes in many places simultaneously. Almost the entire basin was inundated. Among its people, a folksong spread widely:

*Living on the banks of the Lo
Is like sitting at the door of
Death;
Floods come nine years out
of ten,
We're tied to life just by a
thread.*

Generally, these two rivers often left their courses, mountain torrents washed out their banks and the basin was cut up more and more by ditches, pools and marshes. The soil turned sandy and alkaline, with stretches covered by a hard salty crust. But even such land fell into the greedy clutches of landlords and rich peasants. Farming methods were rough and yields low and unstable. An output of 900 kg. per hectare made a "good year". The peasants sang of their miserable life:

*Soup in the morning, chaff at
noon,
In our bowls in the evening
we see the moon;
When flood or drought comes,
We flee our homes.*

After liberation the laboring people, having become masters of the Yi-Lo basin, set about transforming it. In 1954, led by the Communist Party and people's government, they organized a work force 70,000 strong to harness the rivers. In one winter and spring they built four major dykes stretching altogether for over 120 kilometers, and reinforced 170 places along the river banks with stone. In 1958 they heightened and strengthened all the dykes and forced the Yi and Lo rivers to flow tamely eastward, after thousands of years in which they had raged at will.

In the past 20 years, though the rivers have risen several times, the dykes have held firm. In the floods prior to liberation, the peasants could do nothing but pray for mercy to the Dragon King of the Waters. Today the shrines to the

Dragon King in every village are hardly remembered — all have long since been pulled down by the peasants.

IN the Yi-Lo basin, with its extremely complicated topography and geological structure, much of the soil used to be unsuited to any crop. Now it has been transformed into good land. And last year's harvest, as I saw for myself in several communes and brigades representative of the area, was a bumper one.

Chaichen commune in Yenshih county is located between the two rivers whose beds here stand over a meter higher than the bordering farmland. This is the lowest spot of the Yi-Lo basin, nicknamed the "bottom of the pot". Before the big dykes were built it was often flooded, and even after their completion, it suffered from waterlogging and alkali.

Fundamental changes came after the commune was formed. Its members dug three large drainage channels and 19 medium-sized ones, making a network of conduits to run off excess water into the rivers. They built up over 400 hectares of land into platform fields, and turned their soil to a depth of more than a meter on 670 hectares, burying the alkaline crust. They dug 300 wells equipped with motorized pumps to wash the alkali from the fields. And by frequent hoeing, they broke up the capillary action in the soil, thus preventing alkali from coming to the surface again. Chiefly by these methods the 3,000 hectares of waterlogging and alkaline land in the basin were transformed into good farmland.

Comrade Yu Lin-sen, secretary of the commune's Party committee, showed me a broad expanse of wheat fields north of the market town. "This used to be known as the 'Great Northern Wilds' where no crops grew, only grass," he said. The commune's 1973 wheat yield averaged 3,675 kg. per hectare, nearly 10 percent better than in 1972. Though still behind the average for the entire basin, this was phenomenal for the "bottom of the pot", where the traditional yield was only 270 kg. per hectare, and in some cases did not even replace the seed sown.

Kucheng commune, in Loyang's outskirts, lies at the west end of the basin. In its Paitsun brigade most of the farmland used to be hard and alkaline, difficult to plow and not much good for growing crops. During the past few years the members have channeled in river water for irrigation, used more fertilizer, and deep-plowed and leveled the fields. Thus the brigade has increased its wheat output year after year, till it is now one of the biggest wheat producers in the basin.

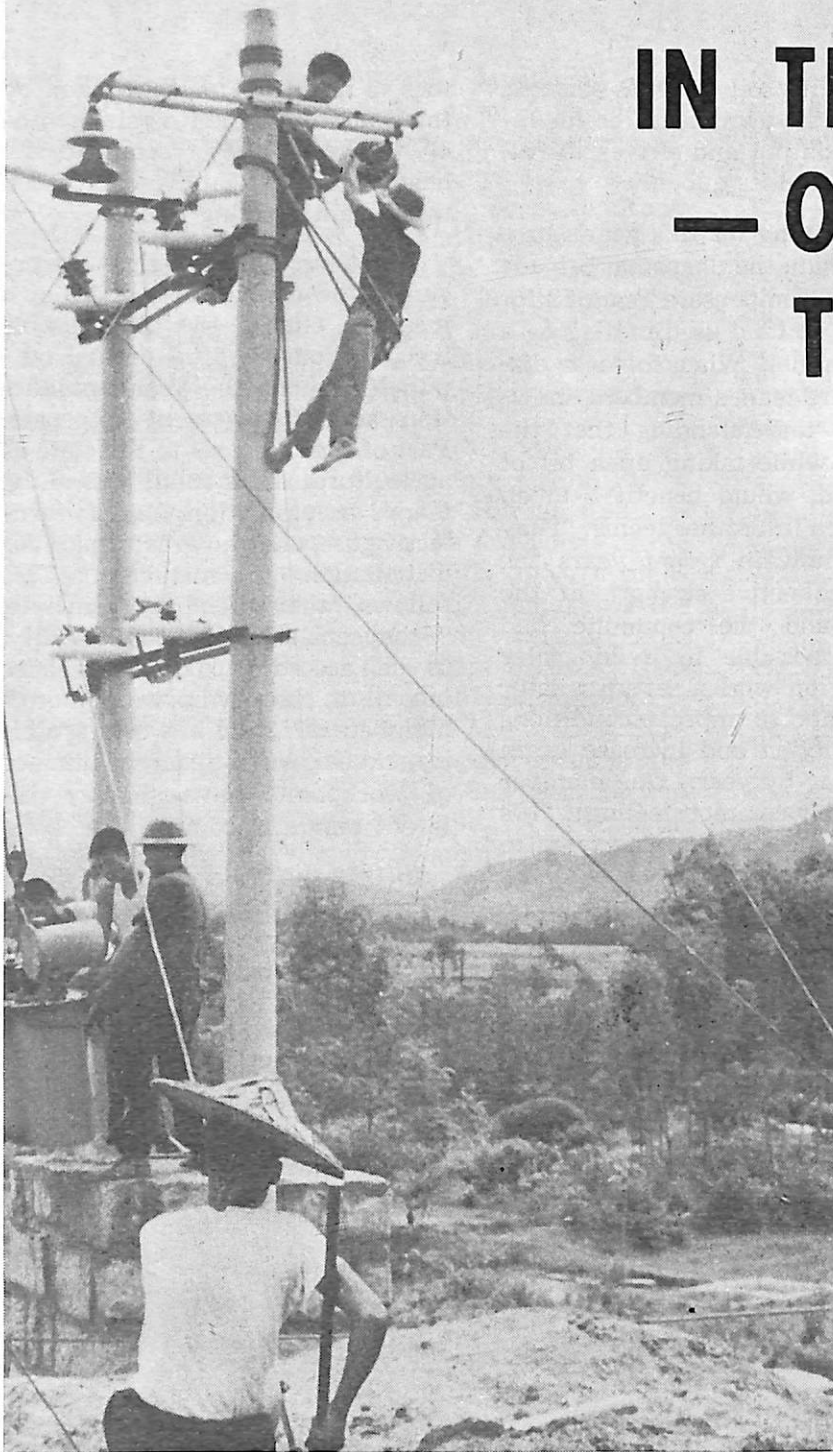
Yuehtan brigade in Yenshih county is famous for the fundamental transformation of its conditions of production through river control and field building. Its land was originally sandy and vulnerable to drought, waterlogging and wind. And it was not only poor but scanty, less than 0.03 hectare for each person in the brigade. To safeguard, improve and expand farmland, the members have built 87 hectares of new fields on the river margins during the last ten years, putting up 70 embankments — built with stone they transported from the mountains — to retain the silt of the Yi and Lo rivers.

Just before the wheat harvest they summed up their decade-long struggle against adverse nature and elected several labor models. One, 42-year-old Chang Wen-chou, was among the first volunteers for the grueling job of transporting stone. And in the years since, he had gone up the Mangshan Mountain twice a day, summer sun or winter cold. People calculate that he has walked a total of 50,000 kilometers and carried 890 cubic meters of stone, weighing 1,600 tons. The Yi-Lo basin has thousands of people like Chang Wen-chou, who have worked as hard to transform nature.

Today watercourses connect the orderly fields of all 17 communes in the Yi-Lo basin. There is an average of 220 horsepower of motors and engines for each brigade. All the villages use electricity, transmitted by more than 1,100 kilometers of high and low-tension lines. Conditions of production have been fundamentally changed. And it is on this firm basis that 1973's bumper harvest was achieved.

IN THE COMMUNES — OWNERSHIP ON THREE LEVELS

Staff Reporter



Commune level: Electricians from the commune-run hydro-power station string lines for one of its brigades.



