

# PEKING REVIEW

# 50

December 15, 1972

## Prime Minister Lansana Beavogui Of Guinea Visits China

## The Crux of the Middle East Question

— Huang Hua's speech at the U.N. General Assembly

## Always Be One of the Working People

— Notes on studying "The Civil War in France"

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北京周報

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# THE WEEK

## Albanian Friendship Military Delegation Ends Visit

Led by Comrade Beqir Balluku, the Albanian Friendship Military Delegation concluded its more than one month visit to China and left Peking for home on December 8.

During its stay, Comrades Chou En-lai, Yeh Chien-ying and other leading comrades of the Chinese Party, Government and army had cordial meetings with the delegation and the two sides held fraternal and sincere talks. Together, the Chinese and Albanian comrades-in-arms joyously celebrated the 60th anniversary of Albania's independence and the 28th anniversary of her liberation.

In the past month or so, the delegation visited many places in China, including Urumchi, Shenyang, Anshan, Luta, Changsha, Hangchow, Shanghai, Nanking and Shaoshan, Chairman Mao Tsetung's home village. Wherever it went, it was warmly welcomed by the people, a reflection of the Chinese workers, peasants and soldiers' love and respect for the Albanian people, the Albanian Party of Labour, the People's Army and Comrade Enver Hoxha.

The deep militant friendship between the Chinese and Albanian Parties, countries and peoples grew up in the course of protracted revolutionary struggle. Forged personally by the great leader of the Chinese people Chairman Mao Tsetung and the great leader of the Albanian people Comrade Enver Hoxha, it has stood arduous tests and is unbreakable.

This visit has further strengthened the revolutionary friendship and militant unity between the two Parties, peoples and armies of China and Albania. As Comrade Balluku said in his speech at the farewell banquet he gave on December 7, Albania-China

friendship is a revolutionary friendship built on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. It fills the enemies of socialism and communism with mortal fear, and our friends and revolutionaries all over the world with boundless delight. Our friendship will last for ever.

## Widespread Grain Reserves

Successive rich grain harvests in China over the years have enabled state granaries, production brigades and production teams of people's communes, as well as individual peasant households, to build up stocks of reserve grain. Silos with reserves are quite common in the villages today.

From 1965 to 1971 the Changling Brigade in Liling County, Hunan Province, delivered and sold to the state 900,000 kg. of grain and collectively stockpiled 350,000 kg. of reserves to ensure each brigade member 280 kg. Since 1965, each people's commune, production brigade and production team in Chienyang County, Shensi Province, has accumulated reserves after selling part of their surplus grain to the state, laying aside seed and fodder and fully providing for the members' consumption needs. By the end of 1971, collective reserves in the county were enough to give each peasant household an average of more than 700 kg.

Reserves of production teams on the outskirts of Shanghai are six times that of 1965, the year preceding the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Some production teams in other provinces and municipalities have accumulated a year's reserve of food-grain in three years. "With grain reserves in hand, we have no worries, come war or natural calamities," say the peasants.

Collective reserves and those of individual households help smooth over

difficulties in the lean years. The Wangshan Brigade in Huaining County, Anhwei Province, was hit by flood in July 1969 just when the early rice was ripening, and its 1,200 *mu* were inundated. Though grain output went down that year, the brigade made up the deficit from the reserves it had been building up since 1963 and did not ask for state assistance.

With granaries growing in number and in size, attention is being paid to the work of taking care of grain storage. Urban grain centres are working out improved storage methods and are continuing their efforts to eliminate waste and reduce overhead expenses.

## NEWS BRIEFS

▲ Premier Chou on December 5 met Kuwait Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalid Sulaiman al-Adsani and the Kuwait Government Trade and Economic Delegation led by him.

▲ The Delegation of the Romanian General Trade Union Confederation led by Gheorghe Petrescu, Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Romania and Vice-Chairman of the Central Council of the General Trade Union Confederation, paid a friendly visit to China from November 25 to December 9.

▲ The Chinese Government Trade Delegation led by Minister of Foreign Trade Pai Hsiang-kuo returned to Peking on December 1 after visiting Hungary, Yugoslavia and Romania.

▲ A Chinese table tennis team led by Chao Chih-ching recently visited five east African countries — Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mauritius and Uganda.

# Prime Minister Lansana Beavogui Of Guinea Visits China

**P**EKING on December 9 was in a festive mood with coloured pennants and the national flags of China and Guinea fluttering over the main streets. At the airport, Premier Chou En-lai, Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei and more than 5,000 people in the capital warmly welcomed West African guests Dr. Lansana Beavogui, Prime Minister of Guinea, and the Guinean Government Delegation led by him.

On December 10, Premier Chou En-lai held talks with Dr. Beavogui in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. The Premier gave a banquet that evening in honour of the distinguished Guinean guests.

In his speech at the banquet Premier Chou spoke highly of the remarkable achievements the Guinean people have made under the leadership of President Sekou Toure in defence of their national independence and state sovereignty, and in national construction.

"In foreign affairs," Premier Chou said, "the Guinean Government pursues a policy of peace, neutrality and non-alignment, opposes imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, opposes barbarous racial discrimination, supports the African national-liberation movements and the just struggles of the three Indo-chinese peoples against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, thus making positive contributions to

the Afro-Asian peoples' cause of unity against imperialism."

