

September 1, 1959

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PEKING

REVIEW

CHINA'S CONTINUED LEAP FORWARD

8th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party

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September 1, 1959 Vol. II No. 35

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Continuing the Big Leap

THE Eighth Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party held recently in Lushan issued a solemn call to the Party and the nation to fulfil within this year the major targets set originally for 1962, the last year of the Second Five-Year Plan. This means that the Chinese people are out to reach in two years the major goals set for a five-year span of work!

Over a year ago China launched the slogan of "catching up with Britain in the output of major industrial products in fifteen years." Fulfilment of the plan will make it possible for her to attain this objective in the main in about ten years, and also to overfulfil ahead of time the 12-year programme for agricultural development scheduled for completion in 1967!

The Plenary Session summed up the successes of the big leap of 1958 and the first half of 1959, analysed the present situation and criticized the right opportunist ideas found among some cadres. On the basis of the verified 1958 production figures and taking into consideration industrial and agricultural production in the first half of 1959, and the serious natural calamities that struck vast areas in the country, it made suitable readjustments in some targets of the 1959 national economic plan. The proposed targets which have already been approved by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress signify a continued leap forward in China's national economy. The readjustments will make our next big leap forward even more effective.

1958 saw China's economy make unprecedented progress. The advance made in that one year was far greater than in any single year of the First Five-Year Plan, in itself a tremendous plan, and in some spheres that one year's leap covered more ground than had been covered in all the previous five. That is why the Chinese people proudly call 1958 "the Year of the Big Leap."

Such high-speed development is not only without parallel in the history of China; it is something capitalist countries dare not even dream of.

Now 1959 will bring a further 50 per cent jump in steel, and a 24 per cent increase in coal. Despite serious natural calamities the peasants will again boost grain and cotton output another 10 per cent! This will clearly be another leap forward!

The imperialists abroad and the reactionaries at home have spared no effort in attacking our general line for building socialism. They swore that the big leap would fall flat and threw filth at the people's commune movement. Such attacks are nothing new. The reactionaries have been attacking the Chinese people's revolution for decades now. But neither curses, threats nor intervention have held the Chinese people back in their march from victory to victory.

It has been barely a year since the people's commune movement swept the countryside, but the people's communes have already shown their tremendous vitality in giving China's peasants better economic and cultural conditions and a better life and prospects than they have ever enjoyed in the past.

The general line, the big leap forward, the people's communes have proved their worth. With their help China's millions are freeing themselves more quickly from poverty and cultural backwardness. They will grow in potency in the years to come. The continued leap that China makes today is carrying the nation forward a giant stride in building socialism across the land.

Nationwide Enthusiastic Response to the Chinese Communist Party's Call

Since the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party met in plenary session recently in Lushan, a series of important meetings have been held in the capital.

Supreme State Conference. On August 24 Liu Shao-chi, Chairman of the People's Republic of China, convened the 17th and enlarged session of the Supreme State Conference at which a continuous leap forward in the national economy this year and the question of extending the campaign for greater output and economy were discussed.

Premier Chou En-lai reported to the conference on the fulfilment of the national economic plan in the first six months of the year and proposed that the nation make a further all-out effort to increase production while practising economy and rebuffing the ideas of right conservatism. The conference discussed and unanimously endorsed the Premier's report.

At the end of the discussion Chairman Liu Shao-chi made an important speech on the situation at home and abroad.

Leaders of the various democratic parties addressed the conference. All expressed satisfaction with the present economic situation in the country and approval of the measures taken by the Communist Party's Central Committee and the State Council. They pledged their full support to the Central Committee's call to people of all nationalities to launch a still more vigorous campaign to increase production and practise economy in industry, agriculture, the transport services and other fields of work, so as to greet the tenth anniversary of the People's Republic with new successes and bring about a continuous leap forward in the national economy this year.

Among those present at the conference were Vice-Chairman Chu Teh and other leading members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party; Soong Ching Ling and Tung Pi-wu, Vice-Chairmen of the People's Republic of China; Kuo Mo-jo and Chen Shu-tung, Vice-Chairmen of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Chairman Li Chi-shen of the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang; Chairman Shen Chun-ju of the China Democratic League; Chairman Huang Yen-pei of the China Democratic National Construction

Association; Vice-Chairman Wang Shao-ao of the China Association for Promoting Democracy; Chairman Chi Fang of the Chinese Peasants' and Workers' Democratic Party; Chairman Chen Chi-yu of the China Chih Kung Tang; Chairman Hsu Teh-heng of the Chiu San Society; Secretary-General Hsu Meng-shan of the Taiwan Democratic Self-government League, and other prominent figures of the democratic parties.

State Council. On August 25, the following day, the State Council held a full-dress meeting and endorsed the appraisal of the current economic situation made by the Communist Party's Central Committee at its Eighth Plenary Session, the Party's proposal for the readjustment of the main targets of the 1959 national economic plan, and its views in regard to pressing ahead with the campaign to increase production and practise economy.

Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. On August 26, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress held an enlarged session under its Chairman Chu Teh. On behalf of the State Council, Premier Chou En-lai made a report on the question of readjusting the major targets of the 1959 national economic plan and on pressing ahead with the campaign for greater production and economy (see page 11).

Analysing the economic situation this year, Premier Chou En-lai pointed out that the country, basing itself on the great successes of 1958, has achieved a great deal in the first six months of the year by continuing the forward leap in the national economy. Industry, agriculture, transport, capital construction and commerce have all taken big strides forward. The achievements are great, he said, and the people are satisfied with the situation and confident of the bright future that lies ahead.

Premier Chou then touched on the problems that cropped up in the execution of the plan in the first half of the year. In view of these problems, and taking account of the verified figures for 1958 agricultural output and the very serious natural calamities that had occurred this year, he said it was necessary to readjust the 1959 planned targets. He submitted a proposal for this to the Standing Committee for its approval. Nevertheless, he said, the national eco-

nomie plan with its readjusted targets is still a leap-forward plan, its fulfilment will mean that the major targets of the Second Five-Year Plan will be fulfilled or overfulfilled or be near fulfilment in 1959. He considered the extension of the campaign to increase production and practise economy as the prime guarantee for the successful realization of the national economic plan this year.

Premier Chou's report was unanimously approved and a resolution was accordingly adopted to readjust the major targets of the 1959 national economic plan and extend the campaign to increase production and practise economy.

Nationwide Acclaim and Support. The news that the Central Committee of the Communist Party had met and the text of the Communique and Resolution of the plenary session were announced to the nation over the radio early on Wednesday evening. The night shifts in the factories responded immediately. By the next morning the whole nation was busy formulating practical responses to its call for a new big push in production.

As we go to press, the country's eight major cities — Peking, Shanghai, Tientsin, Shenyang, Wuhan, Canton, Chungking and Sian — are voicing their full support for the Party's Communique and Resolution. Industrial enterprises, transport services, state-owned trading organizations, people's communes, government offices, democratic parties, people's organizations, schools and universities are holding mass meetings and forums to discuss the big news and how best to respond to the call issued by the Party. One and all express the firm resolve to hold high the glorious banners of the general line, the great leap forward and the people's commune and do still better in the coming weeks to herald the great day — the tenth anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

Steel, which is so much in the limelight these days, broke into the headlines of the national press on August 28 with its first response: at a mass meeting in the steel city of Anshan last Thursday 100,000 steel workers decided to fulfil their annual production plan for steel and rolled steel 10 and 17 days respectively ahead of schedule and also to press ahead for an earlier completion of the output plan for other products, as an expression of their support for the Party's call to increase production and practise economy.

The entire press has editorially acclaimed the Party Resolution and has opened its space to model workers, prominent members of communes and people in other walks of life who want to express their support for the Party's decisions.

COMMUNIQUE OF THE EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE EIGHTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

THE Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party convened at Lushan, Kiangsi Province, from August 2 to August 16, 1959.

The Plenary Session was held under the guidance of Comrade Mao Tse-tung. Taking part in the session were 75 members and 74 alternate members of the Central Committee. Fourteen other comrades working in relevant departments of the Central Committee and in provincial, municipal and autonomous regional Party committees also attended the session.

The Plenary Session reviewed in detail the implementation of the 1959 plan for development of the national economy, fully discussed the existing economic situation and put forward the militant task of further developing the campaign to raise production and practise economy so as to fulfil ahead of schedule within this year the major targets of the Second Five-Year Plan (1958 — 1962). The control figures of the Second Five-Year Plan were adopted at the First Session of the Eighth National Congress of the Party in September 1956, and accepted by the State Council in February 1957.

The Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee noted with satisfaction that as a result of the thorough way in which the whole Party and the entire nation have carried out the Party's general line — go all out, aim high and get greater, quicker, better and more economical results to build socialism — the various branches of the national economy in the first half of this year continued to leap forward on the basis of the great leap forward in 1958 and won new, important successes. In the first half of this year the total output value of industry increased by 65 per cent and the volume of railway freight increased by 49 per cent compared with the corresponding period of last year. With respect to agriculture, although the sown acreage was somewhat reduced last winter and although not a few areas suffered from severe floods and drought, yet the average per *mu* yields of the summer crops have all registered an increase and the total output of wheat, early rice and rapeseed exceeded last year's exceptional bumper crops. The volume of retail sales of commodities in the first half of this year was 23 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of last year. Although the volume of retail sales expanded rapidly, the purchasing power of the people increased still more rapidly, so, for a time, there was a bit of a strain in the supply of a small number of commodities on the market. Thanks to the series of effective measures taken by the central and local authorities to step up the produc-

tion of non-staple foods, manufactured goods and handicraft products for daily use and thanks to the marketing of the summer crops, the supply situation has taken a turn for the better. The economic situation in the first half of this year was on the whole good.

The Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee holds that in view of the achievements made last year and in the first half of this year, it is entirely possible to fulfil ahead of schedule within this year the main targets for the major industrial and agricultural products originally fixed for the last year (1962) of the Second Five-Year Plan. Fulfilment of the major targets of the Second Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule should be made the chief task of this year. This is a great and glorious task. Its fulfilment will raise the national economy of our country to a new and higher level.

ON the basis of verified statistics on the national economy in 1958 compiled by the State Statistical Bureau, and in the light of the actual development of industrial and agricultural production in the first six months of this year and the recent occurrence of serious floods and drought over large areas of the country, the Eighth Plenary Session re-examined this year's plan for development of the national economy and found that the original targets set in this plan were somewhat too high and need to be appropriately adjusted.

Repeated check-ups made in the first half of this year show that the figures previously published on the 1958 agricultural output are a bit high. The bumper harvest in 1958 had no parallel in the history of our country. Owing to lack of experience in assessing and calculating the output of such an unprecedented bumper harvest, the agricultural statistical organs in most cases made an over-assessment. Apart from that, the labour power allocated for the bumper autumn harvest was inadequate, with the result that reaping, threshing and storing were all done in a somewhat hurried manner. Verification shows that the actual amount of grain gathered in in 1958 was 500,000 million *jin* (250 million tons — *Ed.*), an increase of 35 per cent over that of 1957; the actual amount of cotton gathered in was 42 million *dan* (2.1 million tons — *Ed.*), an increase of 28 per cent over that of 1957. This was obviously a great leap forward. But under these conditions, the original targets planned for grain and cotton this year require adjustment. Again, of the 11,080,000 tons of steel produced last year, 3,080,000 tons were made by indigenous methods and met the requirements of rural areas; the output of steel produced by modern equipment which met

the requirements of industry totalled 8 million tons, an increase of 49.5 per cent over the 5,350,000 tons produced in 1957. In view of the fact that this year there is a certain shortage of labour power for agricultural production, it is suggested that the production of steel by indigenous methods for local use be decided upon by the local authorities in accordance with local conditions; it will no longer be included in the state plan. It was also decided that the output of coal be adjusted accordingly. The Eighth Plenary Session considers that this year's four major targets for steel, coal, grain and cotton should be readjusted as follows: steel, 12 million tons; coal, 335 million tons; grain and cotton, about 10 per cent respectively over the verified 1958 outputs. The Plenary Session recommends that the State Council, on the basis of these targets, submit a proposal on adjusting the 1959 plan for development of the national economy to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for examination and approval.

THE Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee points out that the readjusted 1959 plan for development of the national economy remains a plan of continued leap forward. Steel output will be 4 million tons above last year's 8 million tons, an increase of 50 per cent; coal output will increase by 65 million tons, 24 per cent more; the rates of increase of grain and cotton output will both greatly exceed the average yearly rates of increase during the First Five-Year Plan period (grain 3.7 per cent and cotton 4.7 per cent). By fulfilling this year's readjusted national economic plan, we will have fulfilled, overfulfilled or nearly fulfilled the following targets originally set in the Second Five-Year Plan for fulfilment in 1962: steel, coal, timber, metallurgical equipment, power-generating equipment, metal-cutting machine tools, cotton yarn, machine-made paper, salt, grain and cotton. This will enable us, within the coming three years, to raise sharply the original targets of the Second Five-Year Plan and to devote greater efforts to strengthening certain weaker links in the national economy, and make it possible for us to strive to realize in the main, within about ten years the slogan "catch up with Britain in the output of major industrial products within 15 years" and to overfulfil, at a much earlier date, the 12-year programme for agricultural development originally scheduled for completion in 1967.

The Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee points out that the present domestic and international situation is favourable for the realization of a continued leap forward in our national economy. Internally, industrial and agricultural production continues to grow; the people's communes in the countryside, following the check-up in the past months, are now advancing along the path of a consolidated and sound development; the labour enthusiasm of the mass of the workers and peasants continues to rise; the unity of the people of all nationalities in the country grows ever stronger; and science, culture and education continue their advance. Internationally, the strength of the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union and their unity and co-operation are growing daily; the national independence movements and people's democratic movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the revolutionary struggles of the people in the other capitalist countries are expanding daily while

the internal difficulties of the imperialist countries and the contradictions among them are daily increasing. The Plenary Session fully supports the efforts made by the Soviet Union at the Geneva Foreign Ministers' Conference and welcomes the announcements made by the Soviet Union and the United States on the exchange of visits between their heads of government. The Plenary Session holds that this is conducive to the further easing of international tension and helps the cause of defending world peace.

The Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee points out that the imperialists and their lackeys have, from the outset, viciously slandered and attacked our country's general line for building socialism, the great leap forward and the people's commune movements. But they have suffered ignominious defeat. The potency of our country's general line for building socialism is being demonstrated in ever greater measure. Under the guidance of the general line, the people of our country not only took a great leap forward last year, but are continuing to leap forward this year; the rural people's communes not only have taken firm root, but are displaying their advantages ever more clearly. The imperialists and hostile elements within the country will continue to slander and try to sabotage the socialist construction of our country, nevertheless this will only serve to stimulate all our people to raise their revolutionary enthusiasm to a still higher level, and impel our whole Party and the people of all our nationalities to strengthen unity, firmly uphold the brilliant banner of the general line, and carry forward the great socialist cause of our country steadily, but also by leaps and bounds.