Brigade level: Workers at the orchard run by Kueihou brigade spray insecticide on tangerine trees.

ON our visit to the Yenhsi People's Commune in the countryside of Fukien province, we made a point of looking into the question of ownership there.

Comrade Wu, one of its cadres, said to us that, as throughout the country at the present time, the collective economy of the people's commune operates under three levels of ownership — by the commune, production brigade and production team. The production team is the basic accounting unit. Each team organizes, manages and

makes use of all its main means of production — land, animals and small farm machines — and the labor power of its members. It handles income and distribution through its own independent accounting, disposes of its own gains and bears its own losses.

Economic enterprises and establishments which are beyond the strength of the production teams, or which it is more beneficial for the production brigades to run, are generally owned at brigade level. They include those water conserva-

tion works, orchards, workshops processing agricultural and sideline products, farm implement repair units and cooperative medical stations which serve all the teams in the brigade. Many brigades have also bought tractors and other farm machines of their own.

Economic undertakings which the production brigades are still unable to run, or which are better run by the commune, are generally owned at commune level. They are those benefiting the whole commune, such as its large water

conservation project which irrigates all the brigades, tractor station, hydro-electric station, forest and other farms and large orchard.

At present, the commune and brigade-owned sectors do not take up a big proportion of ownership. Team ownership is still the most usual and the basic form. Hence the present set-up in the communes is summed up as "ownership of the means of production at three levels with that by the production team as the basic form".

At the Team Level

At the No. 12 production team of the Shangtsai brigade, a member helped us find the team leader, Tsai Hu. His feet bare and his whole figure spattered with mud, he warmly told us all about his team.

Altogether it has 40 households of 233 people, 29.5 hectares of farmland and 17.7 hectares of forests in the hills. Two years ago its main property consisted of 29 draught buffaloes and oxen, two threshing grounds and 70 farm implements. Since then it has bought seven more buffaloes, two rice-transplanting machines, 10 pedal-operated threshers and a fodder crusher, and enlarged or built 17 storage-rooms. All were paid for out of its own accumulation fund.

The team is led by a committee of five—leader, deputy leader, head of the women's work group, militia platoon leader and a rank-and-file representative of the poor and lower-middle peasants. All are democratically elected by the whole team. Committee members take part in labor and earn workpoints after being rated, like everyone else in the team. When they have to do jobs for the public instead of farming, appropriate workpoints are allotted after discussion by the team's members.

Every year the state production plan comes down through the county and commune to the brigade. The brigade in turn breaks it down into production targets for its teams, in accordance with their varying conditions. Then each team in turn organizes its members to grow the planned crop in ways

suitable to its soil and the seasons. It decides its own measures for increasing output and strives to fulfill or exceed its quota.

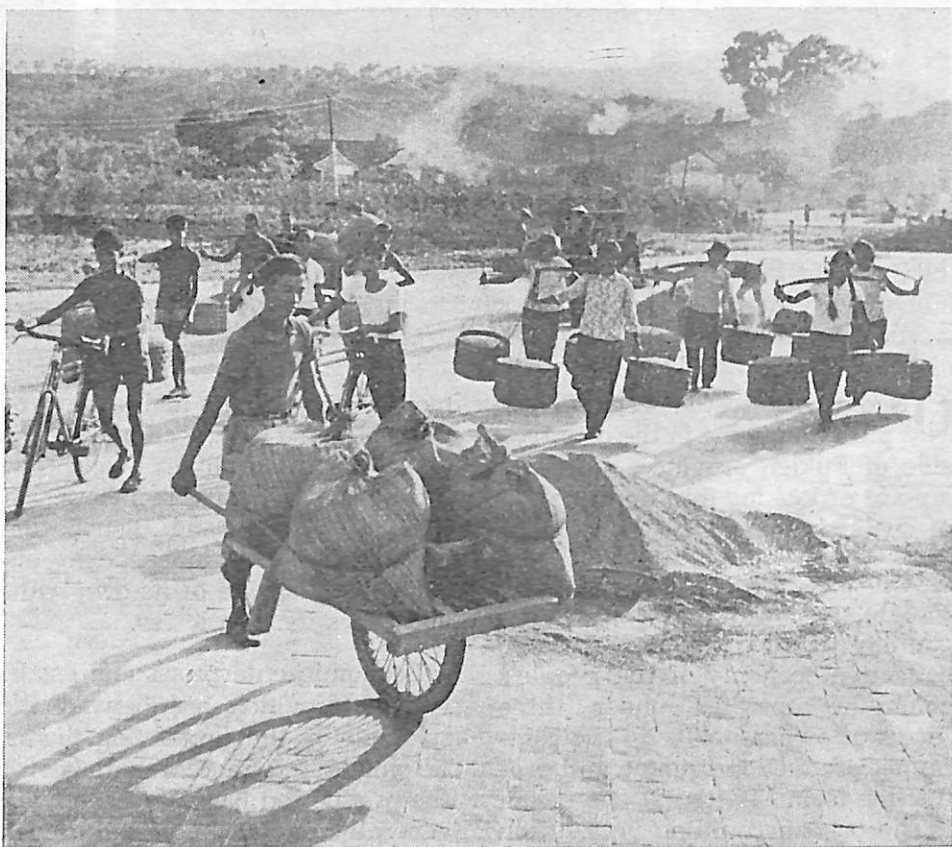
In arranging for this year's production plan, the Shangtsai brigade decided to compensate Team 12 for a part of its land used in digging a water channel. When this was discussed, the team's members showed their understanding that the channel, while taking up a bit of their land, would benefit a much larger area in brother teams. They recalled how in recent years the greater collective strength of the brigade and the commune had made it possible to build water conservation works, set up tractor stations, and so improve conditions for production and increase grain yields year by year. One member voiced their common feeling: "It's not much use for just one team to get a big harvest. Even if all its grain were salt, it would add no taste when supplied to all our country's hundreds of millions. It's only when all the teams get big harvests that it does any good." The team members decided to reclaim some of their hill land for planting peanuts and sweet pota-

atoes to make up for that taken by the channel. In the first six months of the year they reclaimed 1.4 hectares of wasteland and exceeded their grain growing quota.

The team has the right to organize the distribution of its own income. Out of the distributable income from its total annual output, it deducts the year's production and management expenses. Part of the rest goes to the state as agricultural tax, a small part to the team's accumulation fund for collective use, and the greater part for distribution to members. This follows the socialist principle, "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work, more income to those who work more." Members differing in working ability and earning a different number of workpoints have slightly different annual incomes.

In 1972 the grain output of Team 12 was about 10 tons more than its good 1971 harvest. When discussing income distribution, some members said, "The amount divided among us was already fairly high last year. Now we should invest more in getting a bigger harvest next year." But some others want-

Team level: The No. 12 production team in the Shangtsai brigade distributes summer harvest grain to members.



ed more to be distributed among the members. After much discussion the team committee decided that in so good a year, the public accumulation fund should be suitably increased and so should the team members' income. Finally the team upped its accumulation fund by 5 percent and also raised payments to the members. For example, the family of Tsai Sung-mao got 125 yuan more than last year. This solution satisfied the members.

Commune and Brigade Economy Grows

Although neither the commune nor the brigade is the basic level of ownership at the present stage, the peasants know that a team is not able to expand production sufficiently to realize the mechanization and electrification of agriculture. They see that this can only be done by the collective economic strength of a whole brigade or still more so the whole commune. Therefore, while actively promoting various undertakings by the teams, they want to do a good job of running those at the brigade and commune levels.

In the early days of the Yenhsi commune, small workshops had been set up only by a few teams under the Kueihou brigade. In autumn 1964 this brigade's Party secretary returned from a labor models' conference in the provincial capital and told the members about the stirring feats by the people of other communes, who had learned from the national pacesetter in agriculture, the Tachai brigade in Shansi province. The masses were inspired and decided to follow their example. Besides cultivating their present farmland more intensively for higher yields, they wanted to reclaim some wild hills. But as these are rather far from the villages, and much labor and money was required, it was really a difficult job for the teams. To realize the common desire, the brigade's Party branch decided that Yeh Shih-wu, a pioneer in taking the road to collective agriculture, should lead 43 young people from its different teams to reclaim and afforest a wild hill 10 kilometers away and set up an orchard. This



Democracy at the base: Members of a production team of the Hsiamei brigade discuss its financial plan.

was the first enterprise run by the Kueihou brigade as a whole.

