

PEKING REVIEW

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April 28, 1961

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A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE NEWS AND VIEWS

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Announcing

The Publication of the English Edition of Volume IV of the “Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung”

THE fourth volume of the *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung*, edited by the Committee for the Publication of the Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung, Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, has been translated into English. It will be published on May 1, 1961, by the Foreign Languages Press of China and distributed by Guozi Shudian, Peking, China.

The fourth volume of the *Selected Works* includes Comrade Mao Tse-tung's writings during the period from August 1945 to September 1949, that is, the period from the conclusion of the War of Resistance Against Japan to the founding of the People's Republic of China. This is the period of the Third Revolutionary Civil War, also known as the period of the Chinese People's War of Liberation. It was a new period in the great revolution of the Chinese people: the period of the decisive battle between armed revolution and armed counter-revolution in China. The decisive struggle between the two destinies, the two futures facing China — a new China of the broad masses of the people under the leadership of the proletariat, or the semi-colonial and semi-feudal old China under the dictatorship of the big landlords and big bourgeoisie — constitutes the basic content of this period. Under the correct leadership of the Chinese Communist Party headed by Comrade Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese people, after a four-year struggle, after a civil war of unprecedented scale, finally won a great countrywide victory, overthrowing the rule of imperialism and its lackeys and founding a new China. The fourth volume of the *Selected Works* is a great record of this victorious struggle.

The fourth volume of the *Selected Works* contains 70 writings by Comrade Mao Tse-tung. These articles are the crystallization of the experience of the Chinese revolution during the period of the Third Revolutionary Civil War, and the great achievements made by Comrade Mao Tse-tung in solving problems of the Chinese revolution by applying the scientific theory of Marxism-Leninism. These articles have played an immense role in mobilizing and organizing the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people.

The Foreign Languages Press

PEKING REVIEW

北京周報

(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
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ROUND THE WEEK

Right on the Dot

The nation's railway workers are in the limelight. Word last week from the railway lines that span the country was that punctuality of trains, both passenger and freight, had reached or approached the highest point in China's railway history. The two million strong railwaymen are going all out for another all-round rise in rail transport efficiency. They are making the trains carry more, faster, are streamlining the whole operation and with it all maintaining their outstanding safety record.

Everyone takes it for granted that their train will pull into the station right on the minute. But few really understand what it takes to achieve this. A modern railway network is a fabulously intricate mechanism. Failure on one sector affects the other. Making a train run "like clockwork" is not a job for the locomotive driver alone, but is the meshing of a thousand and one links not least of which is timely and thorough maintenance work, efficient loading and unloading, good equipment and facilities. It calls for close-knit co-ordination of all departments "right down the line" and the joint effort of everyone concerned from the man in the control tower to the porter on the platform.

Post-liberation railway operations in China have been noted for train punctuality. The continued mass campaigns to improve work and raise efficiency involving railway workers at every level have been a prime factor in achieving this record. These campaigns fire the initiative of the railwaymen and encourage them to contribute both brain and brawn to make the railway run better. Current successes are likewise the result of a mass movement launched in February.

The tremendous expansion of the national economy during the big leap of the past three years has enormously increased the burden of rail transport. To meet the demands managerial staff and workers in the railway departments turn first to heightening all-round efficiency, and the full utilization of existing lines and facilities.

Peking is one of those railway hubs which have set new records. Feb-

ruary's score in punctuality of departure and arrival of passenger trains reached 100 per cent and 95 per cent respectively. Freight train departure and arrival punctuality hit 98 and 91 per cent. Further improvement was reported last month. To make all this possible mechanics have put extra effort into checking and overhauling locomotives, maintenance squads checked and corrected every deficiency with an eagle eye, electricians installed and improved signals, and administrative staff and workers together streamlined and strengthened the overall work systems.

The drive for efficiency is still picking up speed. As members of the working class China's railway workers are fully aware that they are driving the train of history and they mean to bring it in on time!

Progress Report from Tibet

Panchen Erdeni's report to the Fifth Plenary Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Autonomous Region of Tibet held on April 2-13 spelt out a record of achievements that must cheer all progressive mankind as they watch the Tibetan people breaking the chains of feudal slavery once for all.

Panchen Erdeni had this to say:

Democratic reform, sweeping away the system of feudal serfdom, has been completed in 97 per cent of the agricultural districts, with a population of 870,000. Over two-thirds of the pastoral areas have already carried out the campaign of "three antis and two benefits," as the Tibetans call the movement against the reactionary rebellion, the *ula* system of forced labour and serfdom and to ensure benefits for both the herdsmen and livestock owners. In these areas, the old master-serf relationship between owners and herdsmen has been gradually transformed into one of wage employment while the legitimate interests of the livestock-owners are protected. This has increased the herdsmen's enthusiasm in caring for the livestock and in other productive work and also encouraged the owners to improve the management of their herds. Feudal prerogatives and the system of feudal exploitation and oppression have been



Carry More, Faster

Woodcut by Hsu Shih-tang

abolished in monasteries and temples and democratic ways of running them instituted. Political rights have been extended to the lamas and nuns and there is now genuine freedom of religious belief for all, lamas, nuns and laity.

In the wake of democratic reform, the organs of the people's state power have been set up in seven special administrative regions, one city and 72 counties. Large numbers of Tibetan administrative personnel have been trained, and many are already holding responsible posts in various fields of work. Most of these have come from among the ranks of the working people.

Big strides have been made in production, too. Tibet now has more than 13,000 agricultural mutual-aid teams embracing 140,000 peasant households. Last year the emancipated peasants reaped the biggest crop in the history of Tibet, recording a grain harvest 15 per cent greater than in 1959. Outstanding achievements are also scored in other fields.

Outlining the work for 1961, Panchen Erdeni said the chief tasks would be to continue democratic reform, consolidate the people's democratic dictatorship, and develop in a big way agriculture and food crops in particular while simultaneously advancing animal husbandry. Industry (handicrafts included), transport and telecommunications, finance, trade and culture, education and public health work will also expand.

Lenin's Birthday

April 22, the 91st anniversary of the birth of Lenin, was widely marked in

China. Special commemoration meetings were held in Peking, Shanghai, Harbin, Sian, Chengtu, Shenyang and other cities.

More than 1,500 attended the Peking meeting sponsored by the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association and presided over by its Vice-President, Kuo Mo-jo. Members of the diplomatic corps of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries were also present.

Ai Szu-chi, Vice-President of the Higher Party School of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, gave the main address at the meeting. He dealt with the brilliant victories scored by the ideas of Lenin, the great historical experience of the October Socialist Revolution and analysed the excellent current world situation.

Ai Szu-chi lauded the tremendous achievements of the Soviet Union in building socialism and communism. Hailing its achievement in science and technology, he particularly mentioned the recent successful flight of the first manned spaceship. Dealing with the great significance of the two Moscow meetings held in 1957 and 1960, Ai Szu-chi pointed out that the Moscow Statement had already shown itself to be a powerful force in advancing the worldwide struggle against imperialism and for world peace, national liberation, democracy and socialism. He declared that imperialism and the forces of reaction could never block the people of the world marching towards the goal shown by Marxism-Leninism.

Ai Szu-chi denounced the policies of war and aggression followed by the Kennedy Administration.

He also pointed out that the Communists of the world would unite closer on the basis of the Moscow Statement to oppose the betrayal and disruptive activities of the Yugoslav revisionists and safeguard the revolutionary teachings of Lenin.

He discussed the tremendous achievements scored by the Chinese people in revolution and construction, under the leadership of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party headed by Comrade Mao Tse-tung and guided by the principle of integrating the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism with concrete practice of the Chinese revolution. He expressed confidence that greater victories would be gained for Marxism-Leninism in China.

The Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Ai Szu-chi pointed out, have always laid special stress on educating the Party and the whole people in the spirit of proletarian internationalism in accordance with the teachings of Lenin. Comrade Mao Tse-tung has always taught the Chinese people to safeguard and strengthen our unity with the socialist countries and the unity with the Communist Parties of all countries. The unity between China and the Soviet Union and the unity between the Chinese and Soviet Parties, said the speaker, are of the utmost importance to the unity of the entire socialist camp and the international communist movement. The Chinese people will work untiringly to strengthen their unity with the Soviet Union, and with other socialist countries, the unity of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin

America and of all the people in the world who cherish peace and freedom.

Spring Tea

Tea connoisseurs are crowding the counters of tea shops in the southern provinces for a taste of the year's first crop of China's many famous teas.

The first crop of the season is being picked in all the major tea growing areas. The hills around West Lake in Hangchow, famous for both its lovely scenery and its mild Lungching green tea, promise an excellent crop. People's commune members there started picking on March 22. The first crop is of the young, tender semi-transparent leaves described as the "tips of the birds' bills." After careful processing these become the famous "Mingqian" tea.

First pickings are also reported from Fukien, Anhwei, Szechuan, Yunnan and other tea-producing centres. Szechuan's famous "Chuanhong" and "Mengting" teas are already on the market.

Spring tea grows fast. It calls for intensive cultivation and careful tending. Veteran tea-farmers say "leaves culled three days earlier are a delicacy but those picked three days late are 'grass,'" so people's communes in the tea-producing areas are deploying a big labour force this year in at their tea gardens to get the best of the best.

While their first crop of tea is being gathered in, tea-farmers throughout the country are making plans to reap a better harvest in general this year. In Yunnan Province tea cultivation dates back some 1,700 years ago. All that wealth of tradition and modern knowledge too was drawn upon at a special conference held there recently to work out concrete measures to get a big harvest this year. This southwestern province has steadily increased its tea output in recent years. Tea cultivation has been continuously extended. During the past three years its output has increased at an annual rate of 15.85 per cent. Last year's natural calamities did not spare Yunnan's tea groves, but its output was still 60 per cent more than in 1957. Quality also has improved steadily; its green and Dienhong black teas both enjoy enormous popularity on the home as well as the world markets.

All-Round Doctors

Last week in Liaoning Province, northeastern China, a group of doctors

of a new type completed their training and received their diplomas. They are the province's first group of doctors of Western medicine who three years ago took leave of absence from their clinics to study traditional Chinese medicine at the Liaoning Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

These 80 graduates are all established physicians. Many of them are leading practitioners from various hospitals and instructors in medical colleges in the province. They began their study of traditional Chinese medicine in response to the call of the Party to medical practitioners of the Western school to study traditional medicine, which forms part of the legacy of the Chinese people, and so help improve traditional medicine as well as advance China's medical science in general.

Their studies under well-known traditional physicians included courses on the basic theories of Chinese medicine and their practical application.

They will apply their knowledge of Western and traditional Chinese medicine in both clinical practice and research. On the basis of their newly acquired knowledge they have already compiled new lecture material on pathology, diagnostics, infectious diseases and other subjects.

The Liaoning Institute, set up in 1958, has an enrolment of 500 and a faculty of 80 veteran practitioners. It is one of many similar institutes in almost every province and major city in the country which are training medical personnel versed in both the Western and traditional Chinese schools of medicine.

A Commune Called East Wind

Members of the East Wind People's Commune in Sinkiang look back at last year's record with quiet satisfaction. It is true that nature was ruthless towards them. Their farms were heavily hit first by drought, then by hailstorm. But the members of that Wusu County rural commune gave nature a run for its money, put up a stiff fight, kept their heads above water and finally emerged with a food crop bigger than 1957's.