AFTER analysing the current situation, the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee points out that the principal danger now facing the achievement of a continued leap forward this year is the emergence of right opportunist ideas among some cadres. They do not try their best to accomplish tasks which, according to objective conditions and given subjective efforts, can be accomplished. They underestimate the great achievements made by the hundreds of millions of working people and the revolutionary intellectuals in the great leap forward movement and the people's commune movement and over-emphasize the seriousness of certain defects which, owing to lack of experience, occurred in the two movements and which have been quickly overcome. They slander as "petty-bourgeois fanaticism" the great leap forward and the people's commune movements in which hundreds of millions of working people have been vigorously engaged under the leadership of the Party. This is utterly wrong. They fail to see that in all pursuits undertaken by the people under the leadership of the Party, the achievements are the main things, while defects and mistakes are secondary and are merely one finger out of the ten. The Plenary Session enjoins Party committees at all levels to criticize and overcome resolutely such erroneous right opportunist ideas among some cadres, firmly put politics in command, fully mobilize the masses, go all out and strive to fulfil and overfulfil this year's leap forward plan.

The Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee points out that in order to fulfil this year's

leap forward plan, very arduous tasks must be dealt with on the economic front in the second half of this year. The Plenary Session calls on Party committees at all levels to make good use of the last month and more remaining of the third quarter to give vigorous leadership to the mass campaign for increasing production and practising economy which is in full swing on the industrial, agricultural, transport and trade fronts so as to greet the tenth anniversary of the founding of our People's Republic with even more brilliant successes.

The Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee calls on the whole Party and the people of all nationalities in the country to work with one will, to unite more closely and, under the leadership of the Central Committee of the Party headed by Comrade Mao Tse-tung, and with the beacon light of the general line, to forge ahead valiantly to carry out this year's national economic plan and fulfil ahead of schedule within this year the principal targets of the Second Five-Year Plan!

(August 26, 1959.)

Resolution on Developing the Campaign for Increasing Production and Practising Economy

This resolution was adopted by the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party at its Eighth Plenary Session on August 16, 1959. — Ed.

I

THE national economy of our country, on the basis of the unprecedentedly great leap forward in 1958, scored new great victories in the first half of 1959. Last year's and this year's victories fully testify to the absolute correctness of the Party's general line — go all out, aim high and get greater, quicker, better and more economical results to build socialism. To ensure this year's continued leap forward, great efforts have still to be made in the coming four months and more. The Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party holds that the central task confronting the whole Party and the people of all nationalities throughout the country now is to develop intensively a vigorous mass campaign for increasing production and practising economy and strive for the fulfilment and overfulfilment of the production and construction plan of 1959. The precious time of the coming month or more should especially be made good use of to set going a new upsurge in production so as to win a decisive victory for industry, agriculture and transportation in the third quarter to greet the tenth anniversary of the founding of the great People's Republic of China.

II

THE total output value of industry in the first half of this year was 65 per cent more than that in the corresponding period of last year. Pig iron reached 9.5 million tons; coal, 174 million tons and metal-cutting machine tools, 45,000 units. In each case output was more than double that in the corresponding period of last year. Steel (excluding steel made by indigenous methods) amounted to 5.3 million tons, an increase of 66 per cent over the corresponding period of last year. Cotton yarn amounted to 4,147,000 bales, and sugar, 730,000 tons; both represented an increase of 40 per cent and more over

the corresponding period of last year. Other heavy and light industrial products also registered very great increases. The quality of various industrial products has improved from month to month. This is especially marked in the case of iron and steel. In iron smelting, small and medium-sized blast furnaces have quickly taken the place of small indigenous furnaces set up last winter in conformity with the conditions of that time. The technical level in operating such small and medium-sized blast furnaces, moreover, has been rapidly raised, thus not only saving a large amount of labour power and increasing their total output to approximately the same amount produced by all the large blast furnaces, but also improving the quality of their products and reducing coal consumption. The volume of railway freight reached 247 million tons, exceeding that of the corresponding period of last year by 49 per cent.

In agriculture, although the acreage planted to summer crops this year was somewhat reduced, and there were floods and drought, yet the average per *mu* yields of wheat, early rice and rapeseed greatly surpassed those of last year and their total outputs also exceeded those of last year.

A check-up has been carried out in the rural people's communes throughout the country in accordance with the resolution of the Sixth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party adopted last December, the resolution of the Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee held in Chengchow in February this year and the series of directives issued by the Central Committee subsequently. During the check-up, the principles of management and business accounting at different levels, of "to each according to his work" and more income for those who do more work have been implemented. It has been decided that at the present stage a three-level type of ownership of the means of production should be instituted in the people's com-

munes. Ownership at the production brigade level constitutes the basic one. Ownership at the commune level constitutes another part (in addition to ownership of the public economic undertakings run by the commune, the commune can draw each year a reasonable amount for its capital accumulation fund from the income of the production brigades). A small part of the ownership should also be vested in the production team. In this way, the people's communes, which are large in size, which integrate industry, agriculture, trade, education and military affairs and which combine government and commune administration into one, have overcome the tendencies which, owing to lack of experience, occurred during the initial period of their founding, such as the tendencies to over-centralization, to equalitarianism and extravagance, and have rapidly taken the road of sound and consolidated development. In this way, the advantages of the people's communes will come into play more and more clearly — being large in scale and having a wide range of activities, they can plan the production and distribution of the whole commune in a unified way; they can, more effectively than the agricultural producers' co-operatives, fully mobilize and rationally deploy labour power in the rural areas; they can undertake constructive tasks which the co-operatives could hardly handle; they can facilitate the speedy integrated development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, side-occupations and fishery and also of industry, agriculture, trade, education and military affairs, the mechanization of farming, the steady increase of the incomes of the peasants, rapid progress in rural life as a whole, and the development of collective undertakings such as community dining-rooms and nurseries; and they can provide that a certain portion of their distribution system is in the nature of free supply, etc.

With regard to trade, the volume of retail sales in the first half of this year amounted to 29,600 million yuan, exceeding that of the corresponding period of last year by 23 per cent. The sale of grain was 12 per cent more

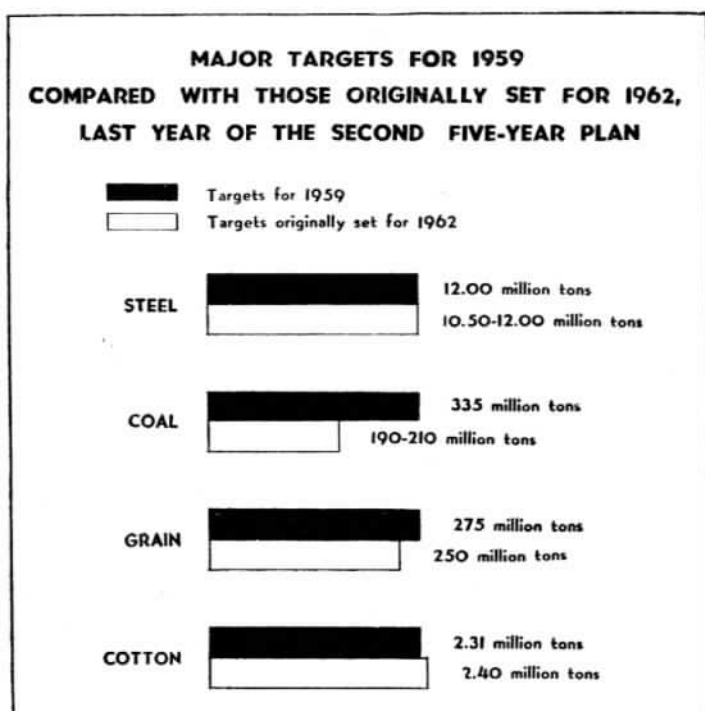
than in the corresponding period of last year, while retail sales of other major consumer goods such as vegetables, cigarettes, cotton piece goods, knitwears, leather shoes, soap, stationery and medicines also considerably exceeded those of the corresponding period of last year. But because the purchasing power of the people increased even more quickly, there was a bit of a strain in the supply situation on the market with regard to a small number of commodities. Thanks to the series of measures taken by the Party and the government, a change has rapidly taken place in the situation and a radical change will certainly take place in due time.

To sum up, the various branches of the national economy in the first half of this year was on the whole in good shape and the situation is favourable for the realization of this year's continued leap forward.

III

IN the light of the verified figures on last year's agricultural output, the actual implementation of the national economic plan in the first half of this year and recent occurrence of natural calamities, the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee recommends that the State Council submit to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress a proposal for appropriate readjustment of the 1959 plan, fixing the following targets: steel (excluding that made by indigenous methods), 12 million tons (an increase of 50 per cent over last year's output of 8 million tons of steel produced with modern equipment; in view of the shortage of labour power in the rural areas, it is suggested that this year the production of steel by indigenous methods should be decided upon by the local authorities themselves in accordance with local conditions and will not be included in the state plan); coal, 335 million tons (an increase of 24 per cent over last year's coal output of 270 million tons); grain, about 10 per cent above last year's verified output of 500,000 million *jin* (250 million tons); cotton, about 10 per cent above last year's verified output of 42 million *dan* (2.1 million tons). It is quite clear that the readjusted national economic plan remains a plan for a continued leap forward; it is also one which can be overfulfilled and hence can all the more encourage the initiative of the working people.

As a result of the leap forward in 1958, we have fulfilled four years ahead of schedule the targets for coal, timber, salt and grain envisaged in the Second Five-Year Plan drawn up in 1956. After realizing this year's plan for a continued leap forward, we will have fulfilled or nearly fulfilled, three years ahead of schedule, the targets envisaged in the Second Five-Year Plan for such major industrial and agricultural products as steel, metallurgical equipment, power-generating equipment, metal-cutting machine tools, machine-made paper, cotton and cotton yarn. Thus it will be possible for us, within about ten years, counting from 1958, to realize the slogan "catch up with Britain in the output of major industrial products within 15 years." It will also be possible for us to overfulfil the 12-year programme for agricultural development (1956-1967) a long way ahead of schedule. Moreover, the successful fulfilment of this year's industrial production



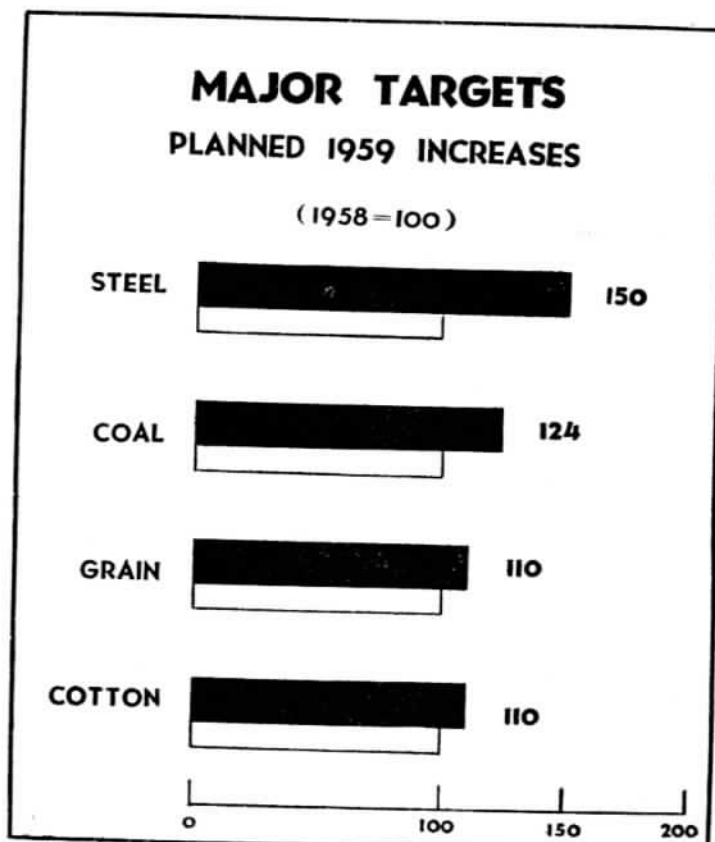
and construction plan and the winning this year of a bumper harvest in food and industrial crops will, to a large extent, determine the tempo of our industrial and agricultural development next year. Therefore, the whole Party and the entire nation must unite as one, go all out, develop a vigorous campaign for increasing production and practising economy in the coming four-odd months and strive by every means to fulfil and overfulfil this year's plan for a continued leap forward.

IV

EFFORTS must be made to increase production in industry, agriculture and transport; a socialist labour emulation campaign should be launched. This is, at the present time, the noblest task of the workers, peasants and revolutionary intellectuals throughout the country.

In industry, special attention should first of all be paid to the production of raw and other materials, fuel and electric power, and especially iron, steel, rolled steel, coal, timber, cement and raw materials for the chemical industry. Great efforts should be made to overfulfil the output targets in these industries. The machine-building industry should in the first place ensure the production of all equipment urgently required this year and deliver it in whole sets according to schedule. It should also promptly and properly handle the problem of semi-finished products. All key enterprises should fulfil and overfulfil the state plan according to required standards of quality, quantity and specifications and also according to monthly and ten-day schedules. Small and medium-sized local enterprises should also, in conformity with the requirements of the state plan, fulfil the targets for quality as well as for quantity. They should do their best to reduce the proportion of sub-grade products and eliminate rejects. Great efforts should further be made, in particular, to improve the quality of pig iron produced by small and medium-sized blast furnaces and of steel produced by converters. The production of light industrial and handicraft products for the daily use of the people should be increased as quickly as possible and all potentialities should be tapped to expand raw material resources for these products. All enterprises should improve management, maintenance and repair of equipment and ensure safety in production. In the field of capital construction, resources should be concentrated to guarantee swifter construction of important projects, particularly those which need to go into production this year, and see that capital investments yield quick results. Labour power throughout the country must be deployed more rationally by further transferring surplus labour power in industrial production and construction back to the rural areas so far as is possible or to other fields where labour power is urgently needed. Further efforts should be made to increase the productivity of labour.

In agriculture, great attention should be paid in the coming two months to the field management of food and industrial crops, weeding, dressing with fertilizer and the prevention and combating of plant diseases and insect pests so that a bumper harvest can be reaped. This year's autumn crops generally did well during the initial stage. But following the big floods in the south, the central



areas of our country are now suffering from a serious dry spell and some areas in the north have been subjected to floods or water-logging. These natural calamities must be overcome before we can fulfil this year's plan for increased production. Man will conquer nature. Where natural calamities have occurred, the Party organizations must resolutely lead all people urgently to organize manpower and material resources, make full use of all existing water conservancy facilities and fight tenaciously to overcome the serious natural calamities, safeguard the autumn harvest and organize relief through production. In the coming two months, adequate preparations must also be made for autumn harvesting, ploughing and sowing. These include the allocation of labour power, readying of implements, autumn composting, etc. In autumn harvesting, last year's lesson must be borne in mind. Good work must be done in reaping, threshing, storing, delivering, distributing and safe-keeping so that nothing is lost. After the autumn, labour power must be rationally deployed and diverse undertakings in forestry, animal husbandry, side-occupations and fishery strengthened. Meanwhile, no time should be lost in completing the check-up in the people's communes, in settling the remaining problems properly and building up the communes even better.