Premier Chou said: "The African people are a great people. They are advancing courageously on the road of the struggle to win and safeguard national independence. The heroic struggles of the peoples of Mozambique, Angola, Guinea (Bissau), Namibia, Zimbabwe, Azania, Spanish Sahara and other regions are dealing heavy blows at colonialism, neo-colonialism and white racism. The independent African states, relying on their own unity and efforts, are changing their state of poverty and backwardness resulting from long-term aggression and plunder by imperialism and colonialism. We are convinced that, persevering in struggle, the great African people, who are growing more and more united in their hundreds of millions, will surely be able to win still greater victories on their road of advance of independence."

The Guinean Prime Minister analysed the present excellent international situation in his speech, praising the great victory of the people of all countries in their struggle against imperialism. Referring to the revolutionary situation in Africa, he said: "In Africa, imperialism is being increasingly hemmed in:

"The liberation forces in Guinea Bissau, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia and the whole of



Prime Minister Beavogui receives a warm welcome at Peking Airport.

southern Africa are dealing increasingly harsh blows at the NATO powers and daily winning more decisive victories. More and more, the people of a great number of independent states on the continent are shaking off the neo-colonialist yoke."

Paying tribute to the friendship between the Chinese and Guinean peoples, he said: The intransigence with which we wage the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, the firmness with which we conduct imperturbably our development, the vigour with which we have engaged in, mastered and conducted the cultural revolution—to all this is due imperialism's inextinguishable hatred for you and for us. This identity of the colonial and semi-colonial past, this identity of aspiration for happiness and of common objectives, have, despite the distance that geographical-

ly separates China and Guinea, made the two peoples close, intimately close, to each other.

The warm speeches by the Chinese Premier and Guinean Prime Minister reflected the profound friendship between the two peoples in their long struggle against imperialism and colonialism. In their common struggle, China and Guinea are brothers and comrades-in-arms. The friendly relations and co-operation in political, economic and cultural fields between China and Guinea have been steadily consolidated and developed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Prime Minister Beavogui who previously visited China in 1960 and 1968 is a well-acquainted friend of the Chinese people. His current visit will further strengthen the friendship between the two peoples and develop friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries.

### At the U.N.

## The Crux of the Middle East Question

*Huang Hua, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Delegation, spoke on December 5 at the plenary meeting of the U.N. General Assembly on the Middle East question. His speech reads as follows. — Ed.*

THE United Nations has been discussing the Middle East question for a quarter of a century now. Particularly since 1967 when Israel with imperialist support launched its war of aggression against the Arab countries, the United Nations has been discussing the Middle East situation year in and year out. Nevertheless, Israeli Zionism has gone unchecked in its atrocious outrage and wanton aggression in the Middle East. The crux of the matter lies in the two superpowers' deliberate creation and strenuous maintenance of a "no war, no peace" situation in which, under the guise of seeking a political settlement, they may use the territories and sovereignty of the Arab countries and the Palestinian people's right to existence as stakes for making political deals in order to further control the Arab countries, suppress the Palestinian revolution and divide spheres of influence.

### Israel Is Swollen With Arrogance

At present, not only has Israeli Zionism continued to occupy large tracts of Arab territories and refused to restore the Palestinian people's national rights, but it is ceaselessly invading its neighbouring Arab countries. The Israeli aggressors are swollen with arrogance especially since last September. The Israeli leaders have assumed the air of "victors," clamouring that they will never return to the boundaries which existed prior to the war of June 5, 1967. In order to stamp out the Palestinian people's liberation struggle, they have carried out blackmail and threat against the Arab countries and

recently they have even brazenly put forward a theory of what they call "striking first." Exploiting the "Munich incident," they vilify the just struggle of the entire Palestinian people and other Arab peoples against aggression as "terrorism," claiming that Israel has the right to invade the Arab countries at any time and that no acts will be excessive in that respect. Consequently, they have repeatedly dispatched air and ground forces for continuous attacks against Syria and Lebanon and wilfully massacred innocent inhabitants in an attempt to pressurize the Arab countries and the Palestinian people into submission.

### Two Superpowers Contend for Hegemony In Middle East

A tiny Israel dares to play the bully and run amuck like this precisely because it has the acquiescence, support and abetment of the two superpowers. It is well known that the U.S. Government has all along openly supported Israel politically, economically and militarily. For this year alone, the U.S. Government has provided Israel with some 400 million dollars of loans and aid. Last September when Israeli Zionism invaded Syria and Lebanon on a large scale, a draft resolution tabled at the Security Council which would have merely called on the parties concerned to cease military operations was brazenly vetoed by the U.S. representative. The U.S. Government's undisguised support and encouragement to Israeli aggression is clear for all to see. However, while the U.S. Government is supporting the Israeli aggressors in their feverish expansion in the Middle East, the other superpower, masquerading as a friend of the Arab people, is taking advantage of the temporary difficulties of the Arab countries to carry out