Situated in a region inhabited by Sinkiang's many nationalities, the East Wind People's Commune boasts an assorted membership of Hans, Kazakhs, Uighurs, Huis, Mongolians and Sibos. It is composed of five pro-

duction brigades — the membership of two is mainly Han, the other two Uighur and Hui and the fifth a combination of all the nationalities mentioned above. In the past, the Hans, Uighurs and Huis engaged in farming while the Kazakhs devoted themselves to animal husbandry. Mixed as the region was, each nationality formed a unit of its own within the villages. Disputes and quarrels were commonplace. Livestock being no respectors of demarcation lines frequently wandered into each other's fields and grazed on the crops while at other times the farmers themselves encroached on their neighbour's pastures. It was only after liberation and through the painstaking application of the Communist Party's national policy that the estrangement among the nationalities was finally eliminated and relations improved. Agricultural co-operation had helped enormously to boost output in the region, but since the co-ops were more or less strictly based on the village, co-ordinated efforts on a large scale were ruled out. The region is rich in virgin lands and rolling pastures which, due to lack of water, remain uncultivated. The emergence of the commune wrought a great change. Even in its first year of existence, a great number of canals and reservoirs were built by the joint efforts of the once alienated nationalities, now brought together in the people's commune. Consequently in 1959 and 1960 some 25,000 *mu* of wastelands came under cultivation and more than 15,000 *mu* were added to the acreage sown to food crops.

Differences between the nationalities were eliminated in the most natural and effective way — by working together in a common cause. The Hans, more skilled in agriculture, initiated the Kazakhs of the production brigades in the use of many of their farming techniques while the Kazakhs in turn passed on their age-old wisdom of animal husbandry. Together they have extended the cultivated area of the commune by a third, achieved a marked increase in both grain and cotton production, and chalked up a 30 per cent increase in livestock. Even more important has been the building of a solid fraternal friendship. Now as a measure to further deepen their understanding, the East Wind Commune's Han, Kazakh and Uighur members are learning to speak each other's language.

Sino-Laotian Joint Statement

- * The two parties reached agreed views on the Laotian situation, the relations between the two countries and important international questions.
- * They hope the forthcoming international conference will ensure the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Laos and non-interference in its internal affairs.
- * They protest against the U.S. decision to establish a military assistance advisory group in preparation for direct participation in the Laotian civil war.
- * They agreed that the remnant Chiang Kai-shek troops must be cleared off Laotian territory.
- * The two countries have decided to formally establish diplomatic relations and strengthen economic and cultural co-operation.

The following joint statement of the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Chou En-lai and the Premier of the Royal Government of Laos Prince Souvanna Phouma was issued at Hangchow, China, on April 25.—Ed.

AT the invitation of the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Chou En-lai, the Premier of the Royal Government of Laos Prince Souvanna Phouma visited the People's Republic of China from April 22 to 25, 1961. The Chairman of the Neo Lao Haksat Prince Souphanouvong paid a friendly visit to China at the same time.

During the visit, Premier Souvanna Phouma and Prince Souphanouvong were received by the Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Mao Tse-tung, who held cordial conversations with them.

During the visit, talks were held by Premier Chou En-lai and Premier Souvanna Phouma on the Laotian situation, the relations between the two countries, important international questions and other questions of common interest to both countries. Also taking part in the talks were, on the Chinese side: Marshal Chen Yi, Vice-Premier of the State Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs; Chang Han-fu, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Wu Hsiu-chuan, Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; and on the Laotian side: Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Neo Lao Haksat; Quinim Pholsena, Minister of Information; and Prince Sisoumang Sisaleumsak, Secretary of State for Rural Affairs. The talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality, friendship and full understanding. Agreed views were reached by the two parties on the questions discussed.

At the talks, the two parties expressed the agreed view that the current grave situation in Laos is a result of the fact that certain member states of SEATO headed by the United States of America have supported the rebel elements in Laos, violated the Geneva agreements and interfered in the internal affairs of Laos. The eager desire of the Laotian people is to achieve peace, neutrality,

national amity, state unity and freedom from foreign interference. The two parties reaffirmed that it is necessary, in accordance with the provisions of the 1954 Geneva agreements, to ensure the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Laos and non-interference in its internal affairs; and they were of the identical view that the holding of an enlarged meeting of the Geneva Conference with the participation of fourteen nations, as proposed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, constitutes the only effective avenue to a peaceful settlement of the Laotian question. The two parties expressed the ardent hope that the countries concerned will, at the forthcoming international conference, make joint efforts and strictly ensure the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Laos and non-interference in its internal affairs, so as to realize the aspirations of the Laotian people, expand the area of peace and neutrality in Southeast Asia and safeguard peace in Indo-China and the whole of Asia.

The two parties deemed it necessary to point out that the U.S. Government, while expressing itself in favour of settling the Laotian question peacefully, is still stepping up its military intervention in Laos. The recent decision of the U.S. Government to establish a so-called "Military Assistance Advisory Group" in Laos is a serious step taken by the United States in preparation for direct participation in the civil war in Laos. The two Governments strongly protest against this step.

The two parties also discussed the question of the remnant Chiang Kai-shek troops running riot in the Sino-Laotian border areas and noted that foreign interventionists are using these remnant troops to expand the civil war in Laos and threaten the security of China. The two parties were of the agreed opinion that, for the sake of the tranquillity and friendship of the two countries, these remnant Chiang Kai-shek troops must be cleared off Laotian territory.

Premier Chou En-lai stated to Premier Souvanna Phouma that the Chinese Government and people resolutely support the Royal Government of Laos led by him and the policy of peace, neutrality, national amity and state unity pursued by it. The Chinese Government consistently holds that this policy not only is in the interest

of the Laotian people, but also helps safeguard peace in Indo-China and the whole of Asia. The Chinese Government and people are glad to see that the Royal Laotian Government led by Premier Souvanna Phouma, with the energetic support of the Neo Lao Haksat, has united all the patriotic forces in Laos in victoriously waging a just and patriotic struggle against foreign intervention. As it has done before, the Chinese Government will give resolute support to this struggle of the Laotian people.

The two parties expressed indignation at the armed aggression to which Cuba was subjected not long ago, and warmly congratulated the Cuban people on the important victory they won in their struggle to repulse this armed aggression.

During the talks, the two parties reviewed with satisfaction the fact that since Prince Souvanna Phouma resumed the premiership of the Royal Laotian Government in August 1960, relations between the two countries have undergone further development. The two parties hold that to continuously consolidate and develop the friendly and good-neighbourly relations between China and Laos fully conforms to the desires and fundamental interests of the two peoples. Therefore, the two Governments have decided to formally establish diplomatic relations and exchange diplomatic missions of the rank of ambassador. The two parties noted with satisfaction that

the two Governments already exchanged notes in March 1961 on the question of exchanging Economic and Cultural Missions and decided to strengthen economic and cultural co-operation between the two countries through corresponding economic and cultural agreements to be signed in the near future. In order to help the development of the Laotian economy and facilitate communication between the two countries, the Chinese Government, at the request of the Royal Laotian Government, has agreed to help the Kingdom of Laos build a motor road.

The Royal Laotian Government expressed admiration for the tremendous achievements gained since 1956 by the Chinese people under the wise leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the state leaders of China. At the same time, the Royal Laotian Government once again expressed the deepest thanks to the Chinese Government and people for the generous and selfless assistance they had hitherto given to the Royal Government.

The two parties expressed the deep conviction that the present visit to China by Premier Souvanna Phouma has further strengthened the traditional friendship between the Chinese and Laotian peoples, and that the relations between the two countries will certainly develop with each passing day on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the Bandung spirit.

April 25, 1961

Premier Souvanna Phouma in China

PEKING, under warm skies, gave a happy welcome to Prince Souvanna Phouma, Premier of the Royal Laotian Government, who arrived here on April 22. Peking citizens have the most cordial memories of the Prince's visit to China in August 1956, which made so great a contribution to strengthening the friendship between the peoples of China and Laos. They were elated that this time Prince Phouma was accompanied by Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Neo Lao Haksat Party.

A crowd of 10,000 people gathered at the Peking airport to greet the two royal visitors and their party. The national flags of China and Laos flew side by side in the spring breeze. Banners and flowers and the beat of drums and cymbals welcomed the Laotian guests. Present at the airport were Premier Chou En-lai, Vice-Premier Chen Yi and well-known personages from all walks of life. Premier Chou En-lai made a speech of welcome. Addressing his welcomers, Premier Phouma said that he was very much moved to come again to Peking and that "there is no obstacle to our friendship."

Rally of Welcome and Banquet

On April 23, the capital held a big rally to welcome the distinguished Laotian guests. Following the playing of the Laotian and Chinese national anthems, Mayor Peng Chen of Peking delivered the opening speech. He paid

tribute to the Laotian people for their great victories in their patriotic and just struggle against foreign intervention. He declared again that the Chinese people consistently support the Laotian people's just stand. His speech was warmly applauded by the more than 10,000 people present. Mayor Peng Chen severely condemned U.S. imperialism for its crimes of aggression and intervention in the internal affairs of Laos, and exposed the double-dealing tactics of U.S. imperialism in both agreeing to settling the Laotian question by peaceful means and simultaneously stepping up its armed intervention against Laos.

In his speech at the rally, Premier Souvanna Phouma expressed his confidence that with their courage and the support of the neutral and socialist countries, the Laotian people would certainly realize their wish for peace and neutrality. On behalf of the Laotian people, he expressed his support for the Chinese people's stand in regard to Taiwan and the restoration of the rightful place of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations. Prince Phouma's friendly words time and again evoked warm applause from his audience.

That same evening, in honour of the Laotian guests, Premier Chou En-lai gave a banquet attended by more than a thousand persons. Speaking at the banquet, Premier Chou said: The situation at present is extremely favourable to the people of all countries in their struggle

for peace and opposition to aggression. The heroic Cuban people have triumphantly defeated the invading mercenaries of the United States. Just as the Cuban people could make U.S. armed aggression end in ignominious failure, so can the Laotian people likewise defeat all the intrigues and plots of the United States. Premier Chou emphatically declared that if the countries concerned have the sincere desire to settle the Laotian question peacefully, it should not be difficult, at an enlarged meeting of the Geneva Conference, to reach agreement for the effective assurance of the independence, peace and neutrality of Laos. This is a touch-stone for testing whether or not the United States has the sincere desire for a peaceful settlement of the Laotian question. Premier Chou described this visit to China by Princes Souvanna Phouma and Souphanouvong as a big event in Sino-Laotian relations.

In the name of himself, his brother Prince Souphanouvong and his colleagues, Prince Phouma thanked Premier Chou En-lai and the Chinese people for the hospitality accorded them.

During their stay in Peking, the distinguished guests from Laos paid a visit to the Summer Palace, the well-known beauty spot of the capital.

On April 24, accompanied by Premier Chou En-lai and Vice-Premier Chen Yi, Prince Souvanna Phouma, Prince Souphanouvong and their colleagues left Peking for Hangchow by air. There they rested by the West Lake, enjoying a boat ride on the lake and visits to local beauty spots and historical sites. On April 25, they concluded their friendly visit to China and left via Kunming for a visit to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

On the same day that Premier Phouma arrived in Peking, a ten-member Delegation of North Laos of the Laotian Royal Government headed by Kham Pheng Boupha, representative of Premier Phouma, arrived at Kunming to pay a friendly visit at the invitation of Yu Yichuan, Governor of China's Yunnan Province.

New Development of Sino-Laotian Friendly Relations

The visit of these distinguished Laotian guests has immensely improved friendly relations between China and Laos. *Renmin Ribao's* editorial of April 26 says that the joint statement of Premier Chou En-lai and Premier Souvanna Phouma showed that the decisions of the two Governments to formally establish diplomatic relations and exchange diplomatic missions of the rank of ambassador have laid a solid foundation for the further development of friendly, good-neighbourly relations between the two countries.