In transport, the primary emphasis must now be laid on the transport of coal, timber, grain, ores and building materials. After the autumn harvest, attention should at the same time be paid to the transport of autumn agricultural produce. All freight which can be handled earlier should, as far as possible, be transported during the third quarter, so that the burden of freight transport in the fourth quarter can be lessened. To improve short-distance transport, slack intervals in farming should be

made use of everywhere to energetically organize rural manpower and means of transport and develop a mass campaign for short-distance transport.

Trade organizations should work energetically in conjunction with the campaigns on the various production fronts for increased production and make big efforts to organize a good supply of means of production to the cities and countryside and the purchase of agricultural, light industrial and handicraft products. Warehouse stocks should be carefully checked; commodities must be rationally allocated and distributed; and the supply of consumer goods must be organized systematically.

V

THERE must be a rigorous practice of economy while production is being increased vigorously. Increasing production and practising economy; building the country and running the people's communes, all enterprises and undertakings and homes industriously and thriftily—this is the way to make our country prosperous and strong; this is also the key to fulfilling and overfulfilling this year's plan.

All industrial enterprises must, while ensuring quality, make great efforts to economize raw and other materials, fuel and power. Metallurgical and power industries, railways, enterprises engaged in water transport and other industrial departments must work out strict plans to economize on the use of coal and enforce these plans resolutely. Heavy industrial enterprises and capital construction units must make great efforts to economize on the consumption of rolled steel and timber. Light industrial enterprises must make great efforts to economize on the consumption of agricultural raw materials. In agricultural production, good care must be taken of draught animals and implements. Water, manure and seeds must not be wasted. Attention must be paid to economizing labour power and circulating funds in industry, transport, agriculture and other enterprises and undertakings.

Education in economy should be carried out extensively in city and countryside throughout the land. State organs should first of all set an example of industry and thrift by reducing all expenses that can be cut. The economizing of grain, coal and other consumer goods which are not yet in abundant supply should be promoted among the people and waste combated. All rural people's communes must manage and use their grains well. Long-term overall planning should be worked out with regard to the production and consumption of grains, potatoes, pumpkins, vegetables, fodder and fuel in accordance with the need to provide against contingencies and make reserves last a long time. The people's communes should strive to increase the marketable part of their non-staple food products such as fish, meat, chickens, ducks, eggs and edible oil, so as to secure more income for the commune members, and increase the supplies for the cities and for export in support of the great cause of socialist construction. With regard to the community dining-rooms in the rural areas, the principle of making vigorous efforts to run them well and voluntary participation should be adhered to; grains should be distributed to each family

on the basis of a fixed allocation for each individual; a food ticket system should be introduced in the community dining-rooms, with unconsumed food being returned to the person who saves it. The practice of saving should be vigorously promoted among the people of the cities and the countryside, so that money which the individual does not need to spend for the time being can be rationally and effectively used for construction in the interests both of the state and the family. The whole Party and the entire nation should be told that we should be skilled not only in handling production, but also in arranging our livelihood and house-keeping, making careful budgets and keeping reserves against need. As long as the government and the people work with one mind and vigorously increase production and practise economy, our country will certainly be able to surmount any obstacles in the way of our advance and grow with each passing day, to secure a thriving and prosperous life for the whole people.

VI

THE general line, the great leap forward and the people's communes—these embody the great determination and wisdom of the 650 million industrious and brave people of our country; they are the products of the creative integration of the universal truths of Marxism-Leninism with the practical situation in China achieved by Comrade Mao Tse-tung, great leader of our Party and of the people of all nationalities in our country. We achieved great victories last year and in the first half of this year precisely because, in socialist construction, we strengthened the leading role of the Party, firmly put politics in command, resolutely adhered to the working method of the mass line and staunchly upheld the glorious banners of the general line, the great leap forward and the people's communes. In the future we will continue to advance valiantly along this glorious and victorious road and strive for great new victories.

The experience of 1958 very clearly proved that the wisdom and strength of the masses is unlimited. Enlightened and led by our Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung, and inspired by and organized under our Party's general line, this wisdom and strength has become as irresistible as a mighty force under whose impact high mountains bow their heads and broad rivers make way. To our people, the great leap forward and the people's communes are new things which have no precedent in history. In the course of their advance it is naturally inevitable that certain difficulties are met with and that there are some shortcomings. But the masses of the people, under the close guidance of our Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung, have quickly solved, or are quickly solving, these problems of a transient and local nature. Enemy elements hostile to the socialist cause of our country, both within our country and without, have seized the opportunity to slander us in an attempt to influence certain unstable elements within our ranks. But no reactionaries can in the least shake the great resolve of our Party and our 650 million people. On the contrary, the great mass of cadres and people are full of confidence that our achievements are exceptionally great and our future is extremely bright. The Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the

Chinese Communist Party calls upon the whole Party and the people of all nationalities of the country, under the leadership of the Central Committee of the Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung, to unite more closely, resolutely surmount all difficulties and correct all shortcomings in our work, overcome the right opportunist sentiments among some unstable elements, deal telling blows to the disruptive activities of anti-socialist elements, fight for this year's great victories and strive

to fulfil ahead of schedule within these two years (1958-1959) the major targets of the Second Five-Year Plan. In order to fulfil and overfulfil this year's plan, the third quarter is a crucial period. Each second is worth an ounce of gold. Let us act together at once to fulfil and overfulfil the plan for the third quarter and greet the tenth anniversary of the founding of our great People's Republic of China with a great, new upsurge in production!

Report on the 1959 Economic Plan

PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI

Following is the full text of Premier Chou En-lai's report on adjusting the major targets of China's 1959 national economic plan and further developing the campaign for increasing production and practising economy, delivered on August 26 at the plenary meeting of the Standing Committee of the Second National People's Congress. — Ed.

THE Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, meeting from August 2 to August 16, 1959, in the light of the implementation of the 1959 national economic plan and an analysis of the present economic situation, recommended that the economic targets for this year be adjusted and put forward the militant task of further developing the campaign for increasing production and practising economy in order to fulfil ahead of schedule, within this year, the major targets of the Second Five-Year Plan. The State Council at its plenary meeting on August 25 unanimously endorsed

the appraisal of the present economic situation made by the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and agreed with its recommendation to adjust the major targets of the 1959 national economic plan and to further develop the campaign to increase production and practise economy. On behalf of the State Council, I shall now deliver a report to the Standing Committee of the Second National People's Congress on adjusting the major targets of the 1959 national economic plan and further developing the campaign to increase production and practise economy.

I. The Economic Situation in 1959

On the basis of the great leap forward in 1958, we gained the victory of a continued leap forward in the national economy in the first half of 1959.

Industry: The total output value of industry in the first half of this year was 72,900 million yuan, this was 65 per cent more than the 44,300 million yuan of the corresponding period of last year. Outputs of some of the most important industrial products in the first half of this year and their increases compared to the same period of last year are as follows: iron (produced with modern equipment), 9.5 million tons, 160 per cent; steel (produced with modern equipment), 5.3 million tons, 66 per cent; coal, 174 million tons, more than 100 per cent; electricity, 18,400 million kilowatt-hours, 55 per cent; metal-cutting machine tools, 45,000 units, more than 100 per cent; cotton yarn, 4,147,000 bales, 46 per cent; and sugar, 780,000 tons, 43 per cent. To a greater or lesser extent outputs of other products all surpassed those of the corresponding period of last year; only a very few among them showed an increase of less than 20 per cent.

Agriculture: Although the acreage sown to summer crops was somewhat reduced and there were serious natural calamities in the spring of this year, thanks to the check-up and consolidation of the people's communes and the way the initiative of the broad mass of peasantry has been given greater play, the total output of wheat, coarse grains and early rice reached 139,000 million *jin*, exceeding even the 136,500 million *jin* of last year's exceptionally rich summer harvest by 2,500 million *jin*.

Transport: The volume of railway freight in the first half of this year was 247 million tons, an increase of 49 per cent compared with the same period of last year; the volume of freight carried by steamship and barge was 55 million tons, a 75 per cent increase; the volume of freight carried by lorry was 140 million tons, a 94 per cent increase.

Capital construction: The total actual investment in the first half of this year was 10,700 million yuan, which was 54 per cent more than in the corresponding period of

last year. As a result of this large-scale capital construction, many projects went into production either wholly or partially, and there was a big increase in the production capacity of industry.

Commerce: Retail sales in the first half of this year totalled 29.600 million yuan, an increase of 23 per cent compared with the corresponding period of last year. To various extents the supply of most commodities in this period surpassed that of the corresponding period of last year.

It can be seen from the above that in the first half of this year industry, agriculture, transport, capital construction and commerce all continued to develop at high speed. On the whole, the economic situation of our country is good, the achievements have been great and the whole picture is one of a continued leap forward. The broad masses of the people are satisfied with this state of affairs and are full of confidence in our bright prospects.

But unlike the overwhelming majority of the people, who are full of confidence and energy, there is a very small number of people who remain apathetic to our country's great achievements in socialist construction; they are pessimistic about the current economic situation and even try hard to spread their extremely erroneous ideas. This would undoubtedly dampen the enthusiasm of the masses and blunt their initiative. In the interests of socialism, we must thoroughly repudiate these erroneous and harmful views. Here I will only refute their arguments on three questions around which they have concentrated most of their talk.

First, the mass campaign to make iron and steel.

Inspired by the general line — to go all out, aim high and get greater, quicker, better and more economical results to build socialism — and the series of policies of "walking on two legs," our 600 million and more people, plunged themselves eagerly and in high spirits into the movement to build socialism. This has given rise to a large-scale mass campaign for economic construction which is unparalleled in China's history. One of the important aspects of this mass campaign was that tens of millions of people went in for mining ore and coal and making iron and steel. The mass of people understand that vigorous, large-scale mass campaigns on the economic front will ensure the high-speed development of the national economy and so transform China's face of "poverty and blankness" all the quicker. That is why they show such boundless enthusiasm in their work and even neglect their sleep and meals. The reactionaries at home and abroad call this "forced labour" and "depriving the people of their freedom." That is a shameless slander. It is the imperialist bosses themselves who are accustomed to depriving the people of their freedom. Let them ask themselves: when has the Western world ever witnessed the magnificent spectacle of tens of millions of people going in for mining ore and coal and making iron and steel? There can be no doubt that such spontaneous labour enthusiasm on the part of the working people is and will remain an impossibility under the capitalist system. Our general line for building socialism is a true expression

of the will of the working people throughout China. That is why once grasped by the masses, it has produced such a great and unparalleled force. The reactionaries at home and abroad cannot possibly understand this, nor do they wish to understand it.

Some people hold that during last year's mass campaign to make iron and steel much manpower was used, much money was spent and part of the total products was iron and steel made by indigenous methods, as a result, it was "more loss than gain" or at most "loss and gain was a 50-50 affair." We consider this view utterly wrong.

In 1958, we produced 13.69 million tons of pig iron (excluding the 4 to 5 million tons of pig iron which were not suitable for steel making, but good for the manufacture of simple farm implements and tools), this was 2.3 times as much as was produced in 1957; and 11.08 million tons of steel, which was more than double our production in 1957. In iron and steel production, the mass campaign to build small enterprises, use light equipment and employ indigenous methods gave impetus to a further mass campaign in the big enterprises using heavy equipment and modern methods and to further mass campaigns covering the entire industrial front. With steel as the key lever, there was brought about the big leap forward in industry. The output of many important industrial products was doubled or went up several-fold while gross industrial output value in 1958 was 66 per cent higher than in 1957. Moreover, the mass campaign to make iron and steel paved the way for the future development of the iron and steel industry and industry as a whole. Many places which have suitable resources and where indigenous iron smelting furnaces and small blast furnaces were erected last year, have developed groups of small blast furnaces and greatly raised the output and quality of pig iron produced after rationalizing the grouping of installations, adding equipment and improving technique during the last winter and spring. The aggregate volume of the small blast furnaces (between 6.5 and 100 cubic metres each) which are now in operation has mounted to 43,000 cubic metres, nearly twice as much as the total volume of the large blast furnaces in the country — 24,000 cubic metres. They are able to turn out about ten million tons of pig iron this year. In the Second Five-Year Plan period, these small blast furnaces will produce a total of about 55 million tons of pig iron. Starting from 1963, they will turn out more than 15 million tons a year. It is fully worth our while, and, indeed, very important for us to allocate a certain amount of subsidies for the operation of small blast furnaces in these five years. Owing to limitations imposed by existing conditions, if, with the same or even larger investments, we built only big blast furnaces, we could not possibly produce so much pig iron in such a short period as five years. The history of industrial development in all countries shows that given iron and steel, machinery can be made, and given iron, steel and machinery, it is possible to achieve a rapid development of industry as a whole and of the entire national economy. It is therefore impermissible to belittle in the slightest last year's mass campaign to make iron and steel or the great significance which the large groups of small blast furnaces have for the production of iron and steel in the future.

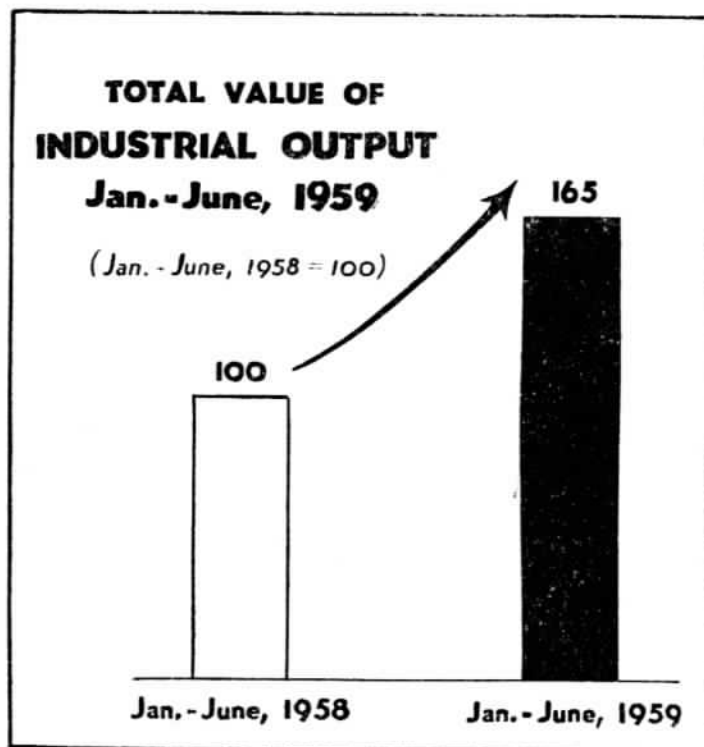
Considerable progress has been made in the past few months in raising the quality of products from the small blast furnaces and in reducing their consumption of coal. By July, the proportion of pig iron produced up to standard by small blast furnaces had risen to about 75 per cent; the rate of coal consumption dropped to about four tons per ton of pig iron and the utilization coefficient of furnaces approached 0.7 tons of pig iron per cubic metre of furnace volume every 24 hours. This proves that the mass campaign in the iron and steel industry has tremendous vitality and has been raised to a new stage. It can be expected that even greater progress will be made in the near future in raising output and improving the quality of the products of the small blast furnaces and lowering their rate of coal consumption. The mass campaign to make iron and steel has also served to "temper people": enable the masses to acquire technical skill and knowledge and large numbers of cadres to gain experience.