large-scale infiltration and expansion in the Middle East under the signboard of "help eliminate the consequences of aggression" and "assist the Arab people." It is more deceptive and more dangerous than old-line imperialism. It has resorted to every conceivable tactics, soft and hard, cajolery and intimidation. It says to the Arab people: I support you, but you must give me privileges, bases and strategic material. I will sell you weapons, but they must not be used for fighting; you should under no circumstances counter-attack Israel, or it will lead to U.S.-Soviet confrontation and to the outbreak of a world war, then the whole Arab nation will be exterminated. Only when you meet my requirements will your "beautiful dream of the future" "become reality." Whoever shows any dissatisfaction or puts up any resistance is "pro-imperialist reactionary force" and "anti-Soviet," and I shall be entitled to incite a coup d'etat to subvert you! Well, the treacherous intention is exposed at last; words of honey have turned into cold-blooded murder. The facts are very clear: While talking about the "dream" and "reality," those people want the Palestinian and other Arab peoples to fold their hands and wait for death before the Israeli Zionists; they want to realize the old tsar's long-cherished ambition for the control of the Mediterranean Sea and the establishment of hegemony in the Middle East; they want to be left undisturbed in their contention for hegemony and division of spheres of influence with the other superpower under the signboard of seeking "a just and lasting peace in the Middle East." Just recall what that superpower has done in recent years in the Middle East and other parts of the world, and one will know better what is internationalism in words but hegemonism in deeds, and what is socialism in words but imperialism in deeds.

### People in Middle East Alone Will Decide Its Destiny

However, history is created by the masses of the people. In the final analysis, it is the people in the Middle East alone, and not the two superpowers, who will decide the destiny of that region. The days are gone for ever when the superpowers could rule the fate of other peoples at will. The past year has witnessed new development in the struggle of the Arab countries

and peoples against superpower aggression, control, interference and subversion and for taking their destiny into their own hands. Their bold action to this end has won the acclamation of the people of various countries. Under most difficult conditions, the Palestinian and other Arab peoples have persevered in the struggle against Israeli aggression and have repeatedly frustrated the schemes of imperialism. Zionism and Arab reactionaries to strangle the Palestinian people's revolution. The Arab people are great, industrious and courageous people with a glorious tradition of struggles. In the past they made brilliant contributions to the civilization of mankind, and in modern times they waged numerous heroic struggles against the aggressors and won independence for their respective countries. They will never submit themselves to the tender mercy of others. We are deeply convinced that in face of such people, no imperialist scheme and manoeuvre, hard or soft, overt or covert, will ever succeed in the end.

The Chinese Delegation would like to take this opportunity to reiterate: The Chinese Government and people have consistently held that Israeli Zionism must completely withdraw from Egypt, Syria and all other Arab territories it has occupied; the Palestinian people must restore their right to return to their homeland and their right to national existence. The Chinese Government and people severely condemn Israeli Zionism for its crimes of carrying out barbarous aggression with the support and connivance of the superpowers, firmly support the peoples of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and other Arab countries in resisting aggression and recovering the lost territories and firmly support the Palestinian people in their just struggle to restore their right to national existence. The Chinese Government and people earnestly hope that the Palestinian and other Arab peoples will further strengthen their unity and support and assist each other in the struggle against their common enemies. The Chinese Government and people firmly believe that by relying on their own strength, the 100 million Arab people will certainly frustrate the aggression and schemes of imperialism and Zionism and win final victory in their struggle to safeguard national independence, recover the lost territories and restore their right to national existence!

## Proposal for Continued U.N. "Dialogue" With South Africa Unacceptable

*The U.N. Security Council concluded on the evening of December 6 its debate on the situation in Namibia. The debate, starting on November 28, mainly dealt with a report by U.N. Secretary-General's Representative Escher after his visit to Namibia and the so-called "dialogue" with the South African racist regime. The African members of the*

*Security Council as well as Morocco, Liberia, Turkey, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Zambia and Nigeria which took part in the debate on their requests all expressed dissatisfaction with the report and the result of the so-called "dialogue."*

*As a result of the backing by the representatives of the United States, other Western members of the*

*Security Council as well as India, a resolution calling on the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the assistance of his representatives was adopted by the Council at the end of the debate that evening.*

*Chinese Representative Huang Hua declared at the December 6 meeting that the report of the Secretary-General's representative and the pro-*

*posal for continued "dialogue" with the regime of South Africa are unacceptable. The Chinese Delegation did not vote on the resolution. Following are excerpts of Huang Hua's statement. — Ed.*

**T**HE Chinese Delegation has had serious scepticism about the policy of the United Nations having "dialogue" with the South African authorities. That was why we did not participate in the voting on Security Council Resolution 309 last February and Resolution 319 last August after having stated our position. The facts have proved that the South African authorities have no intention to make the slightest change in their reactionary position on Namibia. Far from yielding any positive result, the "dialogue" is being exploited by the South African authorities. While stepping up their reactionary "Bantustan" policy and intensifying their colonialist rule, the South African authorities are now trying to use their "dialogue" with the United Nations to obtain U.N. recognition of their "Bantustan" policy and legalize their illegal rule in Namibia.