Recalling the traditional friendship which has for long existed between the peoples of these two close neighbouring countries, the editorial says: "The two peoples always sympathize with and support each other in their respective struggles for national independence and against imperialist domination and aggression. During the years of the Second World War, they jointly resisted Japanese imperialist aggression. In the postwar period, the Chinese people stood firmly on the side of the Laotian people in their struggle against French and U.S. imperialism. The historical contacts between the two countries were gradually restored after the 1954 Geneva Conference. The first visit paid by Premier Souvanna Phouma to China in August 1956 particularly created favourable conditions for the establishment of friendly relations between our two countries. But later on because U.S. imperialism did everything possible to wreck the Geneva agreements and interfered in the internal affairs of Laos, the development of these friendly relations between our two countries met with serious obstacles. Last August, when Prince Souvanna Phouma once again led the Royal Laotian Government, friendly relations between our two countries advanced another step. These facts fully demonstrate that it was only due to obstruction and sabotage by imperialism that friendly relations between China and Laos did not develop smoothly and rapidly. Now that the two Governments have decided to establish formal diplomatic relations, friendly co-operation between the two countries will steadily develop on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the Bandung spirit. This is another heavy blow to the U.S. imperialist scheme to sow discord and undermine friendship and solidarity among the Asian peoples."

The editorial declares that the Sino-Laotian joint statement accords with the common interests and aspirations of the peoples of the two countries and makes important contributions to the promotion of the peaceful settlement of the Laotian question, to the extension of the area of peace and neutrality in Southeast Asia and the safeguarding of peace in Indo-China and throughout Asia. In conclusion, the editorial expresses the conviction that the heroic Laotian people will certainly be able to defeat every aggressive plot of the foreign interventionists, achieve victory, and make Laos an independent, free and prosperous country.

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"We're With You, Cuba!"

ALL China followed the fast-moving events in the Caribbean with a keen sense of participation from the first breaking of the news of the U.S. armed aggression against Cuba. This was fully expressed in the Chinese Government's statement pledging all-out support for Cuba. The Chinese people know from their own experience that a people which has stood up is invincible. They have full confidence in the victory of the Cuban people. When that victory was finally announced, the whole nation cheered and rejoiced. Rallies and demonstrations greeted the important victory of the Cuban people in wiping out the U.S. hirelings. They condemned U.S. imperialism for its vicious attack on Cuba and pledged fresh resolve to give every support to the Cuban people in their revolutionary struggle and in defeating every new interventionist plot hatched in Wall Street.

The Cuban people's resolution, heroism and grit in the face of the enemies have evoked the deepest public admiration. The slogan: "Cuba si, Yankees no!" has evoked a powerful echo here.

Chairman Mao Receives Cuban Cultural Delegation

On April 19, Chairman Mao Tse-tung received in Nanchang the members of the Cuban Cultural Delegation led by Minister of Education Armando Hart Davalos, and had a long and cordial talk with them.

Chairman Mao said to the Cuban guests: China and Cuba are two friendly countries. We help and support each other. Our aim is one, that is, to oppose imperialism. U.S. imperialism is the biggest imperialism. It oppresses not only us but also you. It oppresses people all over the world. In some countries which are not imperialist, there are some imperialist running dogs. We must oppose not only imperialism but also the running dogs of the im-

perialists. He also wished the Cuban people victory in their struggle against U.S. imperialist aggression.

Mass Rallies

On April 21, mass victory rallies were held in nearly every major city in China. In Peking, 600,000 people participated; in Shanghai, Shenyang and Wuhan, 500,000; in Tientsin and Sian, 400,000. Tens of thousands demonstrated in Canton, Chengtu, Huhhot and Urumchi. In the smaller cities too and in the countryside, Cuba was on the lips of the millions at meetings and rallies.

The biggest mass rally in Peking with more than 100,000 people attending was in the Peking Workers' Stadium. Scores of meetings were held simultaneously in the various municipal districts and suburbs.

All the stands at the Peking Workers' Stadium and the centre of the bowl were crowded. A forest of banners carried in many forms the demand: Stop U.S. imperialist aggression against Cuba! Peking workers, coming from the factories which produce goods ordered by Cuba, pledged to go all out to boost production in support of the heroic Cuban people. "The armed aggression of the U.S. gangsters has failed; their attempt to strangle the Cuban revolution by economic blockade will also fail. China's workers resolutely support Cuba!" This was their message to their Cuban brothers. Peasants from the suburbs who have heroically defended the gains of the revolution from the attacks of U.S. imperialists and their lackeys deeply sympathize with their Cuban brothers and support their struggle. Peking students, with their glorious anti-imperialist tradition, have written thousands of letters in protest against the U.S. imperialist aggression. People's militia units came with their arms. Among them were many who had beaten the U.S. aggressors in the Korean war. They reminded the rally that there is only one way



Peking rally in support of the Cuban people's struggle against U.S. armed aggression

to deal with the U.S. imperialist paper tiger—a blow on the snout! P.L.A. men, office workers and people from various other trades and professions were there in force.

Premier Chou En-lai attended the rally. Peng Chen, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Mayor of Peking, made the opening speech. Kuo Mo-jo, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Chairman of the China Peace Committee, representatives from the democratic parties, trade unions, youth and women organizations and people's militia also spoke. Other speakers included Cuban Ambassador Oscar Pino Santos, Armando Hart Davalos, Minister of Education of Cuba and head of the visiting Cuban cultural delegation, and friends from Africa and Brazil. All the speakers roundly denounced U.S. imperialism. Their speeches were warmly applauded.

650 Million People's Support

In his opening speech, Peng Chen said: "Since Kennedy assumed office, the United States Government has uttered honeyed words and made various peace gestures to cover up its intensified activities of arms expansion, war preparations, aggression and expansion. This has led some people to think that U.S. policy has changed. But is this the fact? U.S. gangsterism against Cuba is the best answer. We all see very clearly now that whether it is Eisenhower or Kennedy in power, the nature of imperialism will never change."

"U.S. armed aggression against Cuba," Peng Chen added, "is by no means an isolated act. It is a component part of U.S. aggression throughout the world."

He went on to say: "From the series of U.S. crimes of aggression, and particularly from its armed aggression against Cuba, people the world over have seen ever more clearly that U.S. imperialism is their common enemy."

"The Chinese people," he pointed out, "have consistently supported the revolutionary cause of the Cuban people. Like the Cuban people, the Chinese people are subjected to U.S. aggression. The United States of America is occupying China's territory of Taiwan, interfering in China's internal affairs, and incessantly violating China's territorial sea and air space. The Cuban people's struggle against the U.S. aggressors is also the Chinese people's struggle. The Chinese Government has declared that it will adopt all necessary measures in every field to support the Cuban people's just and patriotic struggle. The 650 million Chinese people will remain for ever the most loyal comrades-in-arms of the Cuban people."

All the speakers warmly congratulated the Cuban people on the victories they have won. They stressed that there must be sharpened vigilance against U.S. imperialism, because "make trouble, fail, make trouble again, fail again . . . till their doom" is the logic of imperialism and of all the reactionaries that they will not renounce.

The rally sent a message to Prime Minister Fidel Castro, pledging support to the Cuban people against U.S. imperialist armed aggression.

The voice of the people of Peking heard at the rally represents the common voice of China's 650 million. Let it resound on the other side of the Pacific! It tells the people of the world that the Chinese and Cuban peoples face a common enemy and that they stand together shoulder to shoulder on one battleline.

What Kennedy Told Us

On April 20, following the collapse of the invasion of Cuba by U.S. mercenary troops, U.S. President Kennedy spoke before the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Following are excerpts from "Observer's" commentary on this speech, the full text of which was printed along with it in "Renmin Ribao" on April 23. Subheads are ours.—Ed.

THE whole world rejoices over the happy news that the Cuban people have won a great victory in their struggle against U.S. armed aggression. But amidst this universal jubilation there is a single lone discordant note of sorrow. At the very beginning of his address President Kennedy lamented, "On that unhappy island [read: Cuba], as in so many other arenas of the contest for freedom, the news has grown worse instead of better."

The stand of imperialism is thus diametrically opposed to that of the people all over the world. What is considered very good by the people of the world is regarded as an awful mess by imperialism. And what the people of the world rejoice over fills the imperialists with sorrow. This truth has been borne out by countless events in history and the current invasion of Cuba is no exception.

The military adventure against Cuba launched by the Kennedy Administration has met with a costly defeat. The

group of mercenaries whom the U.S. paymaster had so long maintained, fostered and set such store by was wiped out at one stroke; and the Kennedy Administration has been universally condemned for its gangsterism. Small wonder Kennedy felt so broken-hearted in his address.

Nevertheless, the Kennedy address is noteworthy not because it discloses what the U.S. Government has already done, but because it reveals what the U.S. Government intends to do in the future.

In his address Kennedy declared piously, "Any unilateral intervention in the absence of an external attack upon ourselves or an ally would have been contrary to our traditions and to our international obligations." To put it another way, this means that only on the condition of "an external attack" on the United States or on its "ally" would the United States carry out "any unilateral intervention." Here Kennedy's "premises" contradict his "conclusions." One of the premises is that one's own country is subjected to an external attack. In that event, any country has the right to defend itself or resist, and no question whatsoever of "intervention" is involved, let alone "unilateral intervention." But such confusion in logic is by no means the most salient feature of Kennedy's address. The main part of the story is in what follows.

"Our restraint is not inexhaustible," Kennedy continued. "Should it ever appear that the Inter-American doctrine of non-interference merely conceals or excuses a policy of non-action, if the nations of this hemisphere should fail to meet their commitments against outside communist penetration, then I want it clearly understood that this government will not hesitate in meeting its primary obligations, which are the security of our nation."

From this it can be seen that Kennedy makes two reservations concerning "unilateral intervention." One is that if the United States intends to interfere in Cuba or any other country in Latin America and the other Latin American countries are not willing to go along, the United States can go it alone. And the other is that if the United States considers a certain Latin American country not energetic enough in its opposition to communism, the United States can also carry out its own intervention against it. What is more, the United States will "not hesitate" to do so. These two "reservations" throw completely overboard the two above-mentioned premises. This means that, no matter what the circumstances, the U.S. Government can carry out intervention against another country under the pretext of defending "the security of our nation." These words of Kennedy most accurately set out the essence of the U.S. policy of intervention.

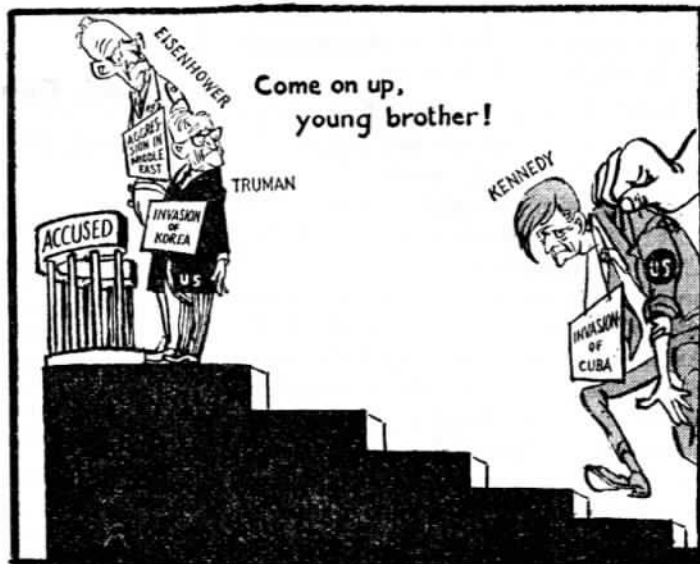
The whole secret of the U.S. policy of foreign aggression lies in these words. Though Kennedy linked them to the topic of "non-intervention," what he said was: as long as the United States uses the pretext of "defending" its "security," it may carry out acts of intervention any where in the world; it intervened in the past and will continue to do so in the future; and what is more, it will step up its intervention and carry it to the end.