Facts prove that the simultaneous development of large, small and medium-sized industrial enterprises and the use of integrated modern and indigenous methods have the following advantages: The enterprises are widely distributed; it takes less time to build them; they are less demanding in the quality of raw and other materials used; and it is easier to keep them supplied. This is of great help, enabling us to make an extensive survey of resources, deploy our productive forces more rationally, make full use of resources and economize on the use of means of transportation. Of course, in our industrial construction, we must energetically build large and medium-sized enterprises using modern methods. This is the principal aspect. We must not, however, overlook the construction of small enterprises using indigenous methods or integrating modern and indigenous methods. We must "walk on two legs," not on one leg alone.

In view of the above-mentioned facts, we must affirm that the mass campaign to make iron and steel has made very big gains; it is not that "gain and loss was a 50-50 affair" still less that "there was more loss than gain." The mass campaign to make iron and steel constitutes an important aspect of the implementation of the general line for socialist construction and the set of policies of "walking on two legs." The fact-twisting attacks on the mass campaign to make iron and steel are actually attacks on the general line for socialist construction and the policy of "walking on two legs." We must resolutely rebuff such attacks.

Second, people's communes and community dining-rooms.

In 1958, along with the great leap forward in the national economy, people's communes were set up throughout our countryside. The establishment of the people's communes represents the desire of hundreds of millions of peasants. In their striving to get rid of poverty and backwardness more quickly and effectively, the broad mass of peasants were not content with the organizational form of the co-operatives of the higher stage which they already had; they wished to organize communes which are much larger in scale and have a much wider scope of activities. It was actually as early as the juncture of spring and summer of 1958, that the organizational form of the people's commune appeared in many places in Honan and some other provinces. As soon as it came into existence,



it got a host of followers and barely a few months elapsed before the whole countryside had switched over to people's communes. It is precisely because the people's communes represent the will of the great majority of the peasantry and play a great part in further emancipating and developing the social productive forces that they displayed a great vitality even in their initial stage. Everyone knows that the exceptionally big leap forward in the national economy last autumn and winter was inseparably connected with the setting up of people's communes throughout the countryside.

Since the people's commune movement was a mass movement on a massive scale and the commune was something entirely new it is impossible that they should be perfect at the very start and that no defects or difficulties at all should be met with. Such phenomena as over-centralization of some administrative powers, equalitarianism in distribution and extravagance did appear in some degree during the initial period of the people's commune movement because both cadres and masses lacked experience. But these defects were rapidly discovered and rectified by the Central Committee of the Communist Party. The question of a check-up in the people's communes was already discussed at the meeting called by Comrade Mao Tse-tung at Chengchow in November last year and attended by part of the leading comrades of the Central Committee and the local Party committees. Later, at the Sixth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party held at Wuchang and at the Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee held at Chengchow in February and March this year, a series of important decisions were made on checking up the work of the people's communes. In accordance with these decisions, since last winter local leading Party and government organs of various levels have conducted a large-scale check-up in the people's communes, applied the principles of management and business accounting at different levels, of "to each accord-

ing to his work" and more income for those who work more; and laid it down that, at the present stage, a three-level ownership of the means of production should be observed in the people's communes, and that while ownership at the production brigade level constitutes the basic one, part of the ownership is vested in the commune level and a small part of the ownership should also be vested in the production team level. After the check-up and consolidation, the advantages of the people's communes have come into play more and more clearly and will do so even more clearly in the future in the comprehensive development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, side-occupations and fishery and also of industry, agriculture, trade, education and defence, the gradual mechanization of agriculture, increasing the peasants' incomes and improving rural standards of living, and developing collective undertakings such as community dining-rooms and nurseries. Ownership in the people's communes is still of a collective character, but, ownership at the commune level already has some elements of ownership by the whole people. It can be anticipated that the people's commune will provide a good organizational form and valuable experience for the future switch over of the rural areas from collective ownership to ownership by the whole people and from socialism to communism.

The emergence of the people's communes, the growth of the commune movement, is very good indeed and by no means an awful mess. The people's communes are the inevitable result of developing circumstances and their rise was not at all "premature." Those who assert that the people's communes are in "an awful mess" are none other than the imperialists who are violently hostile to our country's socialist cause, as well as some rightists and other reactionaries who are against the people and against socialism. Apart from these, there are some people who pay lip-service to socialism but find fault with this and that in the people's commune movement, which has the active support of hundreds of millions of people, and maintain that the people's communes have been set up prematurely and have gone wrong. We would ask: Aren't you afraid of being thrown over to the borderline of the bourgeois rightists?

Here, I would also like to say something about the community dining-rooms. The community dining-rooms established in the wide rural areas and run by some street communities in the cities are likewise undertakings of the masses. Many rural dining-rooms are several years old and developed especially rapidly in the summer of last year; they suit the requirements of the masses and therefore are welcomed by them. They are especially warmly welcomed by our working women, because they relieve them to a great extent of heavy household chores and facilitate their taking part in production like their menfolk. For the old folk and children they perform at the same time the functions of collective welfare and social insurance establishments. In the initial period of their establishment, owing to lack of experience in management and to the influence of the bumper harvest and the mass campaigns for making iron and steel and for developing industry, some dining-rooms failed to manage their grain and non-staple foods well, so that a little too much was consumed. This is understandable. This defect has now been corrected. After the summer harvesting,

such measures as distributing grain to each family, voluntary participation in dining-rooms, allocating food according to each individual's capacity and returning unconsumed grain to the person who saves it, have been introduced in various localities, with the result that most of the dining-rooms have been put on a sound basis. We maintain that so long as the principles of active management and voluntary participation are adhered to, the community dining-rooms will attain their aim of providing convenient services to production and for the masses and will therefore be warmly supported by the broad mass of working people. So it is obviously very wrong to exaggerate certain shortcomings of the community dining-rooms in their initial stage, and find fault with and oppose them, or even close them down forcibly in contravention of the desire of the masses.

Third, the question of the market.

In the first half of this year the market supply of most important commodities increased considerably compared with the same period of last year. Statistics show that the supply of grain, coal, silk, wine and matches increased by 10 to 30 per cent; cotton cloth, table salt, soap, bicycles and cigarettes by 30 to 50 per cent; knitwear, knitting wool, woollen piece goods, rubber footwear and fountain pens by from 50 to more than 100 per cent; edible oils, paper, kerosene and tea by less than 10 per cent. Only in the case of about a dozen commodities did supplies drop in the first half of this year; these included pork, beef, mutton, egg products, aquatic products, sugar, cotton wadding for domestic use, leather shoes, electric bulbs and wrist watches. The reduction in the supply of these goods was not due in all cases to a fall in production. The supply of such commodities as meat, egg products, aquatic products and cotton wadding for domestic use decreased because the consumption of these goods in the rural areas which produced them greatly increased. Our townspeople really have very little justification to blame our peasants, whose level of consumption has always been rather low, for eating and using up a little more than usual for a period of time after the great expansion of production.

On the whole, there wasn't any strain on the supply of the goods for wearing, most goods for daily use, grain and some non-staple foods. A comparative strain was felt only in the supply of a small number of non-staple foods and a few goods for daily use. Moreover, the supply of a number of goods for daily use and non-staple foods which were in short supply in the first half of this year, began to improve in June and July. Some people have alleged that the market was strained all round. This is a deliberate distortion of the facts. A handful of people even said that before liberation one could get anything in the market but now nothing was available. Everyone knows that this is not true at all, but a vicious distortion. To the working people who constitute 80 to 90 per cent of the population of the country, the facts are quite contrary to what these people have asserted. The working people could not get anything they wanted before liberation, and now everything that is necessary is available. Those who make such assertions only show that they fail to see or are dissatisfied with the rise in the living standards of the working people. They still hanker after the extravagant and rotten life in the

old society led by only a very small number of people such as the aristocrats, bureaucrats, landlords, compradors and capitalists. Isn't it quite clear what these people are really after?

We should also see that the temporary and relative strain on the supply of certain commodities was due to the particularly rapid increase in the purchasing power in the cities arising from the rapid expansion of employment and the big increase in the number of workers and staff, as a result of the swift development of production, capital construction and other work last year. It is calculated that the influx of new workers and staff last year, apart from those transferred from other jobs, caused an increase in purchasing power of more than 400 million yuan every month this year. Thus urban purchasing power, including collective purchasing power, amounted to 14,300 million yuan in the first half of this year, a 30 per cent increase compared with the 11,000 million yuan in the corresponding period of last year. This was the main cause of the relative strain which occurred in the cities for a time in the supply of certain commodities, particularly non-staple foods.

Some people suspect that the strain on the supply of certain commodities was due to excessive exports. This conforms still less to the facts. The total volume of exports this year is only 17.8 per cent higher than it was last year. Furthermore, there is no increase or very little increase, compared with last year, in the exports of grain and various non-staple foods which are needed at home. Up to August 15 this year, for instance, our exports of rice totalled only 792,000 tons while our pork exports were equivalent to only 1,400,000 pigs, this constituted less than one per cent of last year's output of rice and a similar proportion of the total number of live pigs at the end of last year. To speed up socialist construction, it is absolutely necessary to exchange agricultural produce for materials needed by our country. This is in the interests of the development not only of industry but also of agriculture.

For a very short period in the spring of this year, grain was in short supply in areas amounting to less than

5 per cent of the total area of the country. This was because last year there were natural calamities; there was lack of proper budgeting; the grain crops were harvested in a somewhat hurried way; there was lack of planning in consumption so that a little too much grain was used up, and because, on top of these, there were new natural calamities in the spring of this year. But this was merely a local and temporary situation. With the energetic support and help of the Communist Party and the government, the grain shortage in those areas was soon solved. Difficulties were successfully overcome even in a place like Kwangtung Province which was seriously hit by flood and drought.

From the above analysis, we can definitely conclude that: the big leap forward and the people's commune have registered great achievements, the present economic situation is favourable to us and our prospects are bright. This proves that the Party's general line for socialist construction and the set of policies of "walking on two legs" are entirely correct. We absolutely cannot allow reactionaries and right opportunists among the ranks of the people to take advantage of isolated, transient shortcomings in our practical work which have already been corrected, to attack the big leap forward and the people's communes and to undermine and oppose the general line for socialist construction.

It must be pointed out that both the big leap forward and the setting up of the people's communes are revolutionary movements undertaken by the broad masses. How should one behave towards the revolutionary movements of the masses? Should one encourage the masses in their advance by actively supporting and leading them and enthusiastically identifying oneself with the masses; or should one stand outside the mass movements, arrogantly criticizing the masses, or even stand in the way of the mass movements and oppose the masses? Here lies the fundamental difference between the proletarian revolutionary and the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois revolutionary. The right opportunists are utterly wrong precisely because their attitude towards the mass movements is that of a bourgeois master.

II. Adjusting the Planned Economic Targets for 1959

The planned targets for 1959 require adjustment in the light of problems which emerged in carrying out the plan in the first half of this year, in the light of the verified figures on the output of grain, cotton and other agricultural products of last year, and in the light of this year's serious natural calamities.

First of all, as already stated, industrial production in the first half of this year continued to leap forward on the basis of last year's big leap forward. The total value of industrial output reached 72,900 million yuan. But, this comes to 44 per cent of the planned target for the year adopted by the First Session of the Second National People's Congress and it is below the percentage reached in the first half of any year in the First Five-Year Plan period when as a general rule the end of June saw the fulfilment of between 47 and 48 per cent of the year's plan for industrial output value. At the same time, the

second half of last year saw an unusually rapid development in industrial production with output value showing an increase of 64 per cent compared with the first half. This was mainly because of the operation of large numbers of industrial enterprises by the counties and the communes. As labour power now requires unified allocation so as to reinforce the agricultural front, and the industries operated by the counties and communes need to be readjusted and put on a sound basis, and moreover, as there are certain limits to the expansion of supplies of raw and other materials and equipment, industrial production cannot grow in the second half of this year as fast as it did in the second half of last year.

Taking the 33 main categories of industrial products, we see that in the first half of this year in the case of 19 the annual plan was fulfilled by upwards of 40 per cent, these were: iron produced by modern equipment, elec-

tricity, coal, crude oil, timber, soda ash, caustic soda, antibiotics, metal-cutting machine tools, ships, combine-harvesters, power-driven threshing machines, engines, cotton yarn, cotton cloth, paper, sugar, salt and cigarettes. In the case of the other 14, the annual plan was fulfilled by under 40 per cent, these were: steel produced by modern equipment, rolled steel, cement, sulphuric acid, chemical fertilizer, power-generating equipment, locomotives, freight wagons, automobiles, tractors, paper-making equipment, sugar-refining equipment, cotton-spinning frames and edible vegetable oils. As things stand now, because of limited supplies of raw or other materials it will be difficult to bring about a very big increase in these fourteen categories in the second half of this year.

Secondly, due to lack of experience in assessing harvests under conditions of a bumper crop over large tracts of land and sudden great increases in the per-*mu* output, due to the rather rough way the reaping, threshing, gathering in and storage of crops was done in consequence of the fact that allocations of labour power during the autumn harvest was not well done, and an under-estimation of the drop in output on the 400 million *mu* of farmland affected by natural calamities last year, the calculations made of last year's agricultural output were a bit high. The recent check-ups made by the State Statistical Bureau place last year's output of grain at 500,000 million *jin*, an increase of 35 per cent compared with the 370,000 million *jin* in 1957, and the output of cotton at 42 million *dan*, an increase of 28 per cent compared with the 32.8 million *dan* of 1957. There were some over-estimations also as regards certain other agricultural products and the products of side-occupations. Check-ups have also been made regarding these. According to the verified output figures, the total value of agricultural production last year was 67,100 million yuan, a 25 per cent increase compared with the 53,700 million yuan of 1957. Taking the verified figures for last year's increase in agricultural output and output value, though the former estimate was indeed high, the fact remains

that a big leap forward did take place in agriculture last year. Last year's agricultural production in terms of the increase in total output value, was an unprecedentedly big leap forward.