On our way to the brigade office, we were greeted by the whir of machines. In one-story buildings nearby, no less than 19 units were at work—the tractor station, rice husking mill, farm tool repair shop, cooperative medical station, carpenter, barber and tailor shops and others. All their workers were members of production teams under the brigade. Instead of wages, they received workpoints rated on their performance, like members doing farming. Every year, after the brigade deducts from the income from these enterprises the cost of production and some funds for expanding production, the remainder is distributed among the production teams according to the labor each has provided.

Brigade cadre Lao Yeh told us, "The brigade runs enterprises not just to increase its members' income. What is more important,

they are of direct service to agricultural production and help to change conditions in the teams."

He cited an example. A stretch of hilly land belonging to six production teams used to be threatened by drought for lack of water sources. In 1970 the brigade organized a group of stonecutters from different teams who cut 6,000 cubic meters in three years. Out of this, the brigade built nine aqueducts to bring water up to the hills. Such a project would have been too big for any team by itself.

All brigades we saw were doing a good job of running their enterprises. The commune's 10 brigades now have 154 such units, which yielded an income of 900,000 yuan last year.

Commune-run undertakings are still few at Yenhsi. But those already set up—the forest and other farms, orchard, hydroelectric station, tractor station and

porcelain factory — are larger and employ more funds than those run by brigades. For example, the commune forest farm, with 117 members, has afforested 1,133 hectares and possesses a capital fund of 300,000 yuan.

Much of Yenhsi commune's land lies in hills. Those smaller and nearer are allotted to brigades and teams for convenient management. Bigger and more distant ones are managed by the commune directly. The commune-run forest farm, agricultural farm, orchard and stock-breeding farm were established in 1958.

In the industrial field, over the past five years the commune has drawn on its accumulation fund to set up a hydro-electric station which provides six brigades with lighting and gives power for machinery processing agricultural and sideline products, a tractor station and a porcelain factory serving the whole commune. Commune-run enterprises and establishments have 550 workers and an accumulation fund (including fixed assets) of 840,000 yuan. The common characteristic of commune and brigade-run undertakings is direct service to local agricultural production and the members' everyday needs.

Catching Up with the Advanced

Under Yenhsi commune's 10 brigades are its 146 production teams. They have seen tremendous changes in these 15 years. But, development has been uneven and there are still differences between the richer and poorer teams.

In the present stage of the people's commune, with "ownership at three levels and ownership by the production team as the basic form", such differences have to be recognized and, at the same time, gradually reduced. This is done not by material transfers from the richer to the poorer teams but by strengthening the leadership, improving the work and mobilizing the masses of the poorer teams to change their own position. Meanwhile, the brigade and the commune also give suitable economic help to poorer teams to develop

production. In this way gaps between the production levels of various teams are gradually reduced, and their conditions gradually become more even.

We heard of many such instances in Yenhsi.

Team 13 of the Huchu brigade lies on the slopes of Ssuehien Mountain 800 meters above sea level. Nature has been harsh to this steep, stony place of tiny plots and cold water. Lack of roads used to make it impossible to transport the team's sideline and special products from the mountain. And chemical fertilizer, insecticide and other means of production allotted to the team by the brigade had to be carried over narrow paths, a return trip of 35 kilometers on foot which used up 500-600 man-days a year. With many able-bodied members moving goods by carrying pole, the fields could not be meticulously cultivated. Until 1968, most were planted to only one crop, yielding 3,000 kilograms per hectare, a fifth below the brigade average.

In 1971, to help overcome this team's production lag, 8,000 yuan of accumulated funds from the Huchu brigade's enterprises were used to build a rough-surfaced highway. Over it, the brigade delivers fertilizer and insecticide by tractor to a commune-run tea plantation located nearby in the hills. This left the members of Team 13 only three kilometers of mountain paths over which to bring up its needs, taking only 90 man-days a year. The labor saved went into digging drainage ditches, leveling the fields and harrowing the rice fields twice a year instead of once. The team also invested more time and manpower in rational close planting and double-cropping. Last year it reaped the good harvest of over 6,000 kg. per hectare, with a total grain output of 20,000 kg. above that in 1968.

In order to catch up with the advanced teams, the members of Team 13 there used the slack season to change the remaining three kilometers of mountain paths into a highway, with some help from the brigade. When the brigade's tractor drove into the village for

the first time last March, 65-year-old Grandma Yeh passed her hand affectionately over its hood and said, "Not even in dreams did I expect to see tractors plowing these fields in my lifetime."

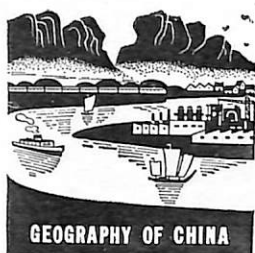
The Hsiamei brigade was a poor one. Ninety percent of its fields "depended on heaven", being watered only by rain. Hence grain yield was a bare 3,750 kg. per hectare, the lowest in the entire commune.

Besides sending cadres to strengthen the leadership of this brigade, the commune drew 30,000 yuan from the accumulations of commune-run enterprises to help it build a nine-kilometer channel to bring clear spring water round the mountain slopes to the fields once "dependent on heaven". The commune also gave guidance to the brigade in transforming its low-yield fields, so that grain output rose year by year. In 1972 Hsiamei brigade reaped 10,500 kg. per hectare, only 13.5 kg. short of the Kueichien brigade, the commune's top producer. In similar ways, a whole group of laggard production teams have caught up.

At present there are still difficulties in the way of the commune and brigades giving more financial help to low-yield teams to move ahead. This is because, with basic ownership at the team level, economic undertakings owned by the brigades and the commune form a minority, and do not have large accumulations.

But as the commune and brigade-owned economy grows, a further development will occur. Brigades will be able to give more financial support to teams and help raise the production levels of poorer teams to those of richer ones, narrowing existing gaps. Subsequently, the commune will also increase help to the brigades, to raise the output of poorer brigades to match the richer, reducing the gaps at this level as well.

In future, the basic level of collective ownership will shift first to the brigade and still later to the commune. This in turn will create the conditions for the shift to socialist ownership by the whole people.



China's Grasslands

HUA CHENG

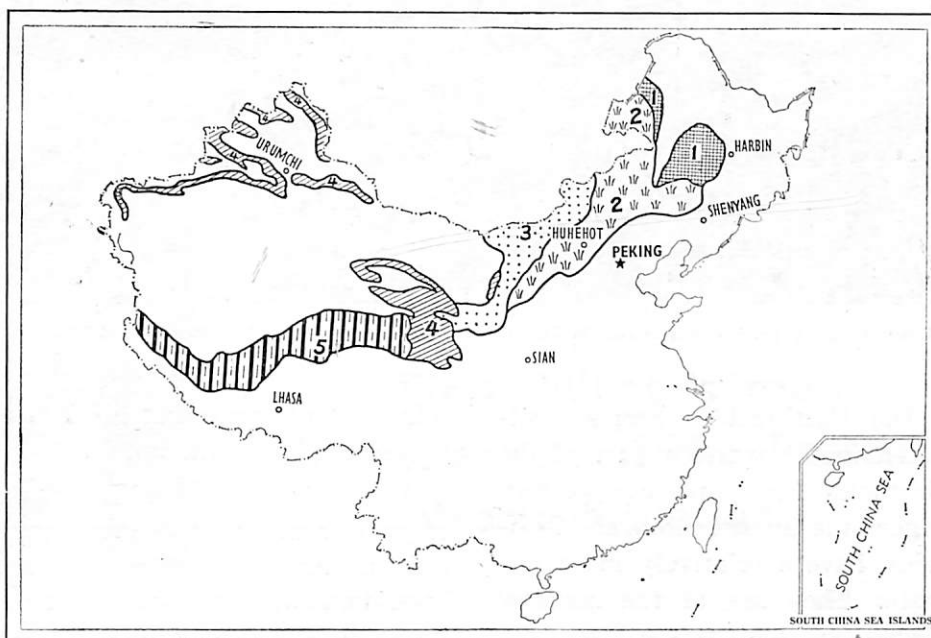
CHINA'S grasslands are vast and rich. From them come many excellent breeds of stock, fine furs and skins, other animal products and plants. The building up of the grasslands has increased their role in socialist construction.

Vast in Extent

The grasslands lie mainly in China's inland regions, in the north temperate zone. They stretch from northeast to southwest for about 3,000 kilometers, over huge regions rather far removed from the sea. A mountain range on their southeastern side, running northeast to southwest, acts as a screen greatly reducing the moisture content of the southeast monsoon which blows in from the Pacific Ocean in the summer. Hence annual precipitation in this region barely reaches 400-450 mm. Besides, the summers here are warm and in spring there are fierce winds so the volume of evaporation surpasses severalfold that of rain. All these factors help create the rather dry continental climate of the grasslands. Their natural conditions do not favor the growth of natural forest and shrubs, but drought-resistant perennial grasses flourish. The plants on this grassland are usually small and narrow-leafed with strong roots, making good pasturage for livestock. In the summer the boundless grasslands are an ocean of green upon which numerous animals roam.