"Security" — Pretext for U.S. Aggression

How many times indeed has the United States carried out aggression under the pretext of "defending" its security! It was all for the "security of the United States" that it suppressed the revolutionary struggle of the Greek people in 1947, forcibly occupied China's Taiwan in 1950, launched the war of aggression against Korea in 1950, subverted the legal Government of Iran in 1953, intervened in Indo-China in 1954, sent troops to Lebanon in 1958 and supported the rebel clique in Laos to provoke a civil war there in 1960. There is really no end to this listing. "Security, Security," how many crimes have been committed in thy name! As a matter of fact, in the mouth of U.S. imperialism, the word "security" is merely a synonym for aggressive designs.

The result of the recent invasion of Cuba by U.S. mercenary troops is really a terribly bitter blow to the U.S. Government. After an agonizing reappraisal, Kennedy let it be known that he would draw "useful lessons" from the defeat of this armed aggression against Cuba. It would not be bad if he really did this. But let us see what "lessons" he has actually drawn.

The first lesson, as he admitted, was that "the forces of communism are not to be underestimated in Cuba or anywhere else in the world." Thank goodness, the imperialist overlords who like to bury their heads in the sand like ostriches have for once opened their eyes to take a look at the world of reality. The strength of the peoples of the world cannot be underestimated: it is invincible. This is a truth already proved by countless historical facts



Then there were three . . .

Cartoon by Chiang Fan

and yet the U.S. imperialists have all along refused to recognize it. U.S. imperialism has fought many battles and has suffered as many defeats. One of the fundamental causes of this is that it refuses to recognize or underestimate the strength of the peoples of the world. Isn't it a bit too late for Kennedy to have discovered this lesson today? Nevertheless, even today, if the Kennedy Administration is really willing to accept this lesson, it can still become a bit wiser for it. Kennedy's whole address, however, shows that this is not the case.

As soon as he turned to the second "lesson," Kennedy underestimated again the strength of the Latin American peoples and threw the first "lesson" to the winds. He said that the United States, "in concert with all the free nations of this hemisphere, must take an ever closer and more realistic look at the menace of external communist intervention and domination in Cuba," because "a nation of Cuba's size is less a threat to our survival than it is a base for subverting the survival of other free nations throughout the hemisphere."

Following Kennedy's logic, what one cannot understand is: first of all, why, if Cuba is "no great threat" to the United States, should the U.S. Government repeatedly resort to the most vicious means even including armed aggression against the Cuban people, and secondly, why, if Cuba is such a great "threat" to the Latin American countries, it is not the other American countries but only the United States that is in such a hurry to demand that the countries of the Western hemisphere take "an ever closer and more realistic look at the menace" in Cuba.

By saying that "a nation of Cuba's size" would pose no great threat to the United States, Kennedy only admitted a small part of the truth. The fact is that Cuba poses no threat at all to the United States nor to any Latin American country, while the threats and aggression against the Latin American countries come from no other quarter than U.S. imperialism itself. Kennedy sought to use the shopworn pretext of "the communist menace" to divert the attention of the Latin American peoples and blackmail the Latin American countries into obeying the U.S. Government's order to interfere in Cuba. This precisely shows that Kennedy has forgotten his first "lesson" and underestimated the strength of the Latin American

peoples. In the Americas of today, it is not Cuba but the U.S. Government itself which stands isolated.

Apart from a handful of countries like Guatemala which are completely under U.S. control, most of the 20 Latin American countries do not support U.S. intervention against Cuba. The governments and parliaments of quite a few countries there have even openly expressed disapproval of it. As for the broad masses of the people of the Latin American countries, at the very first word of U.S. armed aggression against Cuba, they, united as one, broke out into a thundering roar: "Defend Cuba!" and "Cuba si, Yankees no!" and vied with one another in joining the volunteers to aid Cuba and resist U.S. aggression. The same calls were also heard from among the masses of the people of the United States who too rose in action. If Cuba is a "threat" to the Latin American peoples while the U.S. Government is their "protector," why is it then that thousands upon thousands of people have cried: "Cuba si, Yankees no!" and joined the volunteers to aid Cuba and resist U.S. aggression? Kennedy obviously cannot answer this question.

Kennedy's third "lesson" is: "It is clearer than ever that we face a relentless struggle in every corner of the globe." The struggle is indeed relentless. It is a life-and-death struggle between U.S. imperialism and the peoples of various countries. Lumumba was murdered in cold blood; U.S. shells explode on Laotian soil; tens of thousands of patriots and ordinary citizens are done to death in south Korea and south Viet Nam every year. . . . In face of this situation, the people of various countries absolutely cannot remain "mild, kind, courteous, restrained and magnanimous" (as the Chinese saying goes) towards U.S. imperialism and its lackeys. Their forbearance exhausted, they feel compelled to rise in resistance.

The Leopard Won't Change His Spots

The revolutionary storm against U.S. imperialism and its lackeys now rising in Asia, Africa and Latin America is the direct outcome of the U.S. imperialist policies of war and aggression. And once such a revolutionary storm has broken out, it is indeed difficult to scare it away with a "missile" or confine it within "borders." It merges with the struggle in defence of world peace waged by the socialist camp and the people of all countries, with the liberation struggle of all colonies and dependent countries and with the revolutionary struggles in all capitalist countries to form a broad international united front which has placed U.S. imperialism—ringleader of aggressive blocs and pillar of colonialism—in an unprecedentedly isolated and unfavourable position. Thus, in Kennedy's words, "this bitter struggle reached its climax in the late 1950s and the early 1960s." This "climax" is none other than the fact that the strength of the socialist camp is daily more markedly surpassing that of the imperialist camp, the strength of the national liberation movement is

Jack Cornered

— A Nursery Rhyme for
Little Men —

*Little Jack Kennedy,
Longing for a remedy
To cure sick America's ills,
Hates the sight of Havana
And the teeming savannah
Of the Cuban revolutionary way.*

*"This will never do!" cried Jack.
Wall Street shouted: "Attack!"*

*Jack thrust in his hand, and a hireling band
With a shout!*

*But then,—neither hand nor band could get out,
Caught fast in the grip of the Cubans! Cried they:
"This is the Cuban revolutionary way!"*

*So there sits Jack, sad-sack, in the devil of a stew.
The moral is: When you see a New Frontier
Never bite off more than you can chew.*



daily more markedly surpassing that of neo- and old colonialism, the forces of peace are daily more markedly surpassing the forces of war and the world situation has undergone a great change in which the East wind has prevailed over the West wind.

Kennedy is aware of the sad prospects of U.S. imperialism. But he fails to draw any useful conclusions from it. He swore to make every effort to reappraise and readjust various forces, tactics and organizations, "to intensify our [U.S.] effort for a struggle" and to put up a last-ditch fight. Confronted with the giant of history, Kennedy is playing the role of Don Quixote by stubbornly and recklessly trying to continue to carry out imperialist policies and taking upon himself a burden which is beyond his power to bear. No matter how furious Kennedy may get and no matter how he may curse almost every socialist country and all those who will not follow in the footsteps of the Yankees, the U.S. policies of aggression and war will inevitably further educate all people who refuse to be slaves and all lovers of peace, and awaken and unite them to wage a resolute struggle. In the ever deepening, urgent struggle that goes on every day, they will step by step win one victory after another, and region after region and country after country will achieve freedom, independence and liberation from the rule of U.S. imperialism and its lackeys.

If it can be said that Kennedy's address as a whole has any "main theme," it is his emphatic declaration: "Let me then make clear as the President of the United States that I am determined upon our system's survival and success, regardless of the cost and regardless of the peril." Every person in the world who cherishes peace, freedom, independence and social progress must bear these words of the U.S. President fast in his mind, maintain constant vigilance against any new adventures by the U.S. gangsters and stand ever ready to hit back at any of their provocations, hitting them harder every time. This is the useful lesson which Kennedy's address has taught us.

U.S.-Directed Invasion Smashed in 72-Hour Fight

by KUNG MAI

AT 4:30 a.m. on the morning of April 17, a contingent of about 1,600 mercenaries organized, supported and trained by the U.S. imperialists landed on the swampy Zapata coast in south Las Villas Province, Central Cuba. They had come from U.S. bases in Guatemala, travelled in U.S. transports and were escorted by U.S. B-26 and 29 bombers and F-86 fighter planes, two U.S. destroyers and a U.S. submarine. Simultaneously, U.S. planes air dropped a group of paratroop mercenaries north of the swamp. Armed with U.S. Sherman tanks, cannons, bazookas, flame-throwers and other modern weapons, these pirates went into action against outnumbered local militiamen. In the first shock of their attack and with their stronger firepower, they occupied some areas in Playa Larga, Playa Giron and the Cavadonga Sugar Mill. As they pushed northward, they shot civilians in cold blood and burnt up homesteads.

The reactionaries flashed a message round the world: "The landing has begun." Yankee reactionaries and their lackeys alike shouted, "Victory!" Miro Cardona, leader of the Cuban counter-revolutionaries and mercenaries in the United States, proclaimed through the "Voice of America" that the "glorious day" of the "recovery" of Cuba had come. AP even reported that Colon, a small town on the central Cuban railway, had fallen. The reactionaries were so confident of victory that they sent Cardona's son and other "bigwigs" to their beachhead to take up "government" posts!

This U.S. armed intervention, much bigger in scale than the notorious 1954 Guatemala Incident, was carefully planned long in advance. The U.S. imperialists started to recruit Cuban counter-revolutionaries in exile a year ago. These they trained and sent to U.S. bases in Guatemala, Nicaragua and other Central American countries. Some were landed on the Cuban coast for spying and sabotage activities. Soon after Kennedy assumed office, Washington allotted fresh millions of dollars to these criminals. Not long ago, the Pentagon sent several submarines to study the Cuban coast and select spots for invasion landings.

Before the revolution, Zapata was a desolate area. The Cuban Revolutionary Government, however, did a considerable job of work to turn it into a rice-growing and recreational centre. The U.S. strategists picked it for their invasion because, firstly, poor communications conditions here made it fairly isolated and therefore easier to set up and consolidate a bridgehead, secondly, it is close to the remnant counter-revolutionary bases in the Escambray Mountains and thirdly, it is located at the strategic centre of the island of Cuba.

According to the plans prepared by the White House, the mercenary troops immediately upon landing were to set up beachhead strongholds, and an airfield was to be prepared for the arrival of the puppet "government"

already formed in the United States. The gentlemen in Washington had wishfully mapped out everything. They imagined that the whole island would be thrown into chaos as soon as the invasion force set foot on Cuban soil and U.S. bombers attacked its cities. This would give the counter-revolutionaries and their Fifth Column their long-awaited chance and the U.S. Government would then extend recognition to the puppet "provisional government."

Things, however, did not turn out as the U.S. imperialists wished. On the Zapata coast, the local militiamen, although vastly outnumbered, put up a valiant resistance, giving the alarm and holding up the mercenaries' operations. On learning of the invasion, militiamen from training centres immediately rushed to Zapata while military units from neighbouring districts also sent reinforcements.

Finally, combined operations of Cuban land, naval and air force units drove the invaders back to Playa Giron where they were thoroughly smashed. Their landing craft waiting off the coast were either destroyed or damaged. The invaders' retreat was cut off. At 5:30 p.m. on the 19th, the last beachhead of the invaders was recaptured. Within 72 hours the U.S. imperialists met with utter defeat in the first round of their military aggression against Cuba.

In an attempt to hide his traces and escape the full force of the condemnation of world public opinion, Kennedy has tried to deny that the U.S. Government was the direct organizer, supporter and conductor of this armed aggression against Cuba. The facts, however, give him the lie direct. Among the aeroplanes downed by the Cuban troops was one piloted by a U.S. citizen named Leo Francis Berlioss whose body was discovered together with incriminating documents. The large quantities of U.S.-made weapons captured, including heavy Sherman tanks, show that it was impossible to organize such a large-scale armed invasion without the direct participation of the U.S. Government. Kennedy is also confronted with the confessions of numerous war prisoners.