The figures on last year's industrial output have been verified as correct. The total value of industrial output remains at 117,000 million yuan, an increase of 66 per cent compared with the 70,400 million yuan of 1957. What should be noted here is that, of the 11,080,000 tons of steel produced last year, 8 million tons were produced with modern equipment, and the remaining 3,080,000 tons by indigenous methods. The 8 million tons of steel produced with modern equipment represent an increase of 49.5 per cent over the 5,350,000 tons produced in 1957. Of the 13,690,000 tons of pig iron included in the statistics of last year, 9,530,000 tons were produced in modern installations and the other 4,160,000 tons by indigenous methods. The 9,530,000 tons produced with modern equipment represent an increase of 60 per cent over the 5,940,000 tons produced in 1957. This is undoubtedly still the speed of a big leap forward.

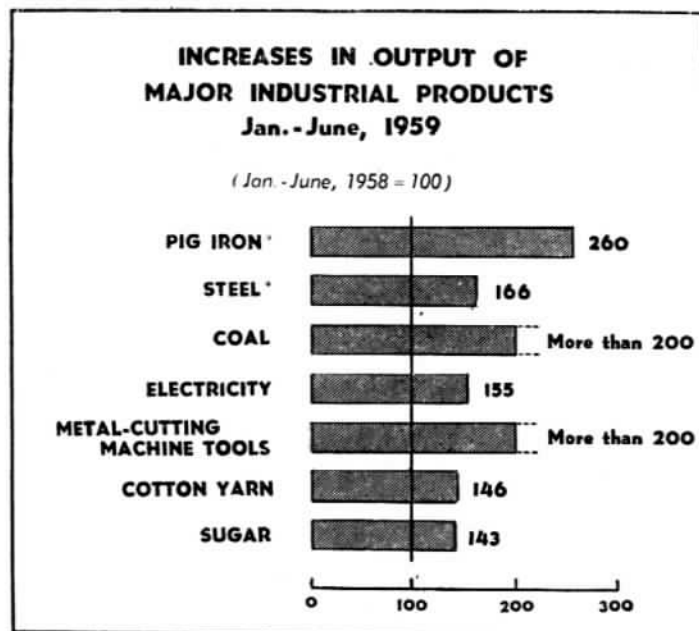
Thirdly, according to recent calculations, this year a total of 510 million *mu* of farmland have been affected by flood, drought and insect pests, which comes close to one-third of the total cultivated area. Of the 320 million *mu* stricken by drought, about 200 million *mu* have been irrigated to varying degrees through the resolute efforts of tens of millions of people fighting in the battle against the drought. This is one of the proofs of the superiority and strength of the people's communes. The water conservancy works built by the peasant masses in the last few years have played a great role this year both in beating off the drought and preventing water-logging. Now the water conservancy works throughout the country can irrigate some 1,000 million *mu* of farmland. Of this, 500 million *mu* are able to benefit fully from irrigation, and more than 300 million *mu* derive partial benefit. The remaining 200 million *mu* can also benefit from the irrigation works when the land is levelled and irrigation ditches are built. If it were not for the large-scale mass campaign to build water conservancy projects in the past few years, particularly the last two years, the damage done by this year's drought would have been many times more serious.

The Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party took the above three points into consideration and recommended to the State Council that an adjustment be made in the targets for this year. On August 25, 1959, the 91st Meeting of the State Council unanimously agreed to this recommendation regarding it as being realistic in attitude and showing a full sense of responsibility to the people.

I now want to submit the adjusted figures for the major targets of the 1959 National Economic Plan as adopted by the 91st Meeting of the State Council to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for examination and approval.

The major targets are adjusted as follows:

Industry: steel output is adjusted from the original 18 million tons (including steel produced by indigenous methods) to 12 million tons (not including steel produced by indigenous methods, which will be produced and used



* Not including pig iron and steel made by indigenous methods.

locally; coal, from the original 380 million tons to 335 million tons; targets for other industrial products are adjusted accordingly.

Total value of industrial output is adjusted from the original 165,000 million yuan to 147,000 million yuan.

Agriculture: grain output is adjusted from the original 1,050,000 million *jin* to 550,000 million *jin*; cotton output, from the original 100 million *dan* to 46.2 million *dan*; targets for outputs of other agricultural and animal husbandry products are adjusted accordingly.

The total value of agricultural production is adjusted from the original 122,000 million yuan to 73,800 million yuan.

Capital construction: total investment is adjusted from the original 27,000 million yuan to 24,800 million yuan; the number of above-norm projects to be constructed from the original figure of 1,092 to 788. This will ensure the supply of materials needed for production in existing enterprises and, at the same time by appropriately shortening the front of capital construction, will enable important projects to start production earlier.

Even with the readjusted targets, it should be pointed out, this year's plan remains one of a continued leap forward. The total value of industrial and agricultural production will be 20 per cent above 1958 when the exceptionally great leap forward was made. The total value of industrial output will increase by 25.6 per cent. Steel produced with modern equipment will increase by 50 per cent and coal by 24 per cent. The total value of agricultural production will increase by 10 per cent, with grain and cotton both increasing by 10 per cent. Taking into consideration the rate of economic development in the socialist countries and our own experience in construction during the First Five-Year Plan, it should be said that a more than 20 per cent annual increase in industry is a leap forward, a more than 25 per cent increase is a big leap forward and a more than 30 per cent increase is an exceptionally great leap forward. In agriculture, an annual increase of more than 10 per cent is a leap forward, more than 15 per cent is a big leap forward and more than 20 per cent is an exceptionally great leap forward. In my "Report on the Work of the Government," presented to the First Session of the Second National People's Congress on April 18 this year, I said: "For the production of grain, when there are still very few farm machines and very little chemical fertilizer, even an annual increase of between 10 and 20 per cent is a leap forward." Therefore, the adjusted targets for industry and agriculture in 1959 still maintain the speed of a leap forward.

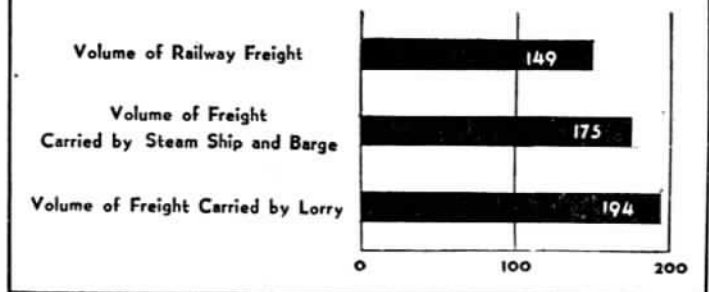
It should also be pointed out that the 25.6 per cent increase in industry and the 10 per cent increase in agriculture this year are being achieved on the basis of the great leap forward in industry and agriculture during last year, which was no ordinary year. As we all know, the bigger the base figure, the bigger is the increase required for every one per cent rise, and the greater are the efforts needed to achieve this.

With the masses going all out and aiming high, the adjusted targets for industry can be overfulfilled. As

GROWTH IN TRANSPORT

Jan.-June, 1959

(Jan.-June, 1958 = 100)



for agriculture, if there are no new, more serious natural calamities, the adjusted targets there, too, can be overfulfilled.

By fulfilling the adjusted plan, we will realize three years ahead of schedule, the Second Five-Year Plan as proposed by the First Plenary Session of the Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party and accepted by the State Council, in the output of major industrial and agricultural products. Taking the four major targets as an example, the proposal of the Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party envisaged for steel a 1962 target of between 10.5 million and 12 million tons; for coal, a target of between 190 million and 210 million tons; for grain, a target of 500,000 million *jin*; and for cotton, a target of 48 million *dan*. This year, output of steel made by modern equipment is to reach 12 million tons; coal, 335 million tons; grain, 550,000 million *jin*; and cotton, 46.2 million *dan*. This means they will all reach, exceed or approach the targets proposed by the Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party. In addition, the output of seven other major industrial products, namely, timber, metallurgical equipment, power-generating equipment, metal-cutting machine tools, cotton yarn, machine-made paper and salt, is also due this year to reach or surpass the 1962 targets proposed by the Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party.

Since we shall in the main fulfil the Second Five-Year Plan in two years, in the subsequent three years we shall be able to make further advances in industrial and agricultural production and devote more effort to strengthening certain weak links. It may well be anticipated that in the Second Five-Year Plan period, the speed of our country's industrial and agricultural growth will be much greater than it was during the First Five-Year Plan period. The Second Five-Year Plan will certainly be a big leap forward five-year plan. Realization of this great leap forward Second Five-Year Plan will make it possible for us to aim at carrying out, in the main, within about ten years, our slogan to "catch up with Britain in the output of major industrial products within fifteen years," and to overfulfil the 12-year programme for agricultural development, originally planned for completion in 1967, at a much earlier date.

III. Fight Against Right Deviation and Go All Out to Further Develop the Campaign for Increasing Production and Practising Economy!

All sentiments, thinking and activities tending in the rightist direction must be opposed in order to uphold the general line and safeguard the great achievements gained through the great leap forward and the people's communes, and to achieve a continued leap forward in the national economy.

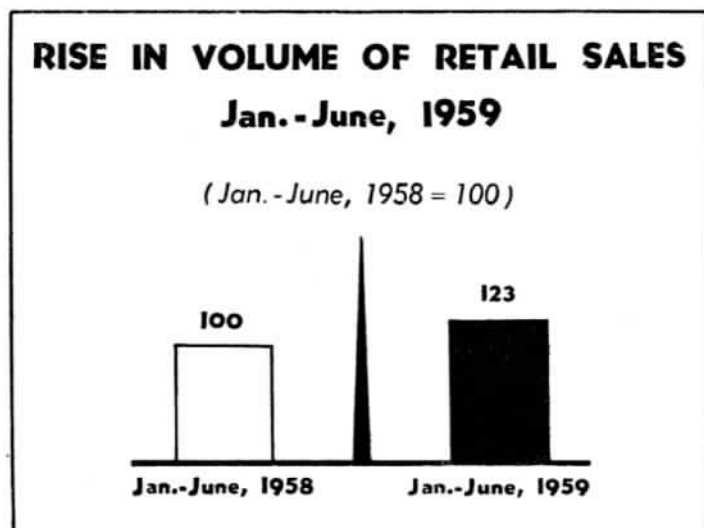
There were certain shortcomings and errors made in the course of drawing up and implementing the 1959 national economic plan and during the upsurge of the great leap forward; the main ones were that production targets were set rather too high, the projected scale of capital construction was rather too big and the increase in the numbers of workers and staff a bit too big. As a result, some problems arose regarding the deployment of labour power, the distribution of materials, the use of funds, and improvements in the quality of products, and these gave rise to certain disproportions in some links of the national economy. This indicates that our departments in charge of planning and economic affairs are not yet adept at the work of co-ordination and maintaining a balance under the conditions of a big leap forward in the national economy. We must sum up our experience in this regard, keep in mind the lesson learnt and so turn unfavourable factors into favourable ones. However, it is necessary to point out that our shortcomings occurred while great developments were in progress and mainly arose due to our lack of experience of great leaps forward. They are shortcomings made in practical work while applying the general line for socialist construction, and not shortcomings in the general line. The general line itself demands that we exert to the utmost our subjective initiative on the basis of objective conditions, observe objective economic laws and pay attention to the various proportions in the national economy. Our experience, whether of success or failure, gained in practical work of the past year and more, proves that the general line for socialist construction and the set of policies of "walking on two legs" are entirely correct. Once the shortcomings in our work are overcome, they will shine forth still more brilliantly. Moreover, these shortcomings and errors were isolated and transient — "one finger among the ten" — and have been corrected immediately on being discovered. The broad mass of cadres and people have received a deep education and gained much valuable experience during the course of this great practice. This is an important gain. In guiding mass movements we take it as an obligatory principle that while shortcomings must be corrected in a fully responsible way, the initiative of the broad masses and cadres must be zealously protected. There must at no time be any damping down of the spirit or any discouragement of the masses.

While we are overcoming certain shortcomings in practical work and adjusting economic targets in the light of realities, some people, taking a bourgeois stand, greatly underestimate and even deny the great achievements of last year's great leap forward and of the people's com-

munes. They exaggerate certain shortcomings and errors in the work, taking the part for the whole, the tributary for the mainstream, and maintain that the lower the economic targets the better. This kind of thinking and sentiment has grown in the past two months. In fact, those who think this way are at root sceptical of the vigorous mass movements launched by our more than 600 million people to do away with "poverty and blankness." They are sceptical of the great leap forward, the people's communes, the general line for socialist construction, the set of policies of "walking on two legs," and even the socialist system. Obviously, if we allow such thinking to continue and grow, without firmly repudiating and correcting it, the initiative of the broad masses will be seriously damaged and we will not be able to continue the leap forward and win victory in our socialist cause. This of course would only benefit the enemy at home and abroad and harm the workers, the peasants and the revolutionary intellectuals; it would serve the interests of capitalism and harm those of socialism. Precisely because this question concerns the future of more than 600 million people, we must set the task of opposing right deviation and wage a serious struggle against all sentiments, thinking and activities tending in the rightist direction.

On the basis of overcoming right deviation, of continuing to mobilize the masses fully and encouraging them to summon up all their revolutionary enthusiasm, we consider it necessary to press on to a further development of the campaign for increasing production and practising economy decided on at the First Session of the Second National People's Congress.

The further development of the campaign to increase production and practise economy is the chief guarantee of all-round overfulfilment of this year's national economic plan. In the very short time since we put forward this slogan, a new situation has emerged on all fronts of the national economy. On the industrial front, the daily output of steel in the first half month of August rose to 34,100



tons (on August 13 it reached 33,300 tons), showing an increase of 17 per cent over the average daily output of 29,000-odd tons in the first six months of this year. On the agricultural front, an all-out fight has been waged against drought, flood, water-logging and insects. As regards the allocation of manpower, by the end of July, more than 4 million workers and staff had gone back to the rural areas to help agricultural production. On the trade front, stocks of commodities in July showed an increase of 500 million yuan above that of June. In finance, revenue exceeded expenditure by 2,000 million yuan in the state budget from January to the end of the first ten days of August. We can also see that with the workers full of vigour and enthusiasm, a labour emulation campaign has been launched in quite a few enterprises to increase output and improve quality, to raise labour productivity, lower production costs and ensure greater safety at work. Many leading cadres in factories and the rural areas have gone to the production sites to give concrete guidance to production and tackle the jobs alongside the masses. A new production upsurge has begun to emerge. All this proves that the economic situation is continuing to develop along healthy lines, our more than 600 million people are full of confidence and our prospects are extremely bright.