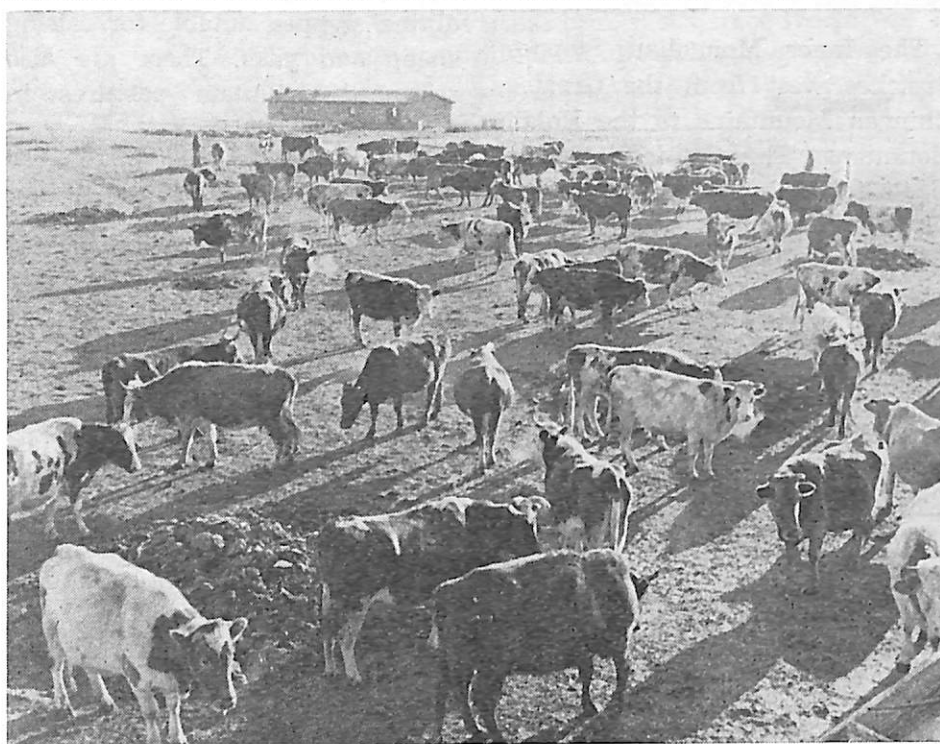
China's grasslands are widely scattered, with the differing natural conditions dividing them into different types.

CHINA'S GRASSLANDS SHOWING THE MAIN REGIONS



Key to map: 1. Meadow steppe 2. Typical steppe 3. Desert steppe 4. Mountain steppe 5. Alpine steppe

The Sanho cattle on the Hulunbuir grassland in Heilungkiang province. (Meadow steppe)





Members of a production team in Inner Mongolia mow grass for winter fodder. (Typical steppe)

The Northeastern Steppes, situated in the western part of the Northeast Plain and the western edge of the Greater Khingan Mountains, have a relatively moist climate. They are of the meadow steppe type with fertile black soil, a large variety of plants and a high, thick growth of grass, making good grazing for cows and horses. Much of the area has been put under cultivation. Agriculture and livestock-raising thrive side by side.

The Inner Mongolian Steppes stretches west from the Greater Khingan Mountains to the Holan Mountains. The area is important for its livestock-raising. Its eastern part, consisting of the eastern sections of the Inner Mongolian and Ordos plateaus, is mainly typical (semi-arid) steppe. The climate is drier, the variety of plants smaller and the natural grass not as abundant as in the meadow steppes, but the quality of fodder grass is still quite good, making fairly good pasture. The westernmost part of the Inner Mongolian Steppes has an annual precipitation of under 200-250 mm. and belongs to the desert steppe type. The grass is sparse and short, but high in pro-

tein content, providing good pasturage for sheep and camels.

A number of the mountain steppes, some of which are very rich pastures, nestle among the Tianshan, Altai and Chilian mountains in the northwestern desert area, and on the Chinghai-Tibet Plateau where the climate is moister because of higher altitudes. The middle region of the Chinghai-Tibet Plateau, where the climate is cold and dry, consists mostly of alpine steppes suitable for raising sheep and yaks. There are also scattered mountain pastures in southern Tibet.

Rich in Resources

The resources of China's grasslands are very rich.

There are over 800 species of grasses, the three main families being the Gramineae, the Compositae and the Leguminosae. Most are high in nutritional content and good forage. They are sturdy and, in many cases, highly resistant to cold, drought, alkali and trampling.

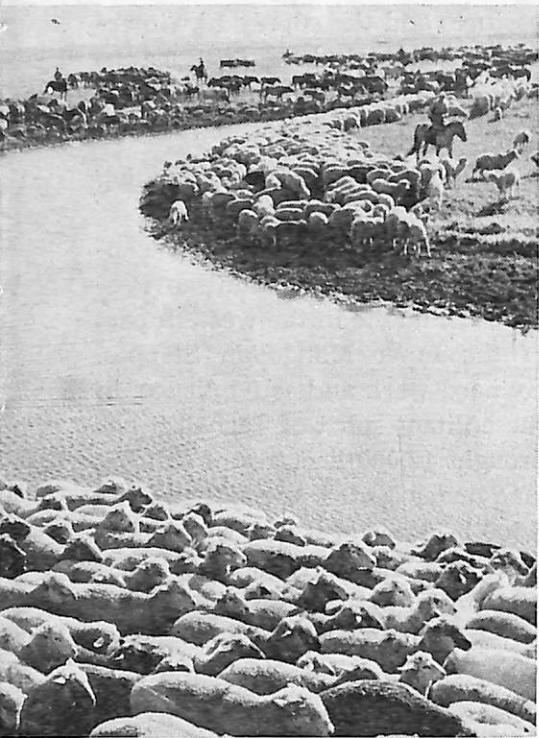
The working people of the various grasslands have developed a number of superior breeds of stock adapted to differing condi-

tions. Examples are the Sanho horse of Hulunbuir in the northeast, the Mongolian horse of Inner Mongolia and the Ili horse of Sinkiang. The white goat of Inner Mongolia and the Tan sheep of Ningsia are renowned for their superior wool and skins. The fine-wool sheep of Sinkiang, whose fleece and meat are both of high quality, has been widely promoted.

China's grasslands support a number of wild animals. On the steppes of Inner Mongolia and the northeast there are Mongolian gazelle, reindeer and hares. On the Chinghai-Tibet Plateau live the kiang (Asiatic wild ass), marmot and other animals. These provide precious furs and skins, tasty meat or both.

In addition, the grasslands produce over 200 varieties of medicinal herbs. Licorice, for example, is found in all, and Inner Mongolia alone yields 2,000 tons every year.

The rather dry climate of China's grasslands favors the growth of vegetable fibers, so wild fibrous plants are abundant. Needlegrass, which is widespread, has very good fibers which can be processed into photographic paper.



Flocks of livestock graze along the banks of a canal in Inner Mongolia. (Typical steppe)

Chi Chi grass, common on the grassland banks and slopes, sometimes stands two meters high. Its stalks and leaves are tough, and the fine fibers can be processed into high-grade paper and artificial cotton textiles. The rural people use them to weave articles of daily use.

Some areas of the Inner Mongolian Steppes lie in the valleys of inland rivers. These are studded with large or small salt ponds and alkaline lakes. Rich in salt, soda, gypsum and saltpeter, these provide favorable conditions for the development of chemical industries.

The Grasslands Flourish

In old China the pastoral people of the grasslands lived in dire poverty, cruelly exploited and oppressed by the reactionary ruling class. And the grasslands themselves were badly ravaged. Indiscriminate reclamation and grazing aggravated destruction by wind and sand, leaving the topsoil coarse and thin. Poisonous plants and weeds grew everywhere. Pests and rats were rampant. As a result the grasslands deteriorated or even turned to waste. In addition, some

grassland areas were unusable for lack of water.

With the liberation, the working people became the masters of the country. And people's communes in the grasslands, since their formation, have been building up and transforming them. Especially in recent years, in the spirit of self-reliance and hard work pioneered by Tachai (the pacesetter agricultural unit in Shansi province), basic

construction in the grasslands has been stepped up, making them ever more prosperous.

To overcome drought, many places have built irrigation works to transform previously low-yielding or even unusable grasslands into flourishing pastures.