### **Correct Resolutions Cannot Be Negated**

The relevant U.N. resolutions point out in explicit terms that South Africa's occupation of Namibia is illegal and that the South African authorities must immediately withdraw all their military and police forces as well as their administration. However, during the "dialogue," the South African prime minister arrogantly asserted that "once the necessary conditions are established and the inhabitants have had more administrative and political experience," a discussion of the "interpretation of South Africa's policy of self-determination and independence" could be held with better results. If such nonsense is accepted, would it not constitute a legalization of the South African authorities' occupation of Namibia? Would it not lead to a total abandonment of the Namibian people's sacred right of self-determination and independence to the South African racists? What qualifications do the racist authorities of South Africa have to "train" and "educate" others? We believe

that the industrious and courageous Namibian people are fully entitled to determine their own destiny and have all the capabilities and wisdom to manage their own country.

The relevant U.N. resolutions clearly point out that Namibia's national unity and territorial integrity must be preserved and the South African authorities' "Bantustan" policy of divide-and-rule must be opposed. During the "dialogue" the South African prime minister said that "experience in self-government was an essential element for eventual self-determination . . . this could best be achieved on a regional basis." What is "self-determination" on a regional basis? It means continued pursuance of the "Bantustan" policy to deal with the Namibian people's liberation struggle by means of divide-and-rule. But the South African authorities do not rest at that. They further propose to establish a so-called federation on the basis of "Bantustan" under the unified leadership of the South African prime minister. That is a demand not only for U.N. endorsement of their "Bantustan" policy but also for U.N. recognition of the prime minister of the South African colonialist and racist regime as the legal head of Namibia. We absolutely cannot agree to this. The South African prime minister also plays the trick of forming what he calls an advisory council. What kind of stuff is the advisory council? It will be nothing but a hired tool made of some white racists and puppets to be designated by the South African prime minister.

The relevant U.N. resolutions clearly point out that the Namibian people are entitled to inviolable political rights and basic human rights and that the South African authorities must abrogate their repressive laws and decrees and release the detained political prisoners. Over the past nine months the South African authorities have taken no measure whatsoever in this direction. During the recent "dialogue," the South African authorities said that they could examine the possibility of removing restrictions on the freedom of movement and that they were in agreement that there should be "legitimate" political activity, includ-

ing freedom of speech and the holding of meetings. Please note the word "legitimate." In the eyes of the South African authorities, the Namibian people's struggle for independence has always been "illegitimate." What they mean by "legitimate" is that the Namibian people must allow themselves to be manipulated by the South African authorities at will and accept the latter's reactionary rule; all acts to the contrary are illegitimate and must be suppressed. It is quite strange that these spurious and deceptive promises given by the South African authorities should be described as positive elements in the report. Moreover, the "self-government" and "regional basis" as advocated by the South African authorities which are in fact synonyms of "Bantustan" are, however, regarded as "acceptable in principle." Is this not a total negation through the instrumentality of the United Nations of the correct resolutions on Namibia adopted by the United Nations in recent years? Is this not a forthright denial of the principles of self-determination and independence enshrined in the U.N. Charter?

### **China's Stand**

In the opinion of the Chinese Delegation, the "dialogue" has created confusion within and outside the United Nations, and it has been used by the South African authorities to extricate themselves from their political isolation and mollify their condemnation by the people of various countries. It has brought adverse effect on the Namibian people's struggle for liberation. The South African authorities are vigorously trumpeting that as a result of the "dialogue" they "had repaid maximum benefits with minimum concessions." Does this not call for deep thought?

The Chinese Delegation shares the views that the report of the Secretary-General's representative and the proposal for continued "dialogue" are unacceptable. Basing itself on our consistent stand on this question, the Chinese Delegation has decided not to participate in the voting on the draft resolution before us.

We wish also to point out that both the present report of the Secretary-

General's representative to the Security Council and the report of last July to the Council are oversimplified in the portion about their talks with the prime minister and foreign

minister of South Africa. The Security Council obviously will find it difficult to take this as a basis for considering such a serious political problem of major importance. We

would request that the verbatim record of the talk between Ambassador Escher and the South African authorities be submitted promptly to the Security Council.

## China Supports Declaration of Indian Ocean as a Peace Zone

*The First Committee (Political and Security) of the U.N. General Assembly on December 5 adopted a draft resolution on the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a peace zone. The resolution will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.*

*Sponsored by Sri Lanka and 26 other member states, the draft resolution calls upon the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean, the permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to support the concept that the Indian Ocean be a zone of peace.*

*It decided to include in the provisional agenda of the 28th Session of the U.N. General Assembly the "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace."*

*The draft resolution was adopted by a vote of 72 to 0, with 35 abstentions. China and the majority of the Asian, African and Latin American countries voted for the resolution. The Soviet Union, the United States, Portugal and South Africa abstained.*

*In a statement before the vote, Chinese Representative Chen Chu declared that China supported the just proposal that the Indian Ocean should be declared a zone of peace. Following is Chen Chu's statement. — Ed.*

**D**URING the discussions on the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace in the First Committee of the General Assembly last December, the Chinese Delegation stated that the proposal for the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace expressed the urgent desire of many Asian and African countries to defend national independence and state sovereignty and oppose superpower aggression and expansion, and declared that the Chi-

nese Government and people firmly supported this just proposal while pointing out that if countries closely related to the Indian Ocean such as the Soviet Union, the United States and the United Kingdom did not undertake corresponding obligations with regard to the zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, there would be no guarantee for the peace and security of the region.