To further develop the increase-production-and-practise-economy campaign, we ask all economic depart-

ments in industry, agriculture, transport and commerce, and all other departments, without exception, to extend socialist emulation and exert great efforts to increase production and practise economy. All enterprises and undertakings should fulfil and overfulfil their tasks under the state plan, for quality, quantity and specifications, every month and every ten days. All the people's communes should strive to conquer natural calamities, use manpower and material resources rationally, improve field management and make adequate preparations to win a bumper harvest in the autumn. Alongside efforts to increase production, all enterprises, undertakings and people's communes must give attention to economizing manpower, material and financial resources and encourage savings, so that the slogans of building the country and running enterprises and undertakings, people's communes and households with industry and thrift and budgeting income and expenses well are translated into action by everyone. Leading organs at all levels must do their best in September and greet the great tenth anniversary of our People's Republic with outstanding achievements.

It is our firm belief that our more than 600 million people, under the leadership of the great Chinese Communist Party and our great leader Comrade Mao Tse-tung, will achieve new and still more brilliant successes as they advance along the road of socialist construction.

人民日報
RENMIN RIBAO

FULFIL THE PRINCIPAL TARGETS OF THE SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN THIS YEAR!

Following is a translation of the editorial that appeared in "Renmin Ribao" on August 27, 1959, under the title of "Oppose Right Deviation and Make an All Out Effort to Fulfil the Principal Targets of the Second Five-Year Plan This Year!" — Ed.

THE Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, held at Lushan, Kiangsi Province, between August 2 and 16, was a conference of great historic significance. At a time when the reactionaries, both at home and abroad, seizing on certain transient and local difficulties and shortcomings lying across our path of advance, were intensifying their attacks against the socialist cause of the Party and people, this conference raised still higher the glorious banners of the general line, the big leap forward and the people's communes, resolutely smashed the rightist ideas and sentiments of unstable elements and set before the Party and the nation the great militant task of reaching the principal targets of the Second Five-Year Plan before the end of this year. The Communiqué and Resolution of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party have been made public. Prior to their publication, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress unanimously endorsed

the report by Premier Chou En-lai which was submitted to it in accordance with the decision of the Eighth Plenary Session, and adopted a relevant resolution. Thus, the Communiqué and Resolution of the Eighth Plenary Session will soon become a great clarion call mobilizing our 650 million people in the march to new victories. The people of all nationalities in the country, their millions of hearts beating as one, will march courageously along the path pointed out by the Eighth Plenary Session to win this year's victory — the fulfilment of the principal targets of the Second Five-Year Plan!

The principal targets of the Second Five-Year Plan (1958-1962) were put forward in September 1956 by the First Session of the Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party and were accepted by the State Council in February 1957. According to that plan, the principal targets that ought to be fulfilled by 1962 are: coal, 190-210 million tons; steel, 10,500,000-12,000,000 tons;

metallurgical equipment, 30,000-40,000 tons; power generating equipment, 1,400,000-1,500,000 kilowatts; metal-cutting machine tools, 60,000-65,000 units; timber, 31,000,000-34,000,000 cubic metres; cement, 12,500,000-14,500,000 tons; cotton yarn, 8,000,000-9,000,000 bales; salt, 10,000,000-11,000,000 tons; machine-made paper, 1,500,000-1,600,000 tons; grains, around 500,000 million *jin*; cotton, around 48 million *dan*. When it was announced, this gigantic plan surprised many capitalist countries. Last year, however, as a result of the big leap forward, the outputs of coal (270 million tons) and timber (35 million cubic metres) had already surpassed the levels originally set for 1962; while those of grain (500,000 million *jin*) and salt (10,400,000 tons) had reached the planned 1962 levels. Moreover, fulfilment of the national economic plan this year will enable us to reach, surpass or come close to the 1962 level in output of steel (12 million tons), metallurgical equipment (117,000 tons), power-generating equipment (1,300,000 kilowatts), metal-cutting machine tools (60,000 units), cotton (46,200,000 *dan*), cotton yarn (8,200,000 bales) and machine-made paper (1,600,000 tons). That is to say, the Second Five-Year Plan will be fulfilled in the main three years ahead of time. This is indeed a great and glorious task! Ours was formerly a backward country, both economically and culturally. Conditions within the country and our international environment alike require us to carry out socialist construction at a high speed. This is in the highest interests of our people and it is their burning desire. Now, since we are able to fulfil the Second Five-Year Plan in the main before the end of this year, i.e., within two years, we can devote ourselves in the next three years to strengthening existing weak links in our national economy so that our industrial and agricultural production can leap to a much higher level than that originally set for 1962. Fulfilment of this great plan will also make it possible for us to strive to realize in the main in about ten years, the slogan of "catching up with Britain in the output of major industrial products in fifteen years," and also to strive to overfulfil much ahead of time the 12-year programme for agricultural development originally planned to be realized by 1967. By that time, the face of our motherland with its poverty and backwardness will certainly have undergone a great change.

THE fulfilment of the principal targets of the Second Five-Year Plan within this year is, therefore, of very great historic significance. The whole nation must work hard to fulfil and overfulfil the readjusted national economic plan for this year.

Of course, there will be difficulties involved in fulfilling and overfulfilling this year's economic plan. The achievement of every single one per cent increase in industrial and agricultural production this year on the basis of last year's big leap forward means the exertion of a much greater effort than last year.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress has approved the proposal to readjust this year's plan put forward by the State Council in accordance with the recommendations made by the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee; but clearly this plan is still a leap-forward plan. Take for example the targets set for steel, coal, grain and cotton. Steel

(not including steel produced by indigenous methods) will be increased by 4 million tons, a 50 per cent increase. This increase is bigger than last year's both in absolute figures and in percentage. The increase in the output of coal in the five years from 1952 to 1957 was only 63,510,000 tons; this year the increase will be 65 million tons. Outputs of grain and cotton, on the basis of last year's unprecedentedly rich harvests and in the circumstance obtaining after this year's serious natural calamities, will both be increased by 10 per cent. During the First Five-Year Plan, the average annual rate of increase for grain and cotton was only 3.7 per cent and 4.7 per cent respectively. But what do such difficulties matter to us Communists who have dedicated ourselves to a great cause and all us 650 million courageous and industrious Chinese people?

DURING the first six months of this year, we met certain local and temporary difficulties. At that time, the imperialists and their spokesmen and hostile elements at home, who from the very outset have taken an antagonistic attitude towards the great leap forward and the people's commune movements in our country, spread the wildest rumours and slanders, claiming that China was facing "one of her darkest years," and that the great leap forward was "mainly something on paper"; they hoped against hope that "the plan for the people's communes has already failed," and even dreamt that China "has gone back to small-scale capitalism"! But let the people of the nation and the whole world judge for themselves who, after all, is the victor! Have our people been frightened by the little difficulties that have cropped up? Have the self-deluding calculations of the imperialists succeeded? Entirely contrary to their imaginings, the wheel of history of New China continues to roll forward. The economic situation in the first half of this year is one of a continued leap forward. The total value of industrial output registered an increase of 65 per cent as compared with the same period of last year; besides this, the quality of products is going up steadily while costs are steadily being reduced. In agriculture, though the area sown to summer crops last winter was reduced and though some parts were hit by natural calamities, the average per *mu* yield for the whole country still registered a big increase, while the total output of wheat, early rice and rapeseed was also greater than the rich harvest reaped in the summer of last year. Because the people's purchasing power increased more rapidly than retail sales of commodities, and also because of the fact that standards of consumption of the people in the villages were raised too quickly over a certain period, there was a bit of a strain in the supply situation on the market in regard to a small number of commodities. But as a result of a series of effective measures taken by the Communist Party and People's Government, the situation in the supply of non-staple foods, handicraft articles and manufactured goods for daily use has rapidly taken a turn for the better, and there is no question but that within a certain period the situation will fundamentally improve. In accordance with the successive instructions sent out from the Party's Central Committee and Comrade Mao Tse-tung, the people's communes in the villages have carried out a check-up over the past few months; now they are on the firm road of healthy develop-

ment. The superiority of the people's communes is manifesting itself ever more clearly. The role they are playing in the recent victorious battles against flood, drought and pests is a convincing proof of this. All this shows that though we may still encounter some difficulties in the second half of this year we will enjoy much better conditions in overcoming them than in the first six months. With the great successes we have scored in our continued leap forward in the first six months, everyone is convinced that we will score still greater victories in the second half of this year, everyone, that is, except the reactionaries both inside and outside our country who will always suffer from the delusion that we will fail, and the incorrigible right opportunists.

IT is with such confidence that the broad masses of people in the cities and the countryside throughout the nation look to the future. Even while the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee was meeting, a great and powerful upsurge of the campaign to increase production and practise economy was launched by the workers, peasants and revolutionary intellectuals. Workers in the iron and steel, coal, transport and other industries constantly chalked up new production records. Good news of overfulfilment of the planned production targets kept pouring in. Take the daily production of steel for instance. The average daily output in the second five days of August increased by 5.1 per cent and in the third five days by 17.4 per cent, compared with the first five days of the month. The hundreds of millions of peasants in the rural areas who are heroically fighting natural calamities, are determined to overcome even the most serious difficulties and get bigger autumn outputs. There is no doubt that the Communique and the Resolution of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee will greatly inspire their efforts and give them fresh strength to win victories.

Running counter to the vigorous struggle being waged by the overwhelming majority of the people throughout the country, a brand of rightist ideas and sentiments has emerged on the horizon at the present moment. A handful of right opportunists, isolated from the masses and from reality, echoed the slanders of the campaign launched by hostile elements at home and abroad, and take advantage of the shortcomings which have already been, or are being rapidly overcome, to throw cold water on the enthusiasm of the masses and the cadres and spread an air of slackness, despair, complaints and pessimism among them in an attempt to create political and ideological confusion. These pessimistic and right opportunist ideological trends are reflections of the anti-socialist ideological trends of the bourgeoisie within the Party, and are the main dangers at the present moment. The documents of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee have not only completely smashed the slanders of the reactionaries at home and abroad but also these right opportunist ideological trends. With irrefutable facts, the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee has proved the victories of the Party's general line and the big leap forward, and the superiority of the people's communes. At the same time, it has sharply criticized those absurd points of view which underestimate the great achievements made by the hundreds of millions of our labouring people in the great leap forward and the

people's commune movements, over-emphasize the seriousness of certain defects which, because of lack of experience, occurred in the two movements but which have been quickly overcome, and even slander these two great revolutionary movements as "petty-bourgeois fanaticism." Thus, the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee has given the Party and the labouring people an incomparably powerful ideological and political weapon to help them to march forward steadfastly to new great victories.

WE don't expect the imperialists and hostile elements within the country to stop their attacks against us in the future; otherwise they wouldn't be reactionaries. They will take advantage of our verifying the 1958 agricultural statistics, the readjustment in the 1959 national economic plan and our criticism of the right opportunism to raise a hue and cry. Let them clamour as much as they like! The fact remains, and this they are powerless to change: We have not only made a big leap forward in 1958, but will continue to leap forward in 1959 and throughout the period of the Second Five-Year Plan. According to the readjusted national economic plan, the total value of industrial output this year will increase by 25.5 per cent compared with that of last year—a year of an extraordinarily big leap—while agricultural output will increase by 10 per cent. This is still a high rate, unattainable by capitalist countries. This year the outputs of the major industrial products will all register increases over last year. Besides steel, which we have mentioned already, the absolute figures for this year's increases in the output of rolled steel, pig iron, electricity, crude oil, power-generating equipment, chemical fertilizers, cotton yarn and cotton cloth, sugar and salt will all surpass those of last year. This year, i.e., in one year alone, we will raise steel production from around 8 million tons to around 12 million tons. It took the United States three years, Germany six, Britain 21 and France 25 years to accomplish this. The bourgeois wiseacres in the West will always lose out in these contests! Faced with China's high speed of growth all they can do is to look on, frustrated.

We are confident that following the publication of the Communique and Resolution of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, the people of all nationalities, all factories, mines, enterprises and people's communes, and all scientific, cultural and educational establishments in the country will heartily respond to the call of the Central Committee of the Party. They will carry up to further heights the movement for increased production and economy and greet the great tenth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic with new brilliant achievements. The 650 million people of our country, led by the Central Committee of the Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung and guided by the beacon light of the general line for socialist construction, holding high the glorious banners of the great leap forward and people's communes and combating right deviation and making an all out effort, will certainly be able to fulfil and overfulfil this year's national economic plan and reach within this year the principal targets of the Second Five-Year Plan.

THEATRE ARTS

Workers' Art Troupes Festival

A theatre arts festival of workers' art troupes was held in Peking in the latter half of last month. About a thousand actors, dancers, singers, musicians and acrobats from six troupes took part. Four were run by the railway, coal-mining, building and geological ministries and two by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. They performed modern Chinese plays, operas, dance-dramas, classical and modern dances and acrobatics. The festival was a useful review of work done by the troupes over the past ten years and provided a golden opportunity for them to swap experience and hear the comments of experts.

It is a characteristic of these troupes that they draw the bulk of their artistic material from the work and lives of their own workers, and their plays, operas and dances are usually short and compact so that they can be easily performed on improvised stages in factories or in the open at construction sites. They do not eschew the lyrical or romantic but most of their items are frankly "agit-prop" in character, designed to deal with matters of urgent moment to the workers and to inspire them in their work. *New Products* is literally a colourful dance performed by the Song and Dance Troupe of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. The curtain rises on a dozen young girl textile workers comparing the new textile products which they have made. The patterns they weave on the stage show

off the beautiful designs they hold. While the girls dance this new version of the scarf dance the stage darkens and the music slows down. On the darkened stage, the multi-coloured prints glitter like diamonds. When the lights go up again a rich assortment of floral prints on a revolving rack is on display for the public. This is a dance; this is also an advertisement and encouragement for good work.

Young Chang's Reawakening is a quarter of an hour's hortatory dance-drama. Young Chang, a miner, is dismayed by the difficulties of the job and he wants to quit. This is a shock to the veteran miners on his shift. They can remember the bitter days in the old society when they had to slave like beasts of burden in the pits for a mere pittance. A flashback of this past, re-enacted on the stage, helps young Chang to compare the past with the present and wakes him up to a sense of his duty. This dance-drama always gets a big hand whenever the A.C.F.T.U. Song and Dance Troupe performs it on its tours of the mines.

The opera *Song of Taching Mountain* is one of those familiar stories about veteran soldiers who, after demobilization, take part in the socialist construction of the country. But what is notable about this performance is the excellent characterization of the three veterans. They have come to take part in construction work near Taching Mountain where they once fought together against the reactionaries. They were close comrades-in-arms then, but now they find themselves in temporary conflict. It is a conflict between progressive and conservative ways of doing things centred on the problems of building an iron and steel works near the mountain. The art troupe of the building workers sets this scene well and also shows how through comradesly help and genuine co-operation the one who is shackled by backward ideas and is dismayed by difficulties is helped to see his mistakes and get into step again with the vanguard.