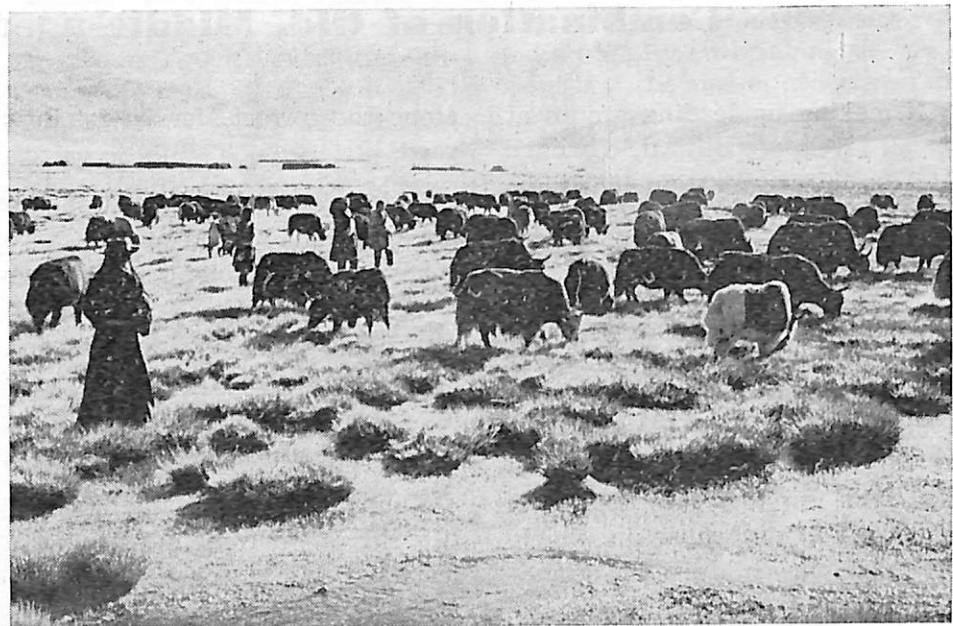
Those built by the Silingol, Ulantsab and Ikhechao leagues* of

* A league is an administrative level below the autonomous region.

Wells sunk on the Tamuchin grassland in Inner Mongolia have turned the waterless steppe into good pasture. (Desert steppe)



Yaks on alpine grassland in northern Tibet. (Alpine steppe)





Cattle and sheep roam the rich Kongneiss pasture in Sinkiang. (Mountain steppe)

Inner Mongolia have brought to 42,670 hectares of steppes an amount of water sufficient for the needs of their people and livestock, and for irrigation as well.

To deal with another pressing problem, that of wind and shifting sand, a tree shelter belt on the western side of the Northeastern Steppes was started in 1952. Now new forests have grown up there, and helped to turn some 670,000

hectares of desert into fertile land. Trees and grass are also being planted in many desert areas in the Inner Mongolian Steppes.

Rapid advances in the quality and productivity of pastures have been brought about by exterminating rodents and insect pests, improving the soil, rational grazing, and the opening up of new pastures and fodder farms. Today most of China's grasslands can be used as

pastures and the supply of winter-spring fodder is basically guaranteed, promoting the further development of livestock-raising.

In the course of transforming and building up the grasslands, many advanced units have appeared. Typical is Usantsao People's Commune in the western part of the Inner Mongolian Steppes. By hard work and self-reliance, in the militant spirit of Tachai, it has brought 12,000 hectares of shifting sand under control and turned some 5,300 hectares of it into flourishing pastures. Formerly only a small area of the commune's steppe could be used and even that had short, sparse grass and many poisonous plants. In the past decade or so the noxious plants have been uprooted and dozens of hectares planted with superior strains of grass. Through extensive building of water conservation works, the commune has made it possible for an area of 4,900 hectares to grow crops, trees and pasture grass, creating a reliable base for both summer forage and winter fodder. By 1972 the number of its livestock was over six times that just after the liberation.

DO YOU KNOW?

'Combination of Old, Middle-aged and Young'

IN making up leading groups at all levels of political, economic and social organization in China, attention is paid to a proper balance of old, middle-aged and young cadres. This three way combination with respect to age was initiated by the masses during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. It is designed to ensure that there will be successors to the older generation who initiated the proletarian Marxist-Leninist cause in China, and that our children and grandchildren will continue to advance

along the correct Marxist-Leninist road.

Older revolutionary cadres are an important section of the cadre corps, an invaluable asset of our Communist Party. Tempered in protracted revolutionary wars and other revolutionary struggles, they are rich in experience and form the core of all leading groups.

Young cadres are in the bloom of life, full of vigor, the most eager to learn and the least conservative in their thinking. Highly responsive

to new things, they are daring in thought, speech and action.

Middle-aged cadres in many cases have the characteristics of both the older and younger cadres. They are at the height of their powers and, within the leading groups, carry forward the work of the older cadres while training the younger ones.

Combining old, middle-aged and young cadres in joint work in which the old educate the young and in turn are spurred forward by them, makes a leading group stronger and more vigorous.



The author (right) and young research workers study a problem in coal-mine safety.

For Safe Coal Mining

YU SHEN-HAN

I HAVE BEEN studying coal for 30 years. During that time I have lived in two totally different societies which have impressed me in completely different ways.

Sharp Contrast

In 1942, after graduating from the Northwestern Institute of Engineering, I found, like most other students in pre-liberation days, that "graduation means unemployment". I got my fill of the bitterness of being unable to find work and lacking an assured livelihood. After wandering around the country, I finally located a job in a coal mine in the southern province of Kiangsi. Even then, because the mine soon stopped producing and the owner did not pay any salaries for months, I had to sell my clothes and other belongings to live. Later I worked at an "Institute of Mining and Metallurgy" in Szechuan province. But under the reactionary control of the Kuomintang, it was a scientific research organization in name only. Some of us young scientists and technicians wanted to make observations in the Huafeng mine which had a lot of gas. But this "institute" did not even have an instrument for measuring gas.

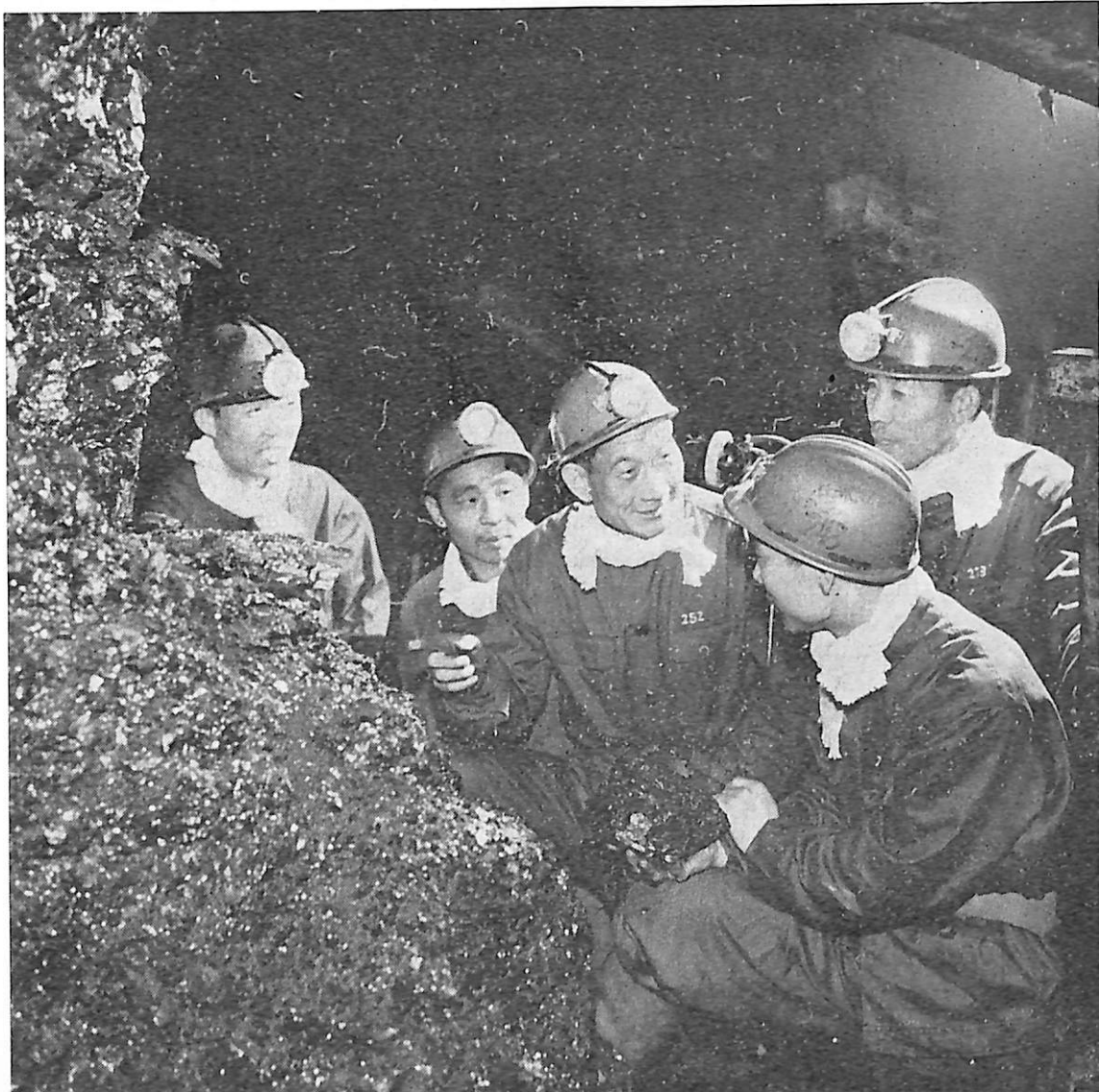
For the coal miners, under the dark rule of imperialism and the Kuomintang reactionaries, life was more miserable still. They worked in frightful conditions, constantly endangered by flooding, fire, gas and cave-ins. In the Tienfu coal-