In the Joint Communiqué of the Prime Ministers of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Sri Lanka issued on July 5 this year, the Chinese Government reaffirmed its principled stand of resolutely supporting the proposal for declaring the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and maintained that the resolution on the "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" adopted at the 26th Session of the U.N. General Assembly on December 16, 1971 should be respected.

One year has passed since the adoption of the resolution at the last General Assembly session. People had expected that the resolution in question could be implemented and the situation in that region could be improved to some extent. However, as a result of the intensified contention for world maritime hegemony by the two superpowers, the Indian Ocean has been far from peaceful. As a result of the Indian aggression against Pakistan last year with the support of the Soviet Union and the continued non-implementation of the relevant resolutions of the U.N. General Assembly and the Security Council, the South Asian subcontinent is not tranquil either. One superpower takes the Indian Ocean as its important strategic base, where its fleet is plying hither and thither with no intention to quit. The other superpower, following the steps of

the former, has in recent years actively carried out military expansion and established military bases in the Indian Ocean zone in contention for spheres of influence. The strength of its naval fleet in the Indian Ocean has multiplied. It said gleefully that the United States will sooner or later realize that it is no longer the overlord on the seas. This has pointedly revealed its own true intention to contend for hegemony with the other superpower. It boastfully claimed that "our century-old dream has come true." What a "century-old dream"! It is clear to all what it has inherited and what it hopes to achieve.

In the opinion of the Chinese Delegation, the intensified pursuance of gunboat policy by the two superpowers under the signboard of the so-called "freedom of the sea" is the principal root cause of the threat to the peace and security of the Indian Ocean. Therefore, in order to truly realize the just proposition for the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, it is imperative first of all to stop the two superpowers' military expansion and contention for hegemony in the Indian Ocean, and have all the foreign military bases removed from the Indian Ocean zone and all the foreign armed forces withdrawn therefrom, and to prohibit all nuclear countries from deploying and using nuclear weapons in the Ocean and all foreign warships and military aircraft from using the Indian Ocean to encroach upon the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean zone belongs to the countries and people in that region. We are deeply convinced that so long as they strengthen their unity and persevere in struggle with concerted efforts, the



countries and people in the Indian Ocean zone, with the sympathy and support of the people of all countries, will certainly get rid of outside in-

terference and steadily win new victories in their just proposition for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean.

Having made the above statement, the Chinese Delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution before us.

## **Today We Should Make Poems Include Iron and Steel**

— On reading President Ho Chi Minh's Poems From "Prison Diary"\*

by Chao Pu-chu

**T**HE third printing of *Poems From "Prison Diary,"* a collection of poems by the late President Ho Chi Minh, the great leader of the Vietnamese people, has been brought out recently by the People's Literature Publishing House in Peking. After rereading them I deeply feel that they are pearl-like gems from the heart of a great revolutionary. A treasure of modern revolutionary literature, they not only belong to the Vietnamese people but to the Chinese people as well, as they were all written in Chinese.

For a revolutionary leader, poetical endeavours are but one facet of his many activities, and a minor one at that. Still, this suffices to reveal him in his entirety, just as a single drop of sea-water is enough to tell the taste of a vast ocean. Going through these stanzas, we see in our mind's eye the lofty image of this great revolutionary leader and the fighting spirit of the Vietnamese nation.

For decades the Vietnamese people, trampled underfoot by one vicious imperialist-colonialist power after another, have never ceased in their struggle to dispel darkness and let in the light. Notwithstanding torture and butchering by domestic and foreign reactionaries, the people have all along been firmly confident of victory, fighting doggedly and with a will. This collection of poems by President Ho Chi Minh has epitomized and graphically depicted this very spirit.

The author wrote them between 1942 and 1943 when he was imprisoned in Kwangsi, south China. Those were the years which saw the most difficult phase in the revolutionary cause of both the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples. The imperialist invaders ran rampant on their soil while domestic reaction brutally suppressed the patriots. President Ho Chi Minh, imbued with the spirit of internationalism and patriotism, was at that time devoted to the common struggle of the two peoples. He and myriads of Chinese revolutionaries were fren-

ziedly persecuted and hunted down by the Kuomintang reactionaries, and he was finally seized and thrown into prison in August 1942.

For a year and more, he had been transferred from place to place, from Nanning to Liuchow, then to Kweilin, traversing 13 counties and living in 18 cells at different places. Whether in the cells where cold, hunger and appalling brutality were the order of the day, or travelling as a prisoner under escort, the author wrote impromptu lines about what he had experienced to give vent to his indignation. There were lines of nostalgia and longing for his motherland and his people, whose sufferings at that time knew no bounds; there were also lines decrying enemy brutality. Whatever be the case, they brimmed throughout with unparalleled revolutionary optimism.

The opening lines in the collection ring *fortissimo*:

*The body is in prison,*

*The mind escapes outside:*

*To bring about great things*

*The mind must be large and well-tempered.*

When reading them, one can well perceive the heroic mettle of the author who must have walked into the prison with his chin up in defiance of the enemy.