This correspondent went to the now famous Playa Giron together with a group of Cuban and foreign journalists on April 20. On the way we saw the wreckage of several U.S. planes downed by Cuban troops as well as smashed Sherman tanks and peaceful villages destroyed by criminal U.S. bombings. At Playa Larga, a transport vessel used by the mercenaries lay crippled on the beach, its prow protruding above water. Cuban fighters were busy transferring war prisoners and counting captured equipment.

The Cuban people have no illusions about the enemy. The U.S. imperialists will certainly not admit defeat and call it quits, they told us, but, they added grimly, "If they come again we'll hit them even harder than this time."

— April 21.

Under U.S.-Ngo Dinh Diem Rule

Reign of Terror

The Geneva agreements were signed in 1954 to ensure peace and security in Indo-China. Yet in its six years of fascist rule since then, the Ngo Dinh Diem clique has set up more than 300 Hitler-style concentration camps in south Viet Nam. More than 270,000 Vietnamese have been arrested, jailed, tortured or killed in that area. The U.S.-Diem clique has also carried out numerous bloody "mopping up" operations. In 1960 alone, 2,000 were conducted. "Special military courts" to implement "martial law" have been established under the fascist No. 10 decree of 1959. Since March this year, the Ngo Dinh Diem authorities have carried out no less than 50 searches in various provinces in south Viet Nam. Under U.S.-Diem rule, 1.5 million hectares of land have been taken out of cultivation and 1.5 million people are jobless.

Mass Struggles in South Viet Nam

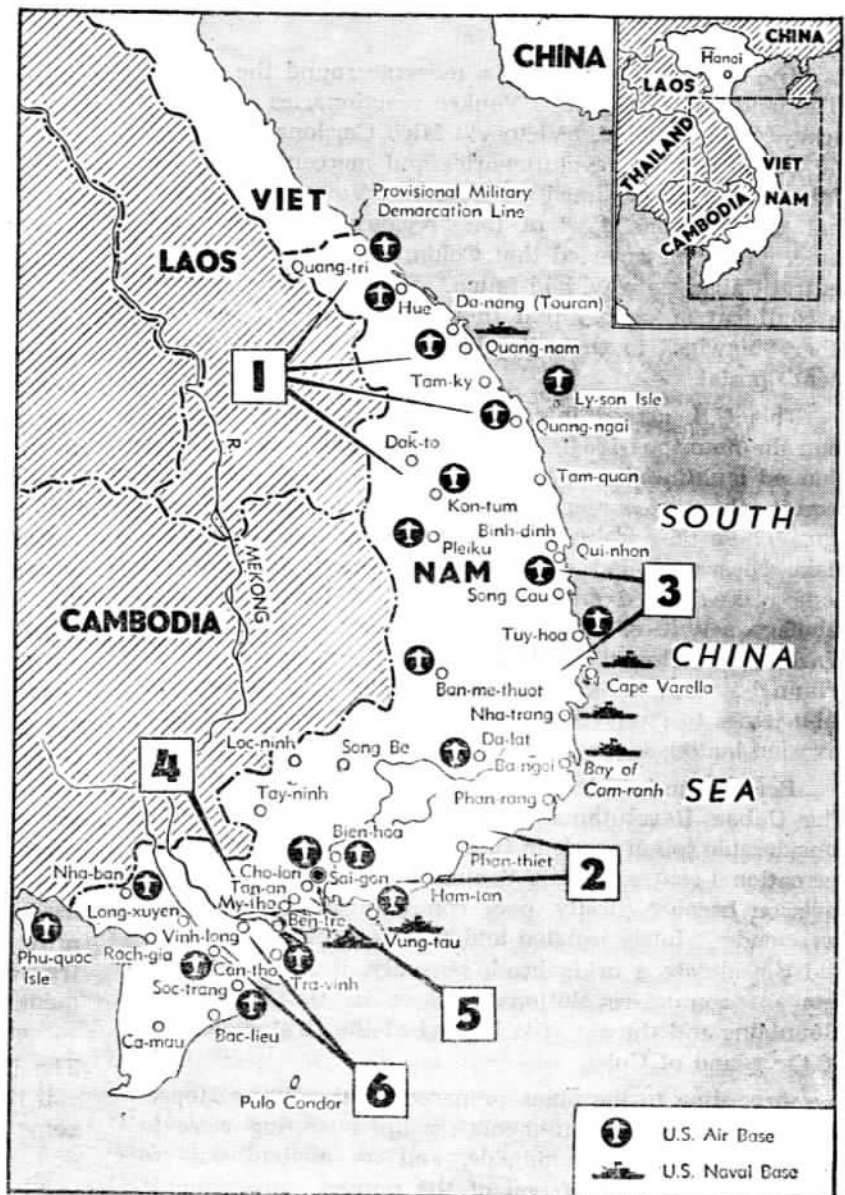
(Key to Map)

1. People in Quang-tri, Chua-thien, Quang-nam, Quang-ngai and the western provinces are struggling against hunger and persecution.
2. In the latter part of last November alone, 1.5 million people in the eastern area of the southern part of south Viet Nam held some 1,500 demonstrations against U.S.-Diem rule.
3. Between December 25 last year and January 8 this year, in the central area of south Viet Nam, 3 million people participated in 2,500 meetings and protest demonstrations against the U.S.-Diem clique.
4. On January 7 this year, in My-tho city, My-tho Province, more than 20,000 south Vietnamese demonstrated against the repressive acts of the reactionary ruling regime. Over 1,000 people broke through a cordon of puppet troops and police, and rushed into the puppet "provincial government" building. More than 5,500 people joined another demonstration held on January 17.
5. In the middle of January, in Ben-tre, Cho-lon and Tan-an Provinces, more than 20,000 people demonstrated against Ngo Dinh Diem's terrorist policy and demanded the overthrow of the puppet regime.
6. On January 19 and 20 this year, in Vinh-long and Can-tho Provinces respectively, more than 20,000 people held big demonstrations against Ngo Dinh Diem's repressions and bombardment of villages.

"Election" Farce

A "presidential election" was held in south Viet Nam on April 9 in an atmosphere of terrorism and military "precautions." On the eve of the "election" farce, 2,000 persons were arrested in Saigon. Many policemen in that city had to work 16-hour shifts as "security precautions" were increased. To terrorize the masses to vote for him, the U.S.-Diem clique intensified its movements of troops and warplanes equipped with rockets.

Simultaneously with this, Ngo Dinh Diem resorted to all sorts of frauds to ensure himself a majority of votes. He sent his agents everywhere to manipulate the "election committees" and supervise the polling booths. Many votes cast for his rival were openly changed or burnt. The opposition candidate Nguyen Dinh Quat charged at a press conference: "Ngo Dinh Diem is wielding a knife to compete with an unarmed rival."



China's State Farms—Production Bases of Farm and Animal Products

by WANG CHEN

Following is an abridged translation of an article by the Minister of State Farms and Land Reclamation that appeared in the April 1 issue of "Hongqi," fortnightly of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party under the title "Strengthen the Building of State Farms." Our subheads.—Ed.

THE state farms, which constitute an important force on the agricultural front, are a component of the socialist economy based on ownership by the whole people. They possess advanced technical equipment and have largely replaced manual production by modern large-scale mechanized production. Their output level is relatively high and they are in a position to provide the country with large quantities of farm and animal products. In response to the Party's call to go in for agriculture and grain production in a big way, it is essential that we further strengthen the construction of state farms, improve their management and run them more effectively.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung long ago pointed out in his *The Question of Agricultural Co-operation* that in order to resolve the contradiction between the ever-increasing demand for marketable grain and industrial raw materials and the present generally poor yield of staple crops, we must "fundamentally solve the problem of agricultural co-operation, [that is]...jump from small-scale farming with animal-drawn farm implements to large-scale farming with machinery—which includes state-sponsored land reclamation carried out on a large scale by settlers using machinery. . . ." He also predicted that "during the period covered by the Second and Third Five-Year Plans there will be a great growth of state-operated agriculture."**

Rapid Growth

In the 11 years since the founding of the People's Republic, China's state farms have started from scratch and developed smoothly and steadily. By 1952, the last year of the period of national economic rehabilitation, 52 relatively large mechanized farms with over 3.3 million *mu* of land had been set up and each county had at least one or two local ordinary experimental farms. By 1957, the last

year of the First Five-Year Plan, there were 710 larger farms (not including those run by the special administrative regions and counties) with a cultivated area of more than 15 million *mu*, half a million workers and staff members, about 10,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p. units) and a total grain yield of 1,190 million *jin*. The state farms, guided by the Party's general line, have advanced with giant strides since the big leap forward in 1958. By the end of 1960, there were over 2,490 state farms under the Ministry of State Farms and Land Reclamation, with 2.8 million workers and staff members, or 5.6 times the 1957 figure; a cultivated area of more than 78 million *mu*, five times the 1957 acreage; 28,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p. units), more than 2.7 times the 1957 number; and a total grain yield of over 5,000 million *jin*, more than 4.7 times the 1957 output. In the past three years, per unit area investment in capital construction in land reclamation has declined considerably. There emerged many large and small high-yield plots for various crops thanks to the correct implementation of the "Eight-Point Charter" for agriculture and the adoption of advanced agro-technical measures by state farms in various places.

Tremendous Superiority

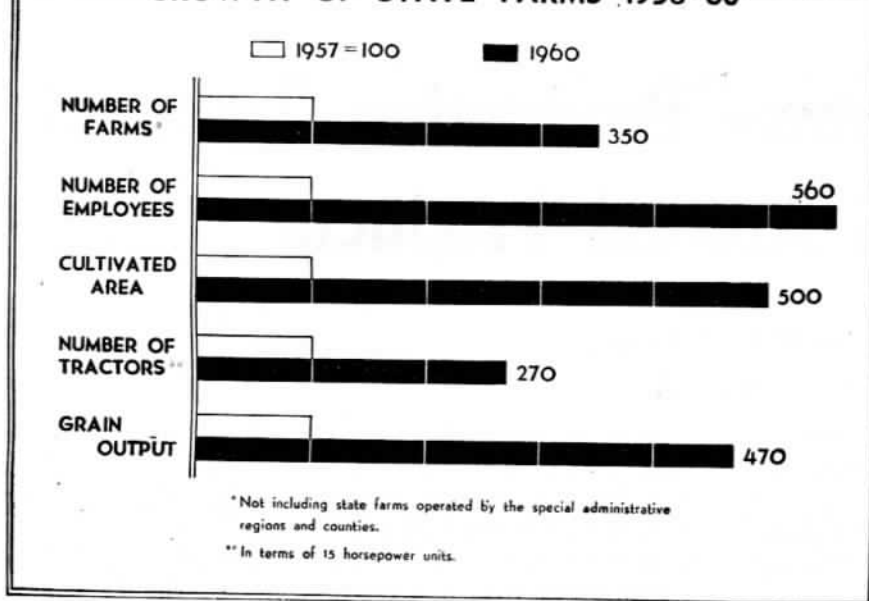
In the course of their development, the state farms have increasingly demonstrated their superiority.