The festival had many tips for the workers' amateur art movement. The *Plate Dance*, also by the A.C.F.T.U. troupe, was a good example of how traditional art forms can be drawn upon and adapted for the dance. For many movements in this dance the composers had clearly learnt a lot from the mural paintings in the Grottoes of a Thousand Buddhas in Tunhuang. Dance-dramas continue to attract a lot of attention as an art form. In addition to

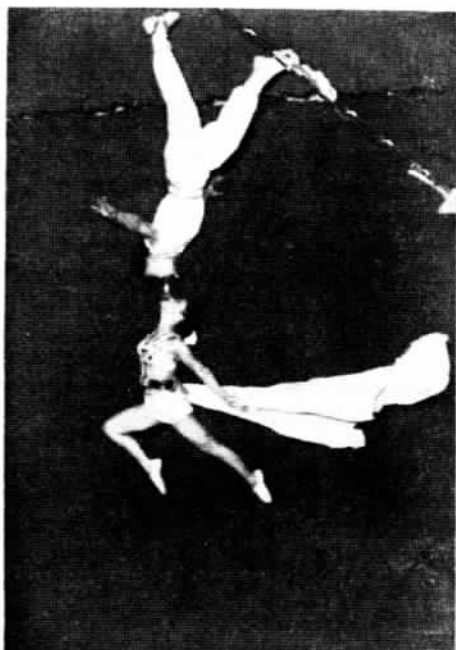
those using modern pantomimic gesture and ballet this festival showed the *Tuchiang Embankment*, based largely on traditional Chinese operatic dance movements, that paid tribute to Li Ping and his son who over two thousand years ago built the famous embankment that even today diverts floodwaters to irrigate the Szechuan plain. Another attractive effort in this medium was *The Sworn Lovers*, adapted from Chinese mythology, about two young lovers who chose death to separation. This was produced by the Railway Workers' Art Troupe whose acrobatic troupe, incidentally, is one of the best in the country.

The six troupes which took part in the festival were formed after liberation to meet the increasing cultural needs of the workers. Following the principle that they should serve the working people, help elevate their social and political consciousness and inspire them in their work, they have travelled the length and breadth of China performing in mines and factories, at construction sites and encampments in the virgin forests, or up in the remote mountain areas where blizzards are an occupational hazard and a stage is where you find yourself. The experiences of the railway workers' troupe give an idea of their work and history. In the past ten years this troupe has travelled on practically every railway line in the country and visited 1,800 cities and towns. Over ten million people have seen its ten thousand performances. During the Korean war against the American invaders, it went to perform in Korea for the Korean People's Army, the Chinese People's Volunteers and the Chinese railway workers who were there helping with transport for the front. Its chief mission being to provide entertainment for railway workers, it has been making its way methodically to the new construction sites on China's rapidly expanding railway network. In the summer of 1955, it went to where a line was being built through virgin forests on the Greater Khingan Mountains. Dancers, singers, actors, musicians and acrobats carried their props and luggage on their backs and trudged over miles of marshland to bring a performance to a pioneering group. As often as not this troupe does not know where it is going or where it has been. Many of its stopping places have as yet no name on the maps. In October last year it went to one of these nameless stations in the taiga of the Lesser Khingan range. Winter was not properly in yet but the temperature had already sunk to 40 degrees below zero.

These troupes regard such difficulties as part of their job in taking their plays and performances to the workers' door-



"The Silk Dance" by the Railway Art Troupe



"Aerial Acrobatics" by
the Railway Art Troupe

steps. The art troupes of the coal-mining industry grew from a team of only a dozen members in 1947 to a large organization which today can put on songs and dances, modern Chinese plays and operas. It too has travelled all over the country, going to wherever coal is being mined. The troupe of the geological workers is no less far ranging, for it serves the geological prospecting teams wherever they go. In the past few years alone it has been to some of the coldest parts of the country in the northeast, the grasslands of Inner Mongolia, the sparsely populated northwest and the Sikang-Tibet plateau.

Performing is only part of the task of these troupes. On their stops they play an important part in helping to train large numbers of amateur performers from among the workers themselves. So they leave shoots of their art behind them which often go to reinforce their efforts to satisfy the ever-growing cultural demands of China's working people.

— WANG LEH

Preparing for the Tenth Anniversary

During the tenth anniversary celebrations Peking's stages will witness the largest and gayest theatrical festival ever known in the capital's history. Artists all over the country are putting finishing touches to rehearsals of the favourite items which they are bringing to the birthday galas before and after October 1. There will be a pageant of theatrical arts, including local Chinese operas,

dance-dramas, modern Chinese plays and operas, music, puppet shows, acrobatics and much else. Besides the art troupes of the People's Liberation Army and the various trade unions, and the more than twenty theatrical companies of Peking itself, six large local opera troupes will come to the capital, bringing with them the *kunqu*, *hanju*, Kwangtung, Shensi, Szechuan and Shaohsing operas.

Peking's own stage artists will present a varied programme of Chinese and foreign, classical and modern items. Mei Lan-fang, the great Peking opera actor who last May created the leading role in *Mu Kuei-ying Takes Command*, the first new play he has produced since liberation, will appear again in this play with an entirely new cast. He will be strongly supported this time by such leading Peking opera actors as Li Shao-chun, Yuan Shih-hai, Li Ho-tseng and Li Chin-chuan. *The Battle of Chibi* and *The White-Haired Girl*, two of the most successful new Peking opera productions since liberation, will also be performed. The former, which got an enthusiastic reception during its trial run early this year, will be produced in a somewhat different version. On the basis of the comments and suggestions made by both experts and theatre fans, its action will be made more compact. To achieve this, the character Liu Pei will be deleted; he was a pale figure at best and will hardly be missed. But some will undoubtedly miss the episode of the *Parting of the Heroes*, which was a most moving scene, but will also be cut. These Peking opera offerings bring together some really distinguished casts and, finely produced by the leading Peking opera troupes, will provide first-class entertainment. Other excellent traditional Peking operas, like *Wild Boar Forest* and *Three Attacks on Chu Village* (both episodes from the famous novel *Water Margin*) and *Tale of the White Snake* will also be performed during the celebrations by a galaxy of the foremost modern exponents of Peking opera. The veteran actors will not take away all the limelight; young graduates of the Peking Opera School will also feature in the performances. One of them, Chien Hao-liang, a *wu sheng* (male character of the military type), will play the leading role in the thrilling and stunt-studded opera *Fa Tzu Tu* (How Tzu Tu Was Punished) which, because of its heavy demands on the actor, has not been performed for nearly thirty years.

Among the modern Chinese plays to be presented to guests who will come from all parts of the world to attend the anniversary celebrations will be the China Youth Art Theatre's *Taming the Dragons and Tigers*, a play about the great leap forward in China's countryside, and the

Peking People's Art Theatre's *Tsai Wen-chi* by Kuo Mo-jo, which has been playing to full houses since last May. The Central Experimental Opera Theatre will produce the famous Soviet opera *The Young Guard*, the new opera *Spring Thunder* which recounts an episode in the First Revolutionary Civil War of 1924-27, and *The Magic Lotus Lantern*, one of the best Chinese ballets produced since liberation. Ostrovsky's *The Tempest* and Moliere's *The Miser* and *The Hypocrite* which have won the hearts of Chinese audiences will also be staged.

Western music and ballet are comparatively new to Chinese artists, but enormous progress has been made in these fields over the past few years. The Central Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra will perform Shostakovich's *Eleventh Symphony* and the young Chinese composer Lo Chung-jung's *First Symphony*, a tribute to the revolutionary struggles of the Chinese people. Beethoven's *Ninth (Choral) Symphony* will also be fittingly performed on this happy occasion for the Chinese people.

There will be gala performances in Shanghai, too. Well-known actors and actresses in this great metropolis like Chou Hsin-fang, Li Yu-ju, Chang Mei-chuan and Tung Chih-ling will all appear in their favourite Peking opera roles. The noted Shaohsing opera actresses Yuan Hsueh-fen and Fan Jui-chuan will play the leading roles in *The Western Chamber*. Fan Jui-chuan will also appear in *Liang Shan-po and Chu Ying-tai (The Butterfly Lovers)*, supported by the promising young actress Fu Chuan-hsiang.

Veteran artists in Shanghai, like Pai Yang, Chin Yen, Chao Tan, Chang Jui-fang, Tan Ni, Chin Yi and others who have been known to theatregoers since the thirties, will all take part in the celebration performances. They will appear in a rich programme of Chinese and foreign plays which include *Sunrise* by Tsao Yu, *Kuan Han-ching* by Tien Han and *The Tempest* by Ostrovsky. And there will be many concerts and recitals. The Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra will perform Beethoven's *Sixth Symphony* and Wang Yun-chiai's symphony dedicated to the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression, one of the successful compositions written by young Chinese musicians in the past few years.

In Tientsin, Canton, Wuhan, Chungking and other cities, special programmes are also being prepared for the grand celebrations. Veterans as well as young and promising stage artists are working together in close and comradely co-operation to give their best on this tenth anniversary.

CHINA AND THE WORLD

Ho Chi Minh Leaves for Home

President Ho Chi Minh left for home on August 25, completing a 25-day visit to China. In Peking, he was entertained by Chairman Liu Shao-chi at a banquet, at which Premier Chou En-lai and other government and Party leaders were present. President Ho also visited the Ming Tombs Reservoir and several other places of interest and received Viet-namese students studying in Peking's universities.

The Viet-namese President was on his way home from a vacation in the U.S.S.R. and a visit to China's northwest.

Sino-Korean Fishery Agreement

An agreement signed in Peking on August 25 between China and the Korean Democratic People's Republic is another example of the two countries' close cooperation for mutual economic benefits. This agreement provides for joint development of their fishing industries in the Yellow Sea and full and rational use of the aquatic products of this area.

The Yellow Sea is bordered in the north by the Korean, Liaotung and Shantung peninsulas and extends all the way to the estuary of the Yangtse River in the south. It has many fine fishing grounds.

Links with Latin America

Several distinguished Venezuelans are now visiting China as guests of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs. They are Fabricio Ojeda, M.P. and member of the national leading committee of the Democratic Republican Union, and his wife; Antonio Jose Estevez, conductor of the Venezuelan Symphony Orchestra and composer; Professor Santiago Betancourt Infante, Secretary of the Carabobo State Committee of the Democratic Action Party; and Hector Rodriguez Bauza, M.P. and member of the Political Bureau of the Venezuelan Communist Party.

In an interview with Hsinhua on his arrival at Peking Airport, Senor Fabricio Ojeda expressed the hope that establishment of relations between Venezuela and the Chinese People's Republic would soon be realized.

A Colombia-China Friendship Association has been established in Bogota with Professor Jorge Bejarano, Senator Horacio Rodriguez Plata, Representatives

Jaime Angulo Bossa and Joaquin Franco Burgos as its presidents. Its inaugural meeting was attended by many Colombian congressmen, trade union leaders, intellectuals and reporters. The founding of the association, which will promote cultural, economic and friendly ties between the two countries, has aroused wide interest in Bogota.

A group of eight delegates from Cuba, Argentina and Chile has arrived for a visit to China. Trade unionists, peasant, youth and student leaders, they have come to Peking from the Vienna Youth Festival.

Thaelmann Commemorated

A meeting was held in Peking in commemoration of Ernst Thaelmann, the great German revolutionary who was murdered by the Nazis fifteen years ago, on August 18.

Liu Kai-feng, Vice-President of the China-G.D.R. Friendship Association, speaking at the meeting described the German Communist leader as a brilliant fighter of the German proletariat and a faithful friend of the Chinese people. "We have the deepest respect for Thaelmann, for his militant life, his steadfast loyalty to the cause of the German working class and his sympathy for the Chinese people's liberation struggle," he declared.

Visitors

A large number of foreign delegations is touring China now. These include:

From Asia

A Burmese cultural delegation led by U Yaw.

An Iraqi teachers' delegation headed by Mamdooh Hussain al-Aloosi.

A delegation of the Royal Cambodian Socialist Youth led by Yim Dith.

Singapore women delegates, Mrs. George Lee and Shirin Fozdar.

From Africa

An Algerian women's delegation led by Mamia Chentouff.

Tunisian women delegates Safia Farhat, Zohia Ben Sliman, Gladys Adda and Neila Ben Ammar.

A Guinean women's delegation headed by Mariam Mathalde Camara.

A delegation of the Youth Movement of the Progressive Union of Senegal.

In the World of Literature

Among translations of foreign literature, the works of Asian and African writers occupy a special place in China's publishing world. Much neglected in pre-liberation days because of the cul-

tural barriers put up by the imperialists, this type of literary exchange is growing apace. The number of countries represented and range of types of literatures translated are on a scale undreamt of before liberation. This reflects the vast interest in China today in the neighbouring Asian and African countries, particularly in the life of their peoples.

Some sixty Korean novels and anthologies of poems have been published in Chinese in the last ten years, compared to only three in the thirty years before liberation. These include the works of the noted Korean poet Cho Ki Chun and the writers Han Sul Ya and Li Ki Yung. The Korean classic *Story of Chun Hiang* has been a great success, often adapted for the stage by Chinese local operas.

No literary works from Mongolia and Viet-nam were translated into Chinese before liberation, but there are now twenty-nine works of Viet-namese literature in Chinese. Most of them are outstanding pieces written since 1950. Several works by Natsakdorzi and Damdinsurun, the founders of modern Mongolian literature, and other Mongolian writers and poets have been translated too.

Fifty Indian novels and anthologies of poems have been rendered into Chinese since 1949. Outstanding among them are the plays of Kalidasa, translated directly from Sanskrit, and the works of Tagore, which are being published in sets of large editions. A wide range of modern Indian writers is also represented in the translations.

Translations of Japanese literature have been concentrated mostly on works written after the Second World War, such as those by Teru Takakura and Sunao Tokunaga. The selected works of the revolutionary writers Takiji Kobayashi and Yuriko Miyamoto are also very popular.

Chinese readers have shown an increasing interest in Arab literature, both classic and modern. *The Arabian Nights* has been translated into Chinese for the first time from the original Arab text, and so have the works of writers from Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and the United Arab Republic.

Literary works by Afghan, Burmese, Cambodian, Ceylonese, Philippine, Indonesian, Iranian, Pakistani, Thai, Turkish, Ethiopian, Kamerunian, Nigerian and South African writers have also been published in Chinese.

The poems of Chairman Mao Tse-tung are being translated in more and more fraternal countries. In Poland, a collection of sixteen poems was published by the State Publishing House. In Budapest, there is a Hungarian collection of twenty-one poems, translated by Jozsa Sandor and Voros Sandor.

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Call for Release of Helou

World opinion has been outraged by the illegal arrest and brutal torture of Farajala Helou, outstanding fighter for Lebanon's national cause and leader of the Lebanese Communist Party, and demands that the U.A.R. authorities release Helou immediately, writes *Renmin Ribao's* Commentator (August 26).

The Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people are deeply concerned over the fate of Farajala Helou, Commentator declares.

He recalls Helou's career as a patriot who has earned universal admiration among the people of the Arab nations, and especially of his own country, Lebanon, for the vital role he has played in the Arab national liberation movement, and in the struggle for peace in the Middle East and the world.

It is reported that Helou was kidnapped in a street in Damascus and was immediately thrown into a secret prison and subjected to brutal torture, Commentator notes. This can only be regarded as an open defiance of human rights and the elementary humanitarian decencies. So far, the authorities of the United Arab Republic have flatly denied the arrest and persecution of Helou in an attempt to evade their responsibility. Farajala Helou is not a citizen of the United Arab Republic, but a citizen of Lebanon. This savage persecution of a foreign national is an outright violation of international law and the normal code of international intercourse, Commentator points out.

Emphasizing the fact that the arrest of Helou has become an international event of wide public concern, Commentator declares that the Chinese people fully support the appeal of the world public opinion and demand that freedom be restored to Helou promptly in the interest of friendship and unity among the peoples of the Arab nations and normal international intercourse.

Salute to U.S. Steel Workers

Saluting the half a million striking U.S. steel workers, *Renmin Ribao's* Commentator (August 26) declares that this struggle in the United States is not merely an economic struggle; it has a far deeper significance.

The strike was deliberately provoked by the steel barons with the support of

the U.S. Government and capitalists in other industries. Commentator recalls that the steel industry employers have publicly acknowledged that in refusing to meet the workers' economic demands, their primary aim is to weaken the organized steel workers in a test of strength between labour and capital.

In attacking the steel workers, Commentator continues, the U.S. capitalists aim to weaken the struggle of the whole working class and so hamper the future development of the workers' movement

in the United States. In this strike, says Commentator, the U.S. steel workers not only are fighting for their own interests but are also engaged in a serious struggle in defence of the rights of the entire working class of their country.

The steel strike explodes the myths about U.S. economic prosperity and the comfortable life of the workers, says Commentator. The fact that the steel workers had to go on strike to demand a wage increase is compelling proof that the life of the U.S. workers is far from being satisfactory, as the mouth-pieces of U.S. monopoly capital try to make out.

In the first half of this year, the U.S. steel barons netted a record profit of about 700 million dollars. But in the

THE PASSING SHOW

On Cabbages and Nuts

The Brisbane (Australia) Criminal Investigation Special Anti-Subversion Branch has gone into a dither about a book of children's verse from China called *Plum Blossom* that, it says, contains "definite Red propaganda." Two examples of this are cited. One is about a prize co-op cabbage:

We try our best to eat it up
But no—we have to stop.
O tell me where is this cabbage from?
It comes from our co-op.

The other occurs when some children tell a little birdie:

We've two lovely apples now,
Take them please to Chairman Mao.

\$150 Million Don't Make One Right

The Laos programme, said the U.S. State Department recently, has been a "signal success." But, says a report by the House Committee on Government Operations, more than \$150 million, mostly in military aid and surplus supplies was poured into Laos "despite clear advice that this was twice what the local economy could absorb." And the *Wall Street Journal* caps this with the revelation that "The maintenance (on American insistence) of a larger army than the Laotian economy could afford," led to "inflation that doubled the cost of living in Laos between 1954 and 1959."



The considerate American:
"And if you feel hot, I can sell
you a fan!"

Join the U.S. Army and Get Away with Murder

Out of 13,659 U.S. armed services personnel who faced criminal charges in foreign courts in one twelve-month period, only 96 were jailed. U.S. airman Muselli was charged with manslaughter in connection with the motor vehicle death of General Sarafis, a leader of the Greek Parliament. Although sentenced to ten months' imprisonment, Muselli was freed on payment of an eighty-eight-dollar fine and court costs. In Italy, a U.S. serviceman was accused of negligent homicide when he dozed while driving his car which killed three ten-year-old schoolgirls. Because he stopped and made retribution, he was given a suspended sentence.

News Item

same period, there was no corresponding increase in wages of steel workers; the incomes of one-third of them were even below the minimum standard laid down by the U.S. Labour Department, states Commentator.

The strike has been on more than 40 days. The half million steel workers

are carrying on their struggle under very difficult conditions, says Commentator. They face ruthless opponents and no wages are coming in. But they are not standing alone. The Communist Party of the United States has called upon all the working people and the entire workers' movement to give all-out aid to the steel strike. The AFL-CIO has also

adopted a resolution pledging support for the steel strike and named September 7 as a special day in support of the steel workers.

Unity among the U.S. working class is growing, concludes Commentator, adding that a united working class is an invincible force.

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

— Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc. —

Programmes are subject to change. Where times are not listed consult theatre or daily press.

PEKING OPERA

▲ **PRINCESS SHUANG YANG** A traditional opera newly revised by the Shang Hsiao-yun Peking Opera Troupe. A Sung dynasty story. How Princess Shuang Yang helps her husband defend his country from the attack of foreign invaders is the theme of the opera.

Sept. 5 & 6, 7:30 p.m. *Zhong He Theatre*

▲ **THE REMOVAL OF THREE EVILS** and some episodes from **THE TALE OF THE WHITE SNAKE** The first, a traditional opera, tells how an astute district magistrate reforms a local bully. The latter is the legendary love story of a White Snake fairy and a scholar. Produced by the Mei Lan-fang Peking Opera Troupe.

Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m. *Guang He Theatre*

MODERN OPERA

▲ **THE CLOTH SELLER** (Arshin Mal Alan) A comic opera by the famous Azerbaijan playwright, Uzer Gadjibekov, produced in Chinese by the Central Experimental Opera Theatre. A wealthy Azerbaijan youth who wants to choose his own bride, disguises himself as a wandering cloth seller, and so meets a beautiful girl. They fall in love. The girl's rich father refuses to let his daughter wed a poor cloth seller, but with the help of a friend, all ends happily.

Sept. 1 & 2, 7:30 p.m. *Tianqiao Theatre*

▲ **THE YOUNG GUARD** A famous Soviet opera adapted from the novel of the same title by Fadeyev. Produced in Chinese by the Central Experimental Opera Theatre.

Sept. 5-7, 7:30 p.m. *Tianqiao Theatre*

THEATRE

▲ **A HAPPY REUNION** A new play by Lao Sheh describing the sharp contrast in morality between the old and new societies. In the old society, poverty drives Wang Li-jen away from home to earn a living. He sends some money home by the hand of a policeman who pockets the money and tells his family that he is dead. He and his family lose contact. In 1958, with the help of a people's policeman, the family is happily reunited. Produced by the China Youth Art Theatre.

Sept. 1-9, 7:30 p.m. *China Youth Art Theatre*

▲ **RICKSHAW BOY** Adapted from Lao Sheh's famous novel about the life of the dispossessed in old Peking. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

Sept. 1-3, 7:30 p.m. *Peking Theatre*

▲ **THE MAN WITH THE GUN** Adapted from the famous Soviet novel of the same title by N. F. Pogodin. Produced in Chinese by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

Sept. 1-4, 7:30 p.m. *Shoudu Theatre*

▲ **THE TEMPEST** The famous play by the great Russian dramatist, A. N. Ostrovsky. Produced in Chinese by the Experimental Theatre of the Central Drama School.

Sept. 1 & 2, 7:30 p.m. *Shiyan Theatre*

FILMS

▲ **THE STORY OF THE TIN CITY** In pre-liberation days, Po Ken-chiang, a boy of the Yi people, is forced to work in a tin mine as a child labourer. Hard labour and starvation almost kill him. But underground members of the Communist Party working in the mine save him and help him to understand the truth about life. He joins a guerrilla detachment and fights for the revolution until liberation comes. A new film produced by the Changchun Film Studio.

Sept. 1-5, *Guang An Men, Peking Workers' Club, Zhongyang*

▲ **ANNA EDES** This Hungarian film dubbed in Chinese is set in 1919, at the time when the Hungarian bourgeoisie returned to power after overthrowing the Workers' and Peasants' Government. Anna, a young servant-maid, brutally ill-treated and insulted by her master, is driven to take revenge.

Sept. 1-5, *Shoudu Cinema, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema, Xin Jie Kou*

Sept. 6-10, *Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong*

▲ **THE THISTLES OF BARAGAN** A tale of how the Rumanian peasants were oppressed and exploited by the landlords and reactionary regime at the beginning of the 20th century and how they came to understand that only revolution could bring them liberation.

Sept. 1-5, *Shoudu Theatre, Peking Theatre*

Sept. 6-10, *Shoudu Cinema, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema, Xin Jie Kou*

▲ **JOURNEY BEYOND THREE SEAS** A colour film in two parts jointly produced by Soviet and Indian film workers; the adventures of a Russian traveller and his friendship with the Indian people. Dubbed in Chinese.

Sept. 1-5, *Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong*
Sept. 6-10, *Shengli, Xi Dan Workers' Club*

▲ **BEHIND THE PINE FOREST** A Rumanian film dubbed in Chinese. A Rumanian soldier, forced to fight for the fascists during World War II, comes to

understand the true nature of the fascist war when he sees the ruins of his native village. He finally turns against the tyrants.

Sept. 1-5, *Guang An Men, Peking Workers' Club, Zhongyang, Xi Dan Workers' Club, Shengli*

▲ **THE WRECKS** A Polish feature film tells how two Polish divers, although they both love the same girl, become firm friends as they toil with a salvage crew in the depths of the sea. Dubbed in Chinese.

Sept. 1-5, *Xi Dan Workers' Club, Shengli*

Sept. 6-10, *Guang An Men, Peking Workers' Club, Zhongyang*

EXHIBITIONS

▲ **CHINESE NAVAL ART** Over 190 paintings including woodcuts, oil paintings, water-colours, posters and scissor-cuts by amateur naval artists. Sponsored by the All-China Artists' Union. Open daily 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

At the *Gallery of the Artists' Union*

▲ **FUKIEN HANDICRAFTS** A varied show of famous Fukien handicrafts: lacquer ware, porcelain ware, artificial silk flowers, wood carvings, stone carvings, bamboo articles, etc. Open daily 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

At *Beihai Park*

▲ **POLISH LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS** 115 paintings. Oil paintings, water-colours and pen drawings by famous Polish artists from 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. Open daily 10:00-12:00 a.m., 2:00-8:00 p.m.

At *Building Construction Exhibition Centre*

SPORTS

Don't miss the grandest event in China's sports history. **THE FIRST NATIONAL SPORTS MEET OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.** Football and the basketball championship games will take place in Peking between Sept. 1-7. Football Sept. 1, 4 & 7

At *Peking Stadium* and the newly built *Peking Workers' Stadium*

Basketball Sept. 4, 5 & 6

At *Peking Gymnasium; Beihai Stadium & Dong Chang An Jie Grounds*

PEKING PLANETARIUM

NEW FEATURE

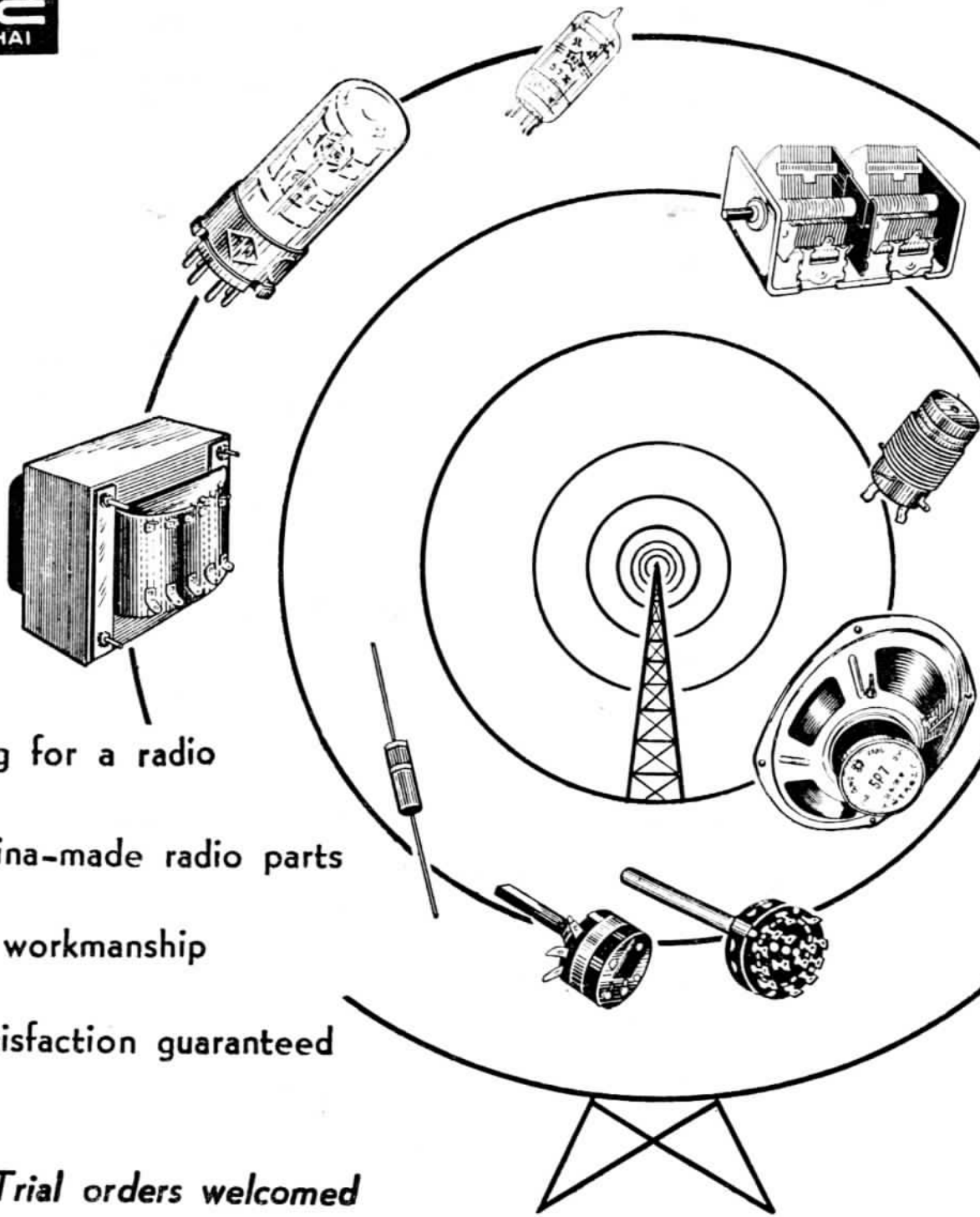
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- ❖ Oils, fats, cereals and animal by-products
- ❖ Tea, silk, foodstuffs, native produce and sundries

CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE (HONGKONG) LTD., 6 Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, will be pleased to look after all your travel arrangements



For full information, please write to

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