fields in Szechuan in 1943, I saw a capitalist force miners to go barehanded into a disaster area to put out a raging fire. As a result, many died. At the Huafeng mine a gas explosion in the same year killed all miners working underground.

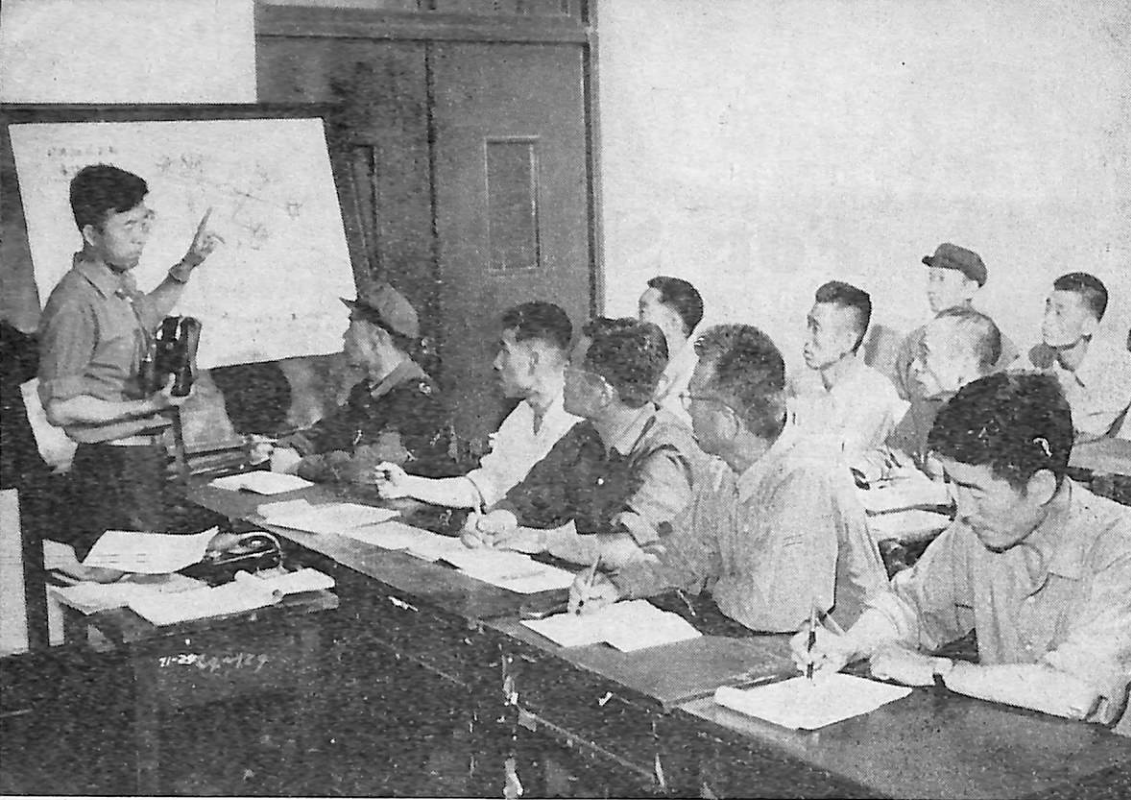
The Fushun coal mines in Liaoning province, when occupied by the Japanese imperialists and owned by monopoly capitalists,

were concerned only with plundering China's resources and making high profits, not with whether the miners lived or died. Accidents occurred constantly: gas explosions, fires, flooding, cave-ins and landslides. According to old records, over 1,550 miners perished thus in the 12 years between 1917 and 1928 — an average of one every 67 hours — in the Big Mountain Mine which produced only 1,400 tons of

Researchers discuss with miners how to ensure safety.



YU SHEN-HAN is a vice-chairman of the revolutionary committee of the Liaoning Coal Research Institute.



A veteran miner lectures to scientists and technicians.

coal a day. In the entire Fushun field, 250,000 accidents occurred from 1916 to 1944. The most serious single gas explosion, in 1917, killed 917 miners.

Old China did not have even one scientific establishment doing research on mine safety. While the Japanese imperialists were in occupation of Fushun, they set up the "Fushun Coal-Mining Institute" with extremely backward equipment. They did some analysis and industrial experiments on coal and oil shale to probe China's mineral resources — but cared not a jot for the miners.

After liberation, the Communist Party and people's government laid great stress on safe coal mining. The government departments concerned strengthened safety controls, set up a strict safety code, did regular safety education among coal miners and appropriated funds to set up a factory making instruments and equipment related to safety and mine rescue. Alongside the vigorous development of coal production and mine construction, the state appropriated funds in 1953 to set up the Liaoning Coal Research Institute, the first in China devoted to nationwide research on safe coal mining. This was placed in Fushun which is known as the country's "coal capital" because of its rich deposits, extensive underground mines and modern strip mine.

I joined the institute in that year. And over two decades, I have seen it grow strikingly. Today it has 14 times its original floorspace and is equipped with a variety of instruments and apparatus. The number of scientists and technicians engaged in research has also doubled. The state provides excellent material conditions: research buildings, a machinery plant and an experimental vertical shaft with headframe and galleries. The institute has several research offices, specializing respectively in gas, the prevention and extinguishing of fires, electrical machine safety, explosives-and-detonators and safety instruments.

Bringing Research Into the Pits

The importance and concern given by the state to research on safe coal mining is a tremendous encouragement to China's scientists and technicians to work actively and creatively in these fields. Many years' experience has taught us that in order to achieve anything, research must combine closely with production and serve it.

The large amounts of gas in the Fushun mines are a serious safety hazard. When our institute was first set up, we had no experience in research. The only countermeasure we knew was to blow lots of air into the mines to dilute the gas and bring it up to the surface

through the ventilation passages. When the gas was excessive, we were helpless. To find a solution, I and others from the institute took our investigations underground. We learned from the miners, summed up experience with them and improved the methods of draining off gas. After prolonged work, we succeeded, for the first time in China, in applying on a large scale a method of boring holes in coal seams to drain off gas before mining. And we didn't stop there but went on to make detailed investigations of mines with serious gas problems in 11 provinces from the northeastern border to the far southwest. Jointly with the local miners, we worked out ways of draining off gas suited to different geological conditions. Now many mines in China have turned this underground calamity into something useful, draining the gas off through pipes to make chemical materials or for household fuel.

After going more deeply into the gas problem, we started work on blowouts, the sudden and loud spurting of large quantities of gas and debris from coal seams which at its worst causes cave-ins or suffocates or buries miners. Tu Hsi-ken, engineer and deputy-director in charge of technology in the gas research office, took 16 research personnel underground to work on a coal face much subject to blowouts. There they observed this phenomenon and probed for its laws. After joining in labor in the mines, they understood more fully how much harm blowouts do both to production and to the miners and felt more keenly their duty to the people to curb these disasters.

They worked three shifts, in galleries assigned them for experiment, making observations on blowouts. A veteran miner discovered signs that one was impending and told the young technician Chen Chang-shih to leave the danger area at once. But Chen thought it was a good chance to measure the gas level just before a blowout, and did so despite the peril. Another time, three researchers working together with eight miners were caught by a fairly large blowout and overcome by the gas. As soon as fresh air from the

surface revived them, they joined veteran miners in making observations. "We never used to see you researchers," the miners said, "only your drawings. Now you share our life and we're one family!"

After long experimenting, the researchers and miners worked out a method of blowout control by hydraulic fracturing. This requires lots of water. Tu Hsi-ken and the others carried pipe along with the miners, joining it up length after length. The project also required a large electrical machine. To save time that would be lost waiting for other transport, they carried this up the mountain slope on their shoulders. Working together they finally forced water into the coal seam, initiating a new way of handling gas in coal mines.