The darkness that reigned in the prisons of the bad old days was known to all. Life there was anything but decent and human: "Each meal a bowl of rice-gruel, the stomach always empty" and "In the cold autumn night, without mattress, without blankets." Undaunted, the author sang:

*Inside the prison, the ward is shrouded in darkness,  
But we know outside the rising sun has shone.*

— "Morning"

*Being stubborn and patient, never yielding an inch,  
Though physically I suffer, my spirit is unshaken.*

— "At the End of Four Months"

The collection includes poems written while travelling under escort:

*But, once we have struggled up to the top of the  
mountain range,*

*More than ten thousand li can be surveyed at a  
glance.*

— "On the Road"

\*People's Literature Publishing House, Peking, 1972, 3rd printing, 94 pages. The English translation of verses quoted here is taken from the English version of *Prison Diary*, Foreign Languages Publishing House, Hanoi, 1967, fourth edition.

The author of this article Chao Pu-chu, himself a poet, is a member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

*The paleness in the East is turning rosy,  
Night's shadows are swept up, and warmth extends  
Over the universe; and in the traveller  
The poet warms and wakes.*

—“Departure Before Dawn”

As a revolutionary sees it, brute force and persecution by the reactionaries are, if anything at all, the kind of necessary ordeal for testing and fortifying his revolutionary will. In “Listening to the Rice-Pounding,” President Ho Chi Minh wrote:

*How much the rice must suffer under the pestle!  
But, after the pounding, it comes out white like  
cotton.*

*The same thing often happens to men in this  
world:*

*Misfortunes workshop turns them into polished  
jade.*

In “Advice to Oneself,” he put it more explicitly:

*Calamity has tempered and hardened me,  
And turned my mind into steel.*

Here, endurance means revolutionary perseverance, revolutionary optimism. Such poems fire people with the courage to hold all dark forces in contempt and help increase their valour to vanquish the enemy. In the Vietnamese documentaries, we see that despite the wanton bombing of U.S. imperialist planes, the people, while fighting against enemy aggression, carry on their work and sing and play music as usual. This spirit of revolutionary optimism — dauntless in war and dealing with the enemy in a calm and steady manner — has found vivid expression in the poems by President Ho Chi Minh. A great leader is born of a great people, and his lofty spirit is a source of great inspiration to them. A great people with such a great leader can never be intimidated and vanquished.

Although “*the mind escapes outside*” “*and through the prison bars look up at the free sky,*” and while “*the five-pointed star twinkles in my dreams,*” the poet regretted not knowing “*when . . . to take my part in the battle?*” In the meantime, he had never ignored the realities in the prison, nor had he slackened in the struggle then and there. Many of the poems gave vivid descriptions of life in the prison in a way that readers readily feel the clear-cut class sentiments of the author — what and whom to hate or love. His pen did not spare the reactionaries whom he scathingly denounced for their corruption and overbearing manner. “Prison Meals,” “The Leg-Irons” and “Guards Carrying Pigs” are full of poignant sarcasm. In other poems he bantered and utterly ignored the adversity confronting him. For fellow prisoners suffering persecution like himself the author showed his sincere sympathy and concern. Examples of this include “Visiting Her Husband in Prison,” “Death of a Man Imprisoned for Gambling” and “A Man Attempts to Escape.”

Artistically, the author’s poetry has a unique style of his own — forthright in expressing his feelings and free from superficial embellishments. This style can

be best described with the words of an ancient Chinese poet: “The hibiscus emerging from clear water has a natural beauty free from make-up.” Chinese was, of course, not the author’s mother tongue. Moreover, the classical regulated poem (*lu shih*), which consists of a stanza of eight five- or seven-character lines or only four such lines in the case of a *chueh chu* (meaning stop short), has a complex pattern of rhymes and rhythms with many other restrictions, such as the use of couplets in two successive lines among other things. Unless he was a very accomplished virtuoso in Chinese poetry, the author could not have written them with such great ease. While the author had gained mastery of the rules of Chinese poetry, he did not allow himself to be restricted by them; sometimes he wrote freer “old-style” verses while retaining the tonal beauty characteristic of classical Chinese poetry. “Transferred Back to Ouming,” for instance, was supposed to be a *chueh chu* with a stanza of four five-character lines. But at the end of the stanza, the poet surprised his readers by adding two characters: *pu ping* (meaning injustice)! This extra two-character line has the effect of an echo resounding with the author’s resentment and fury; thus, the lines have ended, but innuendoes of the author’s idea linger on. This further enlivens the poem as a whole.

These poems by President Ho Chi Minh are classical in form but the language he chose was modern and popular. Colloquialism, slang and even Western phraseology were used in his poems while a single Chinese character or even a question mark was made the title of a poem. Simple and unadorned, they are written in such a way that the words seemed to have been picked up at random and yet so fascinating and amusing. These characteristics, I think, were part and parcel of the author’s personal quality which was one of living in simplicity and frugality.