As early as 1951 the Central Committee of the Party pointed out in its "Decisions on Mutual Aid and Co-operation in Agricultural Production" that "state farms should be popularized," and should "demonstrate, by improved farming technique and use of new-type farm implements, the superiority of such modernized farms in order to educate the peasants. At the same time, agricultural mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' co-operatives should be given technical help and guidance when possible." In the National Programme for Agricultural Development 1956-67, it is once more pointed out that "all state farms should unite with and help their neighbouring agricultural co-operatives and set good examples in farming technique as they are expected to." Even in the early days of their existence, the state farms fulfilled this role. In 1952, for instance, the average wheat yield of mechanized state farms exceeded the national average by 21.7 per cent; their average cotton yield was 48.7 per cent higher than the national average; and their average soya bean yield topped the national average by 11 per cent. Again,

* Mao Tse-tung, *The Question of Agricultural Co-operation*, Foreign Languages Press, Peking, 1959, pp. 22-23.

** *ibid.*, p. 6.

GROWTH OF STATE FARMS 1958-60



in 1956, average grain and cotton yields of all state farms exceeded those of all agricultural co-ops by 4 per cent and 66 per cent respectively. The state farms carried forward and developed the best in the Chinese peasants' traditional methods of cultivation, adopted the achievements of modern agricultural science and technique and thereby attained new records in per unit area yields of many crops and in labour productivity. The state farms also set good examples in improving strains and breeds of crops and livestock and in reforming the system of cultivation. At that time, many state farms used their machines to assist neighbouring agricultural co-ops in ploughing and land reclamation and helped them train technical cadres.

Equipped with modern technique, the state farms are in a position to raise labour productivity greatly. Large tractors can plough more than 150 *mu* per day. Medium ones can do about 100 *mu*. As a result of the high rate of utilization of equipment and high labour productivity, state farm rates of marketable farm and animal products are both fairly high. To build the state farms into commodity bases providing large quantities of farm and animal products is an urgent task today.

The state farms play a particularly important role in reclaiming large tracts of wasteland and in the construction of the border areas. Land reclamation is one of the basic measures for developing agricultural production and stock-breeding. China has large stretches of wasteland that can be reclaimed; most of it is located in the border areas and along the coasts and inland lakes. These wastes, barren for ages, can be turned into good farmland by reclamation. Large-scale reclamation in sparsely populated areas calls for large-scale resettlement organized by the state and the employment of modern machines. The state farms have contributed much to land reclamation and building the border areas in the past 11 years. In Sinkiang, to cite a case in point, more than 180 mechanized farms were set up both north and south of the Tianshan Mountains. By 1959, their cultivated acreage encompassed 8.03 million *mu*. In 1960, an additional 3.57 million *mu* was opened up and the sown area nearly doubled compared

with the preceding year. State farms in Heilungkiang, Inner Mongolia, Hainan Island and Yunnan have also reclaimed large expanses of wasteland. These farms have become the country's important commodity bases producing large amounts of farm and animal products. The development of the state farms promoted the growth of industry, communications and transport, building construction as well as culture, education and public health in these border areas, rapidly transforming their backwardness.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army has played a significant part in the establishment and development of the state farms. Troops engaging in production is a fine tradition of the people's army. As far back as in the difficult years of the War of Resistance Against Japan, the people's forces (the Eighth Route Army in those days) responding to the call of the Central Committee of the Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung "to go into production, become self-sufficient, and overcome difficulties," developed a large-scale movement for production and established a public economic sector. During the War of Liberation, the rear echelons of the Northeast Liberation Army set up state farms. During the period of economic rehabilitation and the First Five-Year Plan after the founding of the People's Republic, the People's Liberation Army put into effect Comrade Mao Tse-tung's directives concerning the army taking part in production. Part of the forces settled down in the border areas to reclaim land and made great contributions to promoting the development of state farms and to accelerating socialist construction in those regions.

Rich Experience

The process of growth of China's state farms was likewise one in which we gradually grasped the law governing state farm building and mastered the methods that bring greater, faster, better and more economical results. We have gained invaluable experience in this respect in the past 11 years.

In building state farms, the policy of simultaneously engaging in land reclamation, production, construction, fund accumulation, and expansion has shown itself to be the one that accomplishes greater, faster, better and more economical results.

Practice has demonstrated that the correct implementation of this policy enables the state farms to commence production rapidly and turn out large quantities of grain in the same or following year that they were set up, thus providing the necessary material foundation for continuing land reclamation and expanding capital construction. Engaging in actual production makes it possible to grasp rapidly the characteristics of the local soil, climate and other natural circumstances, thereby facilitating the farms' overall planning of production and construction in the light of local conditions. The system of full responsibility to units in handling capital construction investments makes it possible to bring into full play the initiative and

enthusiasm of the broad masses of the farms' cadres, staff members and workers and to expand continuously the scale of construction through the reinvestment of the state farms' own accumulations. In this way full returns on the state's investments are assured and the conditions for "small investments, quick and big returns" are created. A number of state farms were, for example, set up after 1958 in Kiangsi, Hupeh, Hunan, Kansu and other provinces. As a result of the active implementation of the policy outlined above the great majority of farms recorded returns in the same year they were established; quite a number of them even registered profits in their very first year. So far as the effectiveness of investments is concerned, the average annual state investment in the first three years of the Second Five-Year Plan was only about double that in the First Five-Year Plan, but over six times more wasteland was opened up.

The importance of the implementation of this policy lies also in its embodiment of the principle of operating the farms in an industrious and frugal way. The course of carrying on production while capital construction is still under way demands the practice of thrift in construction and requires that relatively small investments be stretched to their limit and spent on things most urgently needed in production. By implementing the policy of going ahead with production while construction is still under way and adhering to the principle of running the farms in an industrious and frugal way, the production and construction of many farms made headway at a high speed in the past few years.

Diversification

In production and management the state farms should adhere to the following policy: take agriculture as the foundation and develop a diversified economy in an all-round manner, making grain production the key link while simultaneously developing farming and stock-breeding.

The task of the state farms is to provide the state with marketable grain, cotton, meat and many other types of farm and animal products. In order to supply the country with the necessary products for national construction and export, the state farms, in their production and management, must handle correctly the relations between farming and stock-breeding and between farming and stock-breeding on the one hand and the other lines of production in a diversified economy on the other. Farming and stock-breeding are mutually interdependent, each providing the conditions for the development of the other. Farms in which agriculture is the main line of production can acquire abundant fertilizer and promote their growth only by developing stock-breeding. Only by expanding farm production can those engaged chiefly in stock-breeding get a sure supply of fodder needed for its support and food for their employees, thereby creating the prerequisites for developing stock-breeding on a large scale. Both types must also develop, in addition to farming and stock-breeding, other lines of production of a diversified economy in the light of needs and possibilities. Farming and stock-breeding are the foundation of a diversified economy; the latter, in its turn, makes it possible to utilize farm and sideline products rationally, exploit the available machin-

ery to the full, use manpower economically, increase income and accumulation, and promote the expanded reproduction of farming and stock-breeding. Those farms chiefly engaged in the cultivation of industrial crops must also develop grain production and stock-breeding to the degree suitable to their conditions thereby achieving self-sufficiency in food grain and solving the question of sources of fertilizer. Practice has shown that only the correct handling of these relations can create the solid basis necessary for the successful development of the economy of the state farms.

Since the big leap forward the state farms have advanced considerably in the development of diversified economies and have essentially overcome the shortcoming of some farms which in the past evolved only single economies. The proportion of stock-breeding and industry and sidelines in the economy of all state farms in the country rose from 10 and 12 per cent respectively in 1957 to 25 and 32 per cent respectively in 1959. Diversification further consolidated and stabilized the economy of the state farms, generated a constant flow of income, accelerated the turnover of funds, increased the funds financed by the farms themselves, and thereby created favourable conditions for enlarging the scale of production and accelerating the building of the farms. The correct way to develop a diversified economy is to take agriculture as the foundation, simultaneously develop farming and stock-breeding while making grain production the key link, and develop those industries, sidelines and other lines of production that serve farming and stock-breeding on the condition that the normal development of farming and stock-breeding is ensured. In so far as the steps of this process are concerned, experience in recent years shows that in the initial period when there are arduous tasks of land reclamation and other demands of capital construction, industry and other lines of production in a diversified economy should not be undertaken on a large scale but that energy should be concentrated on the effective operation of agriculture and stock-breeding. When a certain foundation has been laid in farming, stock-breeding and capital construction, a diversified economy including industry and sidelines which serve farming and stock-breeding should then be developed step by step and in the light of local conditions. This is more beneficial to production.

Multi-Purpose Utilization of Machinery

State farms should be concerned with raising the rate of utilization of machinery, adopt effective technical measures, correctly and fully carry out the "Eight-Point Charter" for agriculture and increase labour productivity.

They possess large amounts of modern farm machines and receive priority consideration and energetic support of the state in matters of technical equipment. In addition to 28,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p. units), the state farms now have a fair and increasing number of other farm machines such as combine-harvesters, irrigation and drainage machines, sowers, and machines for livestock breeding purposes. Moreover they have a core of cadres who have been politically tempered over a long period of time and have a knowledge of business management and techniques. They also have available a skilled work force

capable of operating machines. It is therefore entirely possible to raise labour productivity continuously and develop production at a high speed.

In the past few years, with a rising level of mechanization and the daily perfecting of the use of machinery, the amount of work accomplished by a 15-h.p. tractor in terms of a standard *mu* has increased with each passing year. It rose from 2,150 *mu* in 1955 to 4,000 *mu* in 1957 and then shot up further to over 6,200 *mu* in 1959. To sum up experience carefully and tap the potential of available machinery and equipment to the full in order to further increase the level of mechanization in field and non-field work are important keys to raising labour productivity on the state farms.

A vital factor in raising the rate of utilization of machines is the strengthening of their management and maintenance. Modern farm machines call for a comprehensive, scientific management system and maintenance equipment. In the past few years, many large reclamation areas and state farms have set up the rudiments of farm machinery repair and maintenance networks and networks for the training of technical personnel; the state farms have instituted scientific management of machines and enlarged their capacity for maintenance work, thereby ensured the fuller use of tractors. But on the whole the state farms' level of machinery management and capacity for maintenance and repair do not yet quite meet the requirements of mechanized production. It is therefore necessary to strengthen machinery management, establish and perfect the necessary systems for their use, management and maintenance as well as networks for machine repair and the training of technical personnel. So long as this work advances the state farms' level of mechanization and labour productivity can be greatly enhanced.

Another important factor in raising the rate of utilization of machinery is the strengthening of multi-purpose utilization. Farming is seasonal in character; aspects of production are many and varied; a great deal of both field and non-field work is required; and it is necessary to develop successfully both farming (stock-breeding) and a diversified economy. To raise labour productivity and the level of mechanization of all types of work and to lower production costs, it is essential that the farms make multiple use of their machinery to perform different kinds of jobs. By relying on their workers and staff members and introducing close co-operation among leading cadres, technical personnel and rank and file workers, many state farms have developed movements for technical innovations and technical revolution, accumulated much invaluable experience and achieved encouraging results. Multi-purpose utilization has been made not only of tractors, sowers and cultivators but also of combine-harvesters which in the past were considered not adaptable for other purposes. This was achieved through technical readaptation of the combine-harvesters. As a result of multi-purpose utilization of machinery, some farms succeeded in raising their rate of equipment utilization from 2- to 11-fold, doing away with the situation of the past in which many machines were used only half the year, raising the level of mechanization of non-field work and labour productivity and reducing costs. The multi-purpose utilization of farm machines is at present still a new problem and



A Repair Station in the Fields

Woodcut by Chi Ping

experience in this connection is as yet quite limited. We should therefore move actively but cautiously, make local conditions and the needs of farming technique our point of departure and attack the problem in all seriousness, guided by the principle that the machines involved should suffer no damage.