Engineer Hsing Chao-fang, in cooperation with some miners, designed and trial-produced millisecond electrical detonators which delay action a few hundredths of a second. While working in the mines, he had seen that the instantaneous detonators were quite inefficient. Blasters using them had to set off four groups of four explosions each per eight hour shift, which required them making 32 ascents and descents in steep tunnels filled with thick smoke. In 1959 Hsing Chao-fang and other researchers, with workers of a plant under the Fushun Coal Mining Administration, produced experimentally some millisecond detonators for popularization in the ordinary mines. To solve the problem of using millisecond detonators in seams with gas, previously considered impossible, Hsing Chao-fang proposed giving it a try. The institute's leadership approved and sent him to a coal mine where he worked on the problem jointly with the blasters, accompanying them into thick smoke to measure gas concentrations. After repeated experiments, they finally succeeded in using millisecond-delay blasting to excavate galleries in gassy seams.

Hsing also built China's first instantaneous gas sampler, and with it made over 400 observations, laying a more reliable scientific basis for millisecond blasting in seams with gas. Experience over the past

two years has shown that this is safe, permits an equal amount of work to be done with only one-fourth the previously required number of blasts, and raises each blaster's work efficiency 25 per cent.

Scientists and technicians are sent out by the institute to join coal miners on the job, combining research and production. In the past two years 130 of them have gone to over 30 factories and mines in Hunan, Shansi, Szechuan and ten other provinces and municipalities. They have set up over 40 specialized and general-purpose experimental units and completed many relatively important research projects.

Concern and Training

The Party and state give meticulous attention to the fostering of scientists and technicians. Every year a new group of college graduates is assigned to our institute, where they are carefully trained and boldly entrusted with responsibility. To enrich their theoretical knowledge, the institute appoints veterans to guide them. It also arranges for them to temper themselves by work in factories

and mines, where they are reeducated in the proletarian spirit by the workers, and enhance their ability and skills.

Ninety percent of the institute's project directors, office heads and leading cadres were trained after liberation. As for intellectuals from the old society like myself, the concern and training given by the Party and state has made us more enthusiastic than ever in our work.

The Party has several times sent me to study in advanced courses. Taught by the Party organization, and helped by the masses, I have advanced somewhat in my ideological consciousness. In 1956 I joined the Communist Party of China. Though my contribution to coal-mine safety research is hardly worth mentioning, the Party and people have bestowed much honor on me, promoting me to engineer and deputy-director of the institute.

Though our research has achieved some results, it still falls far short of the needs of China's growing coal production, and does not match advanced world levels. So there is much more we have to do in the service of mine safety.

Answers to LANGUAGE CORNER Exercises

- I.
1. 桌子上放着很多书。
 2. 我家里来了几个客人。
 3. 七点二十分开出去一趟快车。

- II.
1. 排球和篮球他们都有。
(或: 他们排球和篮球都有。)
 2. 香山我们去过, 长城没有去过。
(或: 我们香山去过, 长城没有去过。)

III. Buying Train Tickets

Passenger: Please, when will the No. 21 express train to Shanghai start?

Ticket seller: At 9:10

Passenger: Is there an express in the afternoon?

Ticket seller: No, there is only a slow train. There's an express in the evening.

Passenger: When will it start in the evening?

Ticket seller: At 20:48.

Passenger: Are there berths?

Ticket seller: Yes, there are. Do you want soft or hard berths?

Passenger: How much is a hard berth ticket?

Ticket seller: 39.5 yuan a ticket.

Passenger: I'll buy two tickets.

Ticket seller: Well, here are two hard berth tickets. Nos. 19 and 20 in Car No. 7.

Passenger: Are the two berths far from the door?

Ticket seller: Not very far.

Passenger: Please change them to two near the door, all right? I am taking an old man. It will be more convenient for getting on and off the train.

Ticket seller: All right. I'll give you these two tickets, Nos. 1 and 2.

Passenger: Thanks.

Editor's Note: The series of Chinese lessons we published between July 1972 and December 1973 contained about 1,000 words and expressions, and introduced rudiments of grammar. Now we begin the second series. It will add hundreds of new characters and expressions and review the grammatical material to help learners consolidate and extend the knowledge previously acquired.

Lesson 1

送电报

Sòng Diànbào

Delivering a Telegram

送报员——老白

Sòngbàoyuán — Lǎo Bái
Messenger — Old Bai

旅馆服务员——小黄

Lǚguǎn fúwùyuán — Xiǎo Huáng
Hotel attendant — Little Huang

采购员——钱书山

Cǎigòuyuán — Qián Shūshān
Buyer — Qian Shu-shan

广播员

Guǎngbōyuán
Announcer

白: 小黄, 电报。

Bái: Xiǎo Huáng, diànbào.
Bai: Little Huang, a telegram.

黄: 谁的?

Huáng: Shuí de?
Huang: Whose?

白: 钱书山。

Bái: Qián Shūshān.
Bai: Qian Shu-shan.

黄: 钱书山? 今天下午他账结完,

Huáng: Qián Shūshān? Jīntiān xiàwǔ tā zhàng jiéwán,
Huang: Qian Shu-shan? Today afternoon he accounts settled

就离开这儿了。

jiù líkāi zhèr le.
then left here.

白: 他是做什么工作的?

Bái: Tā shì zuò shénme gōngzuò de?
Bai: He is doing what work?

黄: 是福州一个工厂的采购员。

Huáng: Shì Fúzhōu yige gōngchǎng de cǎigòuyuán.
Huang: (He) is Foochow a factory's buyer.

听他说今天晚车走。

Tīng tā shuō jīntiān wǎnchē zǒu.
(I) heard him say today evening train go.

白: 几点 的车?

Bái: Jǐdiǎn de chē?
Bai: What o'clock's train?

黄: 让我查查火车时刻表。啊!

Huáng: Ràng wǒ chácha huǒchē shíkèbiǎo. A!
Huang: Let me consult train timetable. Oh!

七点半 有一趟。

Qīdiǎnbàn yǒu yí tàng.
Half past seven there is a train.

白: 我给他送去。

Bái: Wǒ gěi tā sòngqu.
Bai: I to him bring.

黄: 来不及了吧?

Huáng: Láibùjí le ba?
Huang: There is no time?

白: 现在七点, 离开车还有半

Bái: Xiànzài qīdiǎn, lí kāi chē hái yǒu bàn
Bai: Now seven o'clock, (to) start train still have half

小时, 来得及。

xiǎoshí, láidejí.
an hour, there is time.

(车站门口站着 一个 服务员, 老白

(Chēzhàn ménkǒu zhànzhe yige fúwùyuán, Lǎo Bái
(Station gate standing an attendant, Old Bai

向他打听广播室在哪儿。)

xiàng tā dǎtīng guǎngbōshì zài nǎr.)
to him inquire broadcast room at where.)

(车站广播的声音: 旅客同志 请

(Chēzhàn guǎngbō de shēngyīn: Lǚkè tóngzhì qǐng
(Station broadcasting voice: Passenger Comrades please

注意, 开往福州的四十五次列车

zhùyì, kāiwǎng Fúzhōu de sìshíwǔ cì lièchē
notice, driving to Foochow No. 45 train

已经进站了, 火车停在第三站台,

yǐjīng jìn zhàn le, huǒchē tíngzài dì sān zhàntái,
has already entered station. Train is stopping at third platform,

请赶快上车。)

qǐng gǎnkuài shàng chē.)
please quickly go on train.)

白(向广播室跑去): 同志, 我是

Bái (xiàng guǎngbōshì pǎoqu): Tóngzhì, wǒ shì
Bai (toward broadcast room running): Comrade, I am

电报局的送报员。这儿有个电报，
Diànbào jú de sòngbào yuán. Zhèr yǒu ge diànbào,
Telegraph Office messenger. Here is a telegram,

收报人是去福州的旅客，他大概
shōubàorén shì qù Fúzhōu de lǚkè, tā dàgài
addressee is going to Foochow passenger, he probably

上车了。请给广播广播。
shàng chē le. Qǐng gěi guǎngbōguǎngbō.
has got on train. Please make broadcast.

广播员：好。(广播)福州的钱书山
Guǎngbōyuán: Hǎo. (Guǎngbō) Fúzhōu de Qián Shūshān
Announcer: Good. (Broadcasts) Foochow Qian Shu-shan

同志，请你赶快来广播室，有
tóngzhì, qǐng nǐ gǎnkuaì lái guǎngbōshì, yǒu
Comrade, please you quickly come (to) broadcast room, have

你的电报。
nǐ de diànbào.
your telegram.