I had the honour of meeting the late President on several occasions when in 1960 I attended the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. His modesty, his free-and-easy manner and dislike for privileges have given me an indelible impression. I can still remember one morning just after I got up from bed when I heard someone outside announce: “The President is here!” Before I could put on my coat, President Ho Chi Minh had entered the room and told me to drop those formalities. “No, no, don’t bother please,” he said. “See, I haven’t got my jacket on.” Then he started talking to me as he would to one of his own family. At a state banquet, President Ho Chi Minh, in high spirits, led everyone present in singing the chorus *Unity Is Strength*, himself conducting. President Ho Chi Minh was full of revolutionary pep even at the age of 70!

At the Revolutionary Museum in Hanoi, a model of the cave where President Ho Chi Minh lived during the War of Resistance and some of the personal effects he used at that time were on display. These and other simple and rough utensils of his reminded us of an old Chinese saying about the simple life of a

sage: "A single dish of food in a reed basket washed down by a ladle of water from a calabash." The late President named the hill where he once lived the Marx-Engels Hill and the stream in front of the cave the Lenin Brook. His was a noble and lofty life— one can well imagine that though he lived in a cave and led a modest life, he was quite happy and had the well-being of the world's people at heart. He behaved just like an ordinary man, but there was something great in his being ordinary. At the same time, one found nothing extraordinary in his greatness. This collection of poems is a reflection of the glow of his personality which was at once ordinary and great.

The author said that "reciting verses has not been one of my habits." Nevertheless, in his "On Reading 'Anthology of a Thousand Poets'" he gave an excellent view on poetry:

*The ancients used to like to sing about natural beauty:*

*Snows and flowers, moon and wind, mists, mountains, and rivers.*

*Today we should make poems including iron and steel,*

*And the poet also should know to lead an attack.*

"Today we should make poems including iron and steel."— This is exactly the conception of literature and art all revolutionary people working in this field must have. President Ho Chi Minh's poems are indeed poems of steel that will live for ever. Anyone with a passion for writing socialist poetry will find these poems of steel a very useful guide and exemplification. It is in this context that I have ventured to use the same rhymes and write a *chueh chu* entitled "Inscription on Poems From 'Prison Diary'" as a tribute to the late President Ho Chi Minh:

*Flames of wrath sweep the land  
and storm the strongholds,*

*The people's breath has set off a whirlwind.*

*His poems are certainly steel strong,*

*Like a blade, they'll teach the die-hards a lesson.*

## Always Be One of the Working People

— Notes on studying *The Civil War in France*

by Wei Feng-ying

**A**FTER studying *The Civil War in France*, that brilliant work by the great revolutionary teacher Marx which summed up the historical experience of the Paris Commune, I have come to a much deeper understanding of the Marxist theory of proletarian revolution and proletarian dictatorship. My determination to continue the revolution under this dictatorship has become even greater. It has been driven home to me that, under the socialist system, whether cadres of the Party and the state keep on being ordinary working people, oppose having ideas of the privileged and overcome bureaucracy is an important question concerning the consolidation of the proletarian dictatorship and the prevention of capitalist restoration. As a rank-and-file worker, I must pay particular attention to retaining the fine qualities of an ordinary working person now that I have assumed some responsibility.

### Opposing and Preventing Revisionism

The Paris Commune was the first great attempt by the proletariat to overthrow the bourgeoisie and set up a proletarian dictatorship. Marx made this point about the Commune: "Its true secret was this. It was essentially a working-class government, the produce of

The author, a woman, is a Member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, Vice-Chairman of the Liaoning Provincial Revolutionary Committee and a punching machine operator.

the struggle of the producing against the appropriating class, the political form at last discovered under which to work out the economic emancipation of labour."

An important feature of the Commune's proletarian dictatorship was the smashing of the old state machinery through revolutionary violence and the abolition of the bourgeoisie's bureaucratic system and, in a fully democratic way, the election of ordinary workers or acknowledged working-class representatives to the new organs of power. The ordinary workingmen assumed various leading posts and took a direct part in running the state. This was a great pioneering undertaking by the Commune which enabled the working class and other labouring people to rule their country. Everybody in a leading position, whether from the working class or some other strata, retained the characteristics of the working people, ensuring that the power of leadership in the revolution was really in the hands of the proletarian revolutionaries so as to



safeguard “against this transformation of the state and the organs of the state from servants of society into masters of society.”

Chairman Mao has pointed out: “**The cadres of our Party and state are ordinary workers and not overlords sitting on the backs of the people.**” It is of fundamental importance under the socialist system for cadres to take part in collective productive labour as ordinary working people and maintain the most extensive, constant and closest ties with the working people. This instruction of Chairman Mao’s is of great significance to us in preventing and opposing revisionism, building socialism and realizing the lofty ideals of communism. Socialist society covers a considerably long historical period. Throughout this historical period, there are classes, class contradictions, and class struggle, there is the struggle between the socialist road and the capitalist road, and there is the danger of capitalist restoration. Only by continuing to be ordinary working people, maintaining close ties with the masses and constantly sweeping away the cobwebs of bureaucracy can our cadres resist the attacks of the bourgeoisie’s sugar-coated bullets and smash the class enemy’s plots for “peaceful evolution.”