High Yields and Cultivation Methods

State farms in various places registered achievements by correctly putting into effect the "Eight-Point Charter" for agriculture; many of them attained high yields on large or small plots. In 1960, for example, a farm in Sinkiang produced more than 300 *jin* of wheat to the *mu* on 100,000 *mu* of land; another produced 960 *jin* of maize to the *mu* on 600 *mu* of land. On the whole, however, the average per unit area yield of the state farms is not sufficiently high. It is therefore necessary in the process of opening up wasteland over large areas, to work energetically to raise per unit area yields. Typical experience obtained from experimental plots, high-yield plots, brigades and farms should be popularized and a movement for high yields which starts from isolated points and spreads to broad areas should be launched. Land may be classi-

fied, according to soil, climate, and irrigation facilities, into basic and ordinary fields and fields that require improving. Strenuous efforts should be made to derive high yields from the basic fields through effective measures and higher-than-normal yields from ordinary fields. Fields that need improvement should be actively transformed. In short, we should fully utilize our land resources more rationally and economically and do everything in our power to reach, ahead of schedule, the targets for per unit area yields set in the National Programme for Agricultural Development.

Farms in various places have had rich experiences in achieving high yields and improving methods of cultivation. As regards improvements in methods of cultivation, the practice of crop rotation, inter-cropping, sowing by stages, and planting potato shoots, for example, raised the rate of land utilization and soil fertility, increased output, and facilitated full and rhythmic use of manpower and machinery. The serious natural calamities of the past two years caused some temporary difficulties. But the state farms in various places also amassed fresh experience in coping with natural disasters. In planning the cultivation of crops, for example, they paid attention to economizing on seeds used, to increasing to an appropriate extent the types of crops and the area sown to miscellaneous crops (millet, sorghum, etc.), to favouring drought and water-logging resistant and early ripening crops and to accelerating the early ripening of vegetables for timely marketing to meet the demand of consumers in cities and industrial and mining areas. These experiences not only aided our fight against natural adversities but also facilitated farm production increases. We should further evaluate and popularize them.

To put the "Eight-Point Charter" into effect correctly and achieve the goal of increased yields, investigation and study must be stepped up and the level of the cadres, staff personnel and workers in agricultural science and technique raised.

Agricultural production is highly seasonal and to a large extent subject to the impact of natural conditions. Natural conditions vary from area to area. Measures for increasing yields should therefore be based on the actual situation and conform to the specific time and locality. This requires that the farms' leading cadres and scientific and technical personnel go to the front line of production from time to time and conduct investigations and studies.

The state farms launched mass movements for technical innovations and technical revolution in the past two years. During these movements, the broad masses of workers and staff members made great progress in both ideological understanding and scientific, technical knowledge. Workers and staff of some farms have acquired preliminary knowledge of local temperature changes, sowing time for various crops and their physiological characteristics as a result of studies made in modern meteorology and agricultural science. Moreover, they have been able to combine modern science and technique with the best in the Chinese labouring people's traditional methods of cultivation. All this has helped to promote the development of production. Many agricultural scientists and technicians have made splendid contributions in dissemi-

nating knowledge in agricultural science and technique. At the same time agricultural technical schools in the various reclamation areas have trained many and are training more agricultural technical cadres and specialists who are both red and expert and have practical experience as well as professional knowledge. A force for construction, which is politically conscious and equipped with scientific knowledge, is being fostered. Experience shows that high yields are attained wherever correct technical measures conforming to the laws governing the growth of crops are adopted. On the other hand, all technical measures that run counter to these laws inevitably lead to drops in production. One must adopt a serious attitude towards science and never expect windfalls. A movement must, therefore, be launched to study agricultural science and technique. Only in this way can the "Eight-Point Charter" be properly put into effect and correct technical measures adopted.

State farms must also pay constant attention to perfecting the system of business management and bring into full play the production initiative of the broad masses of local cadres as well as workers and staff personnel. Only by so doing can the advantages inherent in enterprises based on ownership by the whole people be tapped to the full.

The state farms are agricultural enterprises based on socialist ownership by the whole people. Like state-owned industrial enterprises, they produce directly according to state plan, practise strict business accounting, and demand a high degree of organization and discipline in production.

Tasks of the Day

The Party and state today require that the state farms produce still more marketable grain, animal products and industrial raw materials. To fulfil this task the state farms should function in the spirit of the Ninth Plenary Session of the Party's Eighth Central Committee, go all out and strive for a bumper harvest this year, run the newly set up production bases for marketable farm and animal products well, seriously put into effect the policy of making readjustments, consolidating, filling out and raising standards, and substantially raise the levels of production and management as a whole. At the same time, wasteland must be energetically reclaimed. We must manage the available land effectively, assiduously raise per unit area yields, labour productivity and the proportion of marketable products. The present situation is extremely favourable. The concept of the entire Party and people going in for agriculture and grain production in a big way has taken firm root in the hearts of the people, the farms' equipment and technical forces have been strengthened, the political consciousness of their workers and staffs are being continuously enhanced and their cadres' style of work greatly improved in the course of the present rectification and check-up campaigns. We are confident that, after a period of readjustments, consolidating, filling out and raising standards, the production potential of the state farms will certainly be more fully tapped and they will make still greater contributions in the movement of the entire Party and people going in for agriculture and grain production in a big way.

SIDELIGHTS

Orchards Dot Old Yellow River Bed.

Fifteen kilometres out of Lankao county town in eastern Honan you come across a vast green orchard. This is the Yifeng Horticulture Farm, home of the nationally famous "Kuo Kuang" and "Hung Yu" apples, known for their crispness and delicious flavour. Here, too, in the Farm's more than 4,000 *mu* of vineyards, are produced "Mei Kuei Hsiang" — Sweet as the Rose — grapes, a variety as good as it claims. Observing the crisscrossing rows of green foliage hiding the lush golden-red fruit, it is difficult to imagine the change wrought here in a short time.

Less than a dozen years ago, this was barren, sandy waste, treeless and void of habitation for miles. Parching sun and violent sandstorms were its most frequent visitors. Such had been its fate for over a century, since 1855 when the Yellow River changed its course, leaving in its wake over 4 million *mu* of wasteland in eastern Honan Province alone.

The transformation came on the heels of liberation. Winter of 1949 saw this once slumbering region waken to great activity. The peasants, no longer alone and helpless but with the full backing of the state, threw themselves wholeheartedly into the work of converting the wastelands. Countless trees were planted forming shelter belts to break the fury of the wind and sandstorms; new houses were put up; wells were drilled and other irrigation works undertaken. In the years that followed, this once desolate land brought forth apples, grapes, dates, persimmons and pears. The yields went higher every year. Now Yifeng Farm has become one of the country's biggest producers of top-grade fruits. Emboldened by their successes, the peasants have been intercropping cotton, peanuts, beans, potatoes and other crops and vegetables with rows of fruit trees to the mutual advantage of plants and fruit. Elsewhere along the old course of the Yellow River in eastern Honan, similar "success stories" come from state farms and people's communes. By spring 1960, over half of the more than

4 million *mu* had already been turned into orchards and vineyards.

An Old Kazakh Caller. Early one morning an old Kazakh rode up to the state farm's office on a cow followed by three fat calves of varying sizes. Yang Hsin-san, the Party secretary of the farm, thought the man and the beast he was riding looked strangely familiar. He rose and went out to greet his visitor.

"I'm returning the milch cow you lent me," the venerable Kazakh said as he dismounted and handed a letter to the smiling secretary. "My grandchildren don't need so much milk now. Besides we're much better off since our people's commune was set up. . . ."

Then Yang remembered. Four years ago when visiting the local herdsmen he had come upon a Kazakh family with only one cow but many children. On going back to the farm he spoke of this to the farm management, which had decided to send them a fine cow. Now the cow was being returned with "interest" — three calves and a letter of thanks!

A Gift from Hangchow. Among the many presents which visitors can bring back with them from Hangchow, that lovely city of the West Lake, such as the famous Lungching tea, lovely silk parasols, stone carvings, etc., there is one unusual gift which can always be sure of a warm reception — a pair or two of "Chang Hsiao-chuan scissors."

Chang Hsiao-chuan was a master craftsman who lived in Hangchow a century ago. He made such good scissors that ever since then his name has become synonymous with the lightest, sharpest and easiest-to-handle scissors found anywhere. Well known as they were, Chang Hsiao-chuan scissors sold only in limited numbers before liberation, and then in only five varieties, all for home use. Since liberation their output has increased 20-fold and 140 kinds of them are now produced. They range from huge scissors for industrial and agricultural use down to cute little embroidery scissors so small that you can put them in a matchbox. As for the life of the makers of these scissors, it was by no

means an easy one in the old days. They used to say, "The heat roasts our chests and the cold winds freeze our backs." Now their lot has greatly improved. They work in modern workshops with excellent working conditions. Their inventiveness has mechanized many processes and so done away with much time-consuming and difficult manual work. A heart-warming fact is that most of them over 40 years of age who could not afford to get married before liberation are now family men with happy homes.

The Untiring Postman. Thirty years ago her blind, widower father sent eight-year-old Chang Shou-chih from their poverty-haunted home as a child-bride. Not long after, she ran away from her cruel future in-laws. For nearly 20 years she worked, wandered and begged to keep alive. After liberation Chang Shou-chih married and had a job of her own. In her happiness she often thought of her brother and old father. They may still be alive, she thought and so one day she addressed a postcard to her old home. "Hsui County, Nanhua Tien, Kuan Tien, Lashuwan to my Elders from Chang Shou-chih." No one in the county post office recognized this address. The only "Tien" was a tiny village in the Loyang People's Commune so the letter was given to Wang Cheng-chi the postman on that route. He read the scribbled note on the edge of the postcard. "Comrade Postman, I've lost touch with my family for 30 years and I would like you to help me find them. . . ."

For three months Wang's conscientious enquiries got him nowhere.



The only clue he found in the postcard was "Shuang," a pet-name for Chang's brother. But this was what he was called 30 years ago. Anyway, it was something to go on.

One day stopping for a drink of water he asked an old woman the same question he had already asked a thousand times. Did she know of a place called Lashuwan? To his surprise she did. It was not far but the blind man who had lived there was dead and the son Shuang had run away to Hsiehchiaho years ago when he was threatened by the local landlord. Wang thanked her and hurried off to Hsiehchiaho.

"But I have no sister. She died a long time ago," the rediscovered Shuang protested. But Wang urged him to read the letter. He did and for minutes could hardly speak. It was from his sister whom he had thought dead and she was looking for him.

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Chinese Chess. Traditionally a "battle of brains" game among greybeards, Chinese chess has today captivated the imagination of the younger generation too. Hu Yung-hua, last year's national champion, is only 16. The game is played by two sides each with 16 chessmen forming an "army." The side that captures the enemy's commander-in-chief wins.

Although the Chinese people had always been fond of this game, it has become very widespread now simply because more people are joining in recreational activities of all kinds. It is a must in every clubroom of factory or mine, people's commune, government office or school. Large numbers of chess clubs give chess-lovers a chance to learn from one another. Many public exhibition matches are held. Huge chessboards hanging up in the open-air tea garden in Canton's Cultural Park, the Working People's Palace of Culture in Peking and many parks in other parts of the country show the public every move of a game between two masters. A welcome feature for many youngsters is the special sessions organized by parks and recreation centres where anyone can go up and challenge established and renowned players. It is here that many youngsters get their start in first-class play.

POETRY

New Folk Songs

China's cultural revolution has developed a mass, socialist poetic culture of astonishing breadth and richness.

No one is the least surprised these days to find poems or folk songs in his daily newspaper, national or local, or in the pages of his literary or general magazine. The writing of poetry and folk songs has become an increasingly significant part of the cultural life of the masses particularly since the new folk song movement developed on the heels of the big leap forward in 1958.