白：谢谢。(老白着急地在广播室
Bái: Xièxie. (Lǎo Bái zháojide zài guǎngbōshì
Bai: Thanks. (Old Bai anxiously at broadcast room

门口等着，一会儿，前边跑来了
ménkǒu děngzhe, yíhuìr, qiánbianr pǎolaile
door waiting, a little while front running come

一个人。)
yíge rén.)
a man.)

白(迎上去)：你是钱书山
Bái (yíngshàngqu): Nǐ shì Qián Shūshān
Bai (stepping forward to meet): You are Qian Shu-shan

同志吗?
tóngzhì ma?
Comrade?

钱：是的。
Qián: Shì de.
Qian: Yes.

白：有你的电报。
Bái: Yǒu nǐ de diànbào.
Bai: Have your telegram.

钱(看完电报，激动地握着老白
Qián (kàn wán diànbào, jīdòngde wòzhe Lǎo Bái
Qian (looking finish telegram, movingly grasped Old Bai's

的手)：谢谢你，谢谢你。我们工厂
de shǒu): Xièxie nǐ, xièxie nǐ. Wǒmen gōngchǎng
hand): Thank you, thank you. Our factory

让我留下几天，还有件重要的
ràng wǒ liúxià jǐtiān, hái yǒu jiàn zhòngyào de
lets me remain several days, still have an important

工作要做。
gōngzuò yào zuò.
job to do.

(车站广播的声音：开往福州的
(Chēzhàn guǎngbō de shēngyīn: Kāiwǎng Fúzhōu de
(Station broadcasting voice: Driving to Foochow

四十五次列车就要开车了，请
sìshíwǔ cì lièchē jiù yào kāi chē le, qǐng
No. 45 train is going to start train, please

旅客们上车。)
lǚkèmen shàng chē.)
passengers go on train.)

钱：我的东西还在车上呢。
Qián: Wǒ de dōngxi hái zài chēshàng ne.
Qian: My things still train on.

白：我去帮你拿。(东西刚拿下来，
Bái: Wǒ qù bāng nǐ ná. (Dōngxi gāng náxiàlai,
Bai: I go to help you take. (Things just taken down,

火车就开了。)
huǒchē jiù kāi le.)
train then starts.)

钱(激动地)：同志，我应该怎么谢谢
Qián (jīdòngde): Tóngzhì, wǒ yīnggāi zěnmē xièxie
Qian (with emotion): Comrade, I should how(to) thank

你呢?
nǐ ne?
you?

白(笑着)：不用谢，这是我应该
Bái (xiàozhe): Bú yòng xiè, zhè shì wǒ yīnggāi
Bai (smiling): No need thank, this is I should

做的。
zuò de.
do.

Translation

Messenger—Old Bai
Hotel attendant—Little Huang
Buyer—Qian Shu-shan
Announcer

Bai: Little Huang, here is a telegram.

Huang: For whom?

Bai: For Qian Shu-shan.

Huang: Qian Shu-shan? He left after settling his bill this afternoon.

Bai: What's his work?

Huang: He's a buyer for a Foochow factory. I heard him say he was leaving by an evening train today.

Bai: What time does the train start?

Huang: Let me consult the timetable. Oh, there's a train leaving at 7:30.

Bai: I'll take the telegram to him.

Huang: There's no time?

Bai: It's 7 now, there's still half an hour before the train leaves. There's time.

(An attendant is standing at the gate of the station. Old Bai asks him where the broadcast room is.)

(The station broadcast announcer's voice: Attention, comrade passengers. Train No. 45 to Foochow has entered the station. It is stopping at Platform No. 3. Please get on board quickly.)

Bai (runs to the broadcast room): Comrade, I'm a messenger from the Telegraph Office. Here's a telegram addressed to a passenger going to Foochow. He has probably got on board. Please make an announcement.

Announcer: All right. (Announces) Comrade Qian Shu-shan of Foochow, please come to the broadcast room quickly. There is a telegram for you.

Bai: Many thanks. (Old Bai waits anxiously at the door of the broadcast room. In a little while a man comes running toward him from the front.)

Bai (stepping forward to meet him): Are you Comrade Qian Shu-shan?

Qian: Yes.

Bai: Here is your telegram.

Qian (after reading the telegram, warmly grasping Old Bai's hand): Thank you, thank you. Our factory has asked me to stay a few more days. There is still important business for me to do.

(Station announcer's voice: Train No. 45 to Foochow is starting soon. Passengers, please get on board.)

Qian: My things are still on the train.

Bai: I'll go to help you get them down. (As soon as the things are unloaded, the train starts.)

Qian (with emotion): Comrade, how should I thank you?

Bai (smiling): You need not thank me. It's what I ought to do.

Notes

1. In a complete sentence, when a verb is the predicate, the word order is usually as follows: subject-verb-object. For example: **Tā qù Zhōngguó le** 他去中国了 (He went to China). Again, **Wǒ xiě xìn** 我写信 (I am writing a letter). **Tā zuò fēijī, bú zuò huǒchē** 他坐飞机, 不坐火车 (He is taking an airplane, not a train). **Zhāng tóngzhì zài Shànghǎi** 张同志在上海 (Comrade Zhang is in Shanghai). We have pointed out that when it is desired to stress the object, it can be put at the beginning of the sentence. For example: **Yīnyuè, wǔdǎo wǒ dōu hěn xǐhuan** 音乐、舞蹈我都很喜欢 (I like both music and dance). Also, when the object is not too long or contains a parallelism, it can be placed after the subject and before the verb. For example: **Tā zhàng jiéwán, jiù líkāi zhèr le** 他账结完, 就离开这儿了 (After he settled the account, he left). **Wǒ yīnyuè, wǔdǎo dōu hěn xǐhuan** 我音乐、舞蹈都很喜欢 (I like both music and dance). 账 and 音乐、舞蹈 are both objects, and since the latter is a parallelism (compound object), 都 is used as an adverb before the verb.

2. Sometimes a verb as the predicate in a sentence describes a condition — the existence, appearance and disappearance of a person or a thing, rather than an action. The word order is as follows: Noun denoting place (or time) — verb — person or thing. For example: **Chēzhàn ménkǒu zhàn zhe yí ge fúwùyuán** 车站门口站着一个服务员 (An attendant is standing at the gate of the station). **Qiánbianr pǎoláile yí ge rén** 前边跑来了一个人 (A man comes running from the front.) **Zhè zuò lóu lǐ bānzǒule yí jiā rén** 这座楼里搬走了一家人 (A family moved out of this building).

It should be noticed that in such sentences, “le” 了, “zhe” 着 or a directional complement accompanies the verb. The person or thing is indefinite.

3. **Preposition gěi 给**. Basically 给 is a verb. For example: **Tā gěi wǒ yí běn zázhì** 他给我一本杂志 (He gave me a magazine). At the same time 给 can also be a preposition, indicating an indirect object. For example: **Wǒ gěi tā sòngqu** 我给他送去 (I'll bring it to him). When the context is obvious, the indirect object can be omitted. For example: **Qǐng gěi guǎngbōguǎngbō** 请给广播广播 (Please make a broadcast), meaning “Please make a broadcast for me”.

Exercises

I. Complete the following sentences showing the existence, appearance and disappearance of something or somebody:

1. 桌子上放着 _____。
2. 我家里来了 _____。
3. 七点二十分开出去 _____。

II. Bring the objects in the following sentences before or after the subject:

1. 他们有排球和篮球。
2. 我们去过香山, 没有去过长城。

III. Read the following passage:

买火车票

- 旅客: 请问, 去上海的二十一次快车几点开?
售票员 (Shòupiàoyuán ticket seller): 九点十分。
旅客: 下午有快车吗?
售票员: 没有, 有一趟慢车, 晚上有一趟快车。
旅客: 晚上几点开?
售票员: 二十点四十八分。
旅客: 有卧铺 (wòpù berth) 吗?
售票员: 有。要软席 (ruǎnxí soft berth) 还是硬席 (yìngxí hard berth)?
旅客: 硬席卧铺票多少钱一张?
售票员: 硬席卧铺票三十九块五毛。
旅客: 我买两张
售票员: 好。这是两张硬卧, 第七车厢 (chēxiāng car) 十九号和二十号。
旅客: 这两个卧铺离门口远吗?
售票员: 不太远。
旅客: 请给换两张离门口近 (jìn near) 的, 可以吗? 我带着一位老人, 这样, 上车下车方便些。
售票员: 可以。给你这两张, 一号和二号。
旅客: 谢谢。

(Answers on page 45)

RECORDS FOR LEARNING CHINESE

- Students of the Chinese language want to hear exactly how the language is spoken today in China.
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