In the villages, poetry contests are a common event. Socialism has taken over the ballad-contest of traditional folk culture and given it a new, modern content. In the factories or mines there is never lacking a verse for anything that deserves commendation or censure. It may go into a *dazibao* (a big character broadsheet) or wall newspaper or make its rounds as a song. This is the way it is too in the urban districts, shops and schools. Poetry is a vital part of life in both town and countryside. In such an atmosphere it is natural that every editor keeps his eyes open for good verses to enrich his pages. And there is no lack of contributions. But it is hardly fair to talk about poems and folk songs here without at least attempting to give the reader some samples of them. It is impossible, of course, to render them fully into another language retaining their original beauty of rhythm, language and rich associations, the Chinese poetic form is too concentrated for adequate transposition into English; the following translations therefore make no more than a modest attempt to approximate literal meanings.

This is the way two Szechuanese peasants, Ho Li-yin and Wang Chishih, sing the praises of their people's commune:

*Through the blue sky the eagle
sails, wings spread;
In the dragon pool the carp dives,
tail thrashing;
We peasants have our commune,
flashing
Ahead like a steed over the bound-
less plain!*

This was first published in a local Szechuan paper *Tungchuan Ribao*.

To the north of Szechuan, in Sian, Shensi Province, another folk poet, Liu Pei-sheng, has also written a song on this popular subject, the people's commune. His *Spring in a People's Commune* came to us through the *Sian Ribao*:

*Everywhere spring and flowers;
Everywhere commune members
urge on their horses;
Everywhere water buckets, carried
with songs;
Everywhere smiling faces, peach
blossom blooms.
Silvery water runs to the fields; the
wheat rolls like waves,
Its fragrance spreads a thousand
miles and fills your heart with
joy.
The sea of wheat answers the songs
with its smiles,
No gold can command the price of
spring in a people's commune.*

And this is the way people living on the Kansu plateau describe a reservoir they take a pride in:

*We've built a big, big reservoir,
My! It's like a magic gourd;
Fill it with a lake of water —
Out pours ten thousand piculs of
golden grain.*

The original of this last poem is in the seven-character-line metre, a very popular style in Chinese poetry. Its simplicity and freshness of imagery and regular rhymed metre make it easy to remember and recite: a typical feature of folk song, and part of the secret of their long life and popularity.

Affectionate and laudatory verses in praise of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung are legion in all the languages of China. This Tibetan folk song *Dedicated to Chairman Mao* is one of the most recent:

*Of the thousands of horses on the
grassland,
Only one is the finest.
Of the thousands of flowers on the
Golden River banks,
Only one is the most fragrant.
Of the thousands of holy hata,
Only one is the purest white.
Of the thousands of cities the world
over,
Only one is the fairest.
Saddle the finest horse,
Gather the most fragrant flower,
Take the whitest hata,*



Drawing by Chou Ling-chao

*Ride to fair Peking,
And there present the deepest
respects of the Tibetan people
To the greatest Chairman—Mao
Tse-tung!*

In this vast movement to create new folk songs, a great many talented individuals have come to the fore. The peasant poet Hou Li-shen is an example. A poor peasant of Shulu County, Hopei Province, he was hardly literate only a few years back. He found his way into print during the big leap forward and since then more than one hundred of his songs have been published. Quite a number of folk poets have even seen their collected works in print. A villager in Szechuan has described publication of *Selected Poems of Ma Yu-lien* in these lines:

*The Party secretary had been but
three days gone,*

*When a cadre from the county came
to see us.*

*On his shoulder pole he carried
away six basketfuls of Grandma's
songs,*

*String upon string of bright, trans-
lucent pearls.*

*Grandma Ma, tears in her eyes and
a beaming smile,*

*Holds two books of poems close to
her heart.*

*Spring revives a withered plant: it
blossoms with red flowers.*

*In her sixtieth year, Grandma finds
fresh powers.*

An ancient Chinese folk song says,

The farther you walk,

The more flowers and grass you see.

It is an apt description of the prospects of China's new folk song culture.

* * *

"Selected Shanghai Folk Songs, 1960"
(in Chinese). An anthology of Shang-

hai folk songs written last year is now on sale. It is a lively, up-to-date collection indicative of the thoughts and feelings of Shanghaiers as they build socialism under the leadership of the Communist Party.

The anthology is one of the fruits of the many poetry contests, big and small, which were held in Shanghai in 1960. These were

widely participated in and produced quite a number of excellent poems which became very popular not only in Shanghai but also elsewhere. Some of the poems in this anthology are written by beginners who first showed their talent at the poetry contests.

The 36 folk songs finally chosen for this collection were selected from more than 50,000 possibles. The editors sifted through these six times before a preliminary selection was decided upon. These were then published in Shanghai's *Jiefang Ribao* (Liberation Daily) and readers were requested to comment on them and suggest improvements. More than 500 letters were sent in by readers suggesting deletions, substitutions and additions as well as improvements. After this the final 36 songs were chosen.

The anthology is richly illustrated with drawings and paintings specially made by Shanghai's artists.

SHORT NOTES

Wuhan Art Exhibitions. Two art exhibitions, one featuring pictures on contemporary themes painted in the traditional Chinese style, and the other showing works in a variety of styles painted by artists while working together with peasants in the villages, are currently attracting attention in the triple city of Wuhan on the Yangtse River.

Among the 120 pieces in the traditional paintings exhibition is a series of paintings which trace the course of construction at the giant new Wuhan Iron and Steel Works. Other paintings depict the peasants' activities in capital construction in the countryside, the

building of new dams, reservoirs, canals, portraits of technical innovators, rural scenes, landscapes along the Yangtse, flowers, fish, shrimps and animals. The styles of the paintings are as varied as their contents.

The other exhibition shows 185 works on the new countryside by 31 artists. All went to rural people's communes in various places last winter. In addition to working in the fields with the peasants, they held classes for amateur artists among the commune members.

The sponsor of the two exhibitions, the Wuhan Branch of the Union of Chinese Artists, is organizing a series of discussions on the new exhibits.

Shanghai Workers' Theatrical Festival.

More than 170 selected items were performed at a workers' theatrical festival held in Shanghai this month. These included local operas, modern dramas, vocal and instrumental music and a wide variety of *quyi* balladry, all composed by workers and office employees since the National Workers' Theatrical Festival held in Peking in May last year. The militant tackling of tasks by the working class is a main theme of the items selected. Several display a considerable boldness in production. *The Enthusiastic Innovator*, for instance, is a form of agitprop with the style of acting based on the grandiloquent theatrical gestures of traditional puppet play.

Shanghai's Working People's Cultural Palace has arranged to present performances of the best items to a wider public. Professionals and amateurs have been enlisted to improve them and lectures are being arranged to popularize useful creative experiences among amateur groups.

Albanian Artists to Perform. The visiting 60-member State Song and Dance Ensemble of the People's Republic of Albania will begin their public performances in Peking in the first week of May.

Ceylonese Art Exhibition. Ceylonese oil paintings, water colours, crayon drawings, graphic art and traditional paintings are now on show at Peking's Working People's Palace of Culture, April 27-May 10.

CHINA AND THE WORLD

Sino-Albanian Co-operation

Following friendly talks between Government Economic Delegations of the two countries, China and Albania signed three documents in Peking on April 23. These are: a protocol on the complete sets of equipment and technical assistance to be provided Albania by China; a protocol on arrangements for the living conditions of specialists, technicians and trainees staying in each other's country, and the second protocol on the use of the Chinese loan pursuant to the Sino-Albanian loan agreement of February 1961. Notes on the supply of grains and other staple foodstuffs by China to Albania were also exchanged.

The Albanian delegation, headed by the Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Abdyl Kellezi, which came to Peking for the negotiations, received the warmest of welcomes during its stay. Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien declared at a banquet in honour of the Albanian guests that for the final victory of the common cause the Chinese and Albanian peoples, as well as the peoples of the other socialist countries, would always support each other and advance hand in hand. The Vice-Premier strongly condemned the Yugoslav revisionists' recently stepped-up slanders, attacks and threats against Albania and other socialist states and reiterated the Chinese people's solid support for the Albanian people's heroic struggle against these provocations.

Vice-Chairman Kellezi, who is a member of the Central Committee of the Albanian Labour Party, was received by Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Chou En-lai, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Premier of the State Council, and Teng Hsiao-ping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. He was also honoured at a banquet given by the China-Albania Friendship Association.

Among Fraternal States

A number of executive plans were recently signed for cultural and scien-

tific co-operation in 1961 between China and other socialist countries. These include the Sino-Vietnamese Cultural Co-operation Plan, the Sino-Mongolian Cultural Co-operation Plan, the Sino-Czechoslovak Cultural and Scientific Co-operation Plans and the Sino-Bulgarian Scientific Co-operation Plan.

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The Presidium of the Hungarian People's Republic has awarded a National Flag Order, first class, to Hao Teh-ching, the out-going Chinese Ambassador to Hungary, for his contribution to the promotion and strengthening of the friendship between the two countries during his term of office.

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Orders, medals and certificates of merit were recently awarded to 305 Chinese workers by the Presidium of the Great People's Hural and the Mongolian Council of Ministers for their contribution to socialist construction in the Mongolian People's Republic. They have worked in Mongolia in accordance with the agreement between the Chinese and Mongolian Governments and are now returning home following the successful completion of their assignments.

Forging Links with Cuba

The Cuban Cultural Delegation headed by Minister of Education Dr. Armando Hart Davalos has left Peking for home. While in China, it was received on separate occasions by Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai. The delegation studied Chinese experience in the fields of culture and education and made wide contacts with different sections of the Chinese people. It also signed the 1961 executive plan of the Sino-Cuban cultural agreement.

In a statement made before his departure, Dr. Hart thanked the Chinese people for their expressions of sympathy and solidarity with the Cuban people in their fight against U.S. imperialist aggression and declared that the co-operation and cultural ties between the two peoples will become ever closer in the days to come.

Meanwhile, two other Cuban delegations are visiting China. They are the Cuban trade delegation headed by Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Jacinto Torras and the Cuban building delegation headed by Vice-Minister of Public Works Dacosta Calheiros Salgado Hugo.

Afro-Asian Solidarity Hailed

On April 22, over 1,500 people from all walks of life in Peking held a rally to celebrate the success of the recent All-African People's Conference in Cairo and the Bandung session of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Council and to welcome the delegates from Guinea, South Africa, Uganda and other African countries who had come to visit China from the Bandung meeting.

Liao Cheng-chih, Chairman of the Chinese Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity; Abdoulaye Diallo, Secretary-General of the All-African People's Conference; Camara V. Bengaly, member of the Political Bureau of the Guinean Democratic Party and Guinean Minister of Information and Tourism; Tennyson Makiwane, representative of the African National Congress (South Africa) and Erinayo O. Ogwalakwel, Secretary of the Uganda Teachers' Trade Union, spoke at the rally.

Liao Cheng-chih in his speech declared that "the 650 million Chinese people will stand by the peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America and all the oppressed people throughout the world." He greeted the success of the Cairo and Bandung meetings which, he said, had made important contributions to the noble cause of the struggle for world peace and against imperialism.

The African speakers at the rally reiterated their determination to oppose imperialism and colonialism, particularly U.S. neo-colonialism. They also thanked the Chinese people for their resolute support to the struggles of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

More U.S. Provocations

U.S. violations of Chinese territorial air and waters continued unabated in recent weeks. Between April 12 and 21, U.S. military aircraft intruded over the waters south of Pinghai and Swabue in Kwangtung Province on four occasions. These occurred between 12:17 and 12:32 hours and 13:14 and 13:31 hours on April 12, between 9:42 and 10:07 hours and 16:02 and 16:13 hours on April 20. On April 21, between 4:44 and 7:37 hours, a U.S. warship intruded into China's territorial waters in the Pinghai and Swabue areas.

A spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry has issued the 141st, 142nd and 143rd serious warnings against these military provocations.

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