After the October Socialist Revolution in Russia, the great teacher Lenin pointed out not once but many times that degenerates and new bourgeois elements may emerge among the staff in organs of state owing to bourgeois influence and corrosion. He took measures to prevent state workers from degenerating. When the Soviet revisionist renegade clique usurped power, however, it betrayed Marxism-Leninism and pushed a revisionist line, setting up a bourgeois privileged stratum opposed to the labouring people and turning the world’s first socialist state under the proletarian dictatorship into a state under a bourgeois dictatorship through “peaceful evolution.” We must remember this profound historical lesson of the international communist movement.

### **Performing One’s Duties Without Leaving Productive Labour**

In the old society, I was a child in a poverty-stricken family. From early childhood, I helped eke out a living by gathering wild vegetables and picking coal cinders out of garbage heaps. In the new society, I became a member of the working class, and have now even taken on leading work. I often remind myself that although my position has changed, my status as a working person must never change. Referring to comrades working at the grass-roots level like me at the Ninth Party Congress in 1969, Chairman Mao said: “**See to it that they do not divorce themselves from the masses or from productive labour while performing their duties.**” Following this instruction, I went back to the bench. My mates welcomed me with open arms and showered me with attention, making me take frequent rests and not letting me know when there was overtime work. Careful there, I thought to myself.

You’re an ordinary worker, and taking part in labour is your duty. If you don’t handle this problem correctly, pretty soon there won’t be anything “ordinary” about you any more. . . .

I set strict demands on myself, observed labour discipline and took part in making technical innovations and fulfilling production quotas like everybody else. Because I did not consider myself any different from my co-workers, they began treating me like one of the group again. Relations became closer and I learnt a great deal from their fine ideology and experience. Through all this, I increased my understanding of the Party’s line and policies and raised my consciousness in carrying out Chairman Mao’s revolutionary line.

The only difference between us cadres and the masses, both of whom are members of the working people, is that we are doing leading work. Chairman Mao says: “**Who is it that gives us our power? It is the working class, the poor and lower-middle peasants, the labouring masses comprising over 90 per cent of the population.**” The Party and the people gave us power and the necessary conditions for work, so we must serve the people wholly and entirely. Since I took on a leading position, I always remind myself that I am a servant of the people. The leadership and the masses show concern for me so that I can serve the people better. So I always ask myself to remember that, in doing any work for the public, I represent the masses and must do it well; in private affairs, I’m part of the masses and must never try to be special. “If a small hole is not mended, it becomes a big one,” according to a folk saying. The sort of living quarters one may want, whether one uses the office car or not — things like that seem trivial, but if he is not careful and starts to yearn for ease and comfort, he will soon degenerate politically and ideologically. To preserve the style of plain living and hard struggle, therefore, is an effective antidote to degeneration.

To retain the fine quality of an ordinary working person, one should consciously put oneself under the supervision of the Party and the masses. The Paris Commune’s leaders at various levels, no matter how high their posts, were all servants of the people who “**act continuously under public supervision.**” Masses’ supervision of cadres and cadres conscientiously putting themselves under masses’ supervision are all manifestations of a high sense of responsibility towards the revolutionary cause. We should not become self-conceited as soon as we take on a leading post, still less should we indulge in being praised by others and reject their criticism and thus grow cocky. Instead, what we need is the spirit of being a pupil, to conscientiously accept the criticism and supervision of the masses. We should incessantly draw political nourishment from them and do our best to remould our world outlook in order to do the revolutionary work well. I deeply realize from practice that the masses’ criticism and supervision of cadres reveals their concern for the latter and is an im-

portant guarantee that we correctly carry out the proletarian revolutionary line.

### The People Make History

In *The Civil War in France*, Marx highly appraised the revolutionary initiative of the working class and other labouring masses of Paris and elaborated the historical materialist viewpoint that it is the masses who make history. Chairman Mao has also taught us: **"The masses are the real heroes, while we ourselves are often childish and ignorant, and without this understanding it is impossible to acquire even the most rudimentary knowledge."** Only after we have had full confidence in the masses' infinite wisdom and great creative power and after coming to know their great role in creating history can we consciously be one of them.

Since I assumed a leading post, the scope of my work has been much wider and I have heard more praise than before. When I had some success while working among the masses, some comrades often men-

tioned my name and my role. I considered these as their encouragement and a spur to me. Whatever success there is in our work is the result of joint efforts. Had it not been for the wise leadership of Chairman Mao and the Party and if there weren't the masses' wisdom and strength, there was nothing I could do. What cannot be replaced by any individual force is the tremendous force of the Party's line and policies and the great role of the masses in creating history. Whether one in a leading post can retain the fine qualities of an ordinary worker or not is, in essence, a question of whether he upholds the materialist conception of history which holds that slaves make history or the idealist conception of history which holds that heroes make history. To be an ordinary working person consciously, the fundamental thing is to study and apply Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, thoroughly criticize the idealist conception of history and firmly foster the materialist conception of history. Having realized this truth, I often remind myself of my weak points, shortcomings and errors, learn from the masses modestly and strive to do my work well.

## Mathematicians Among Workers

### — Popularizing a quick method of seeking the best plan

**C**O-OPERATING with the workers, many mathematicians in China have gone to factories and mines to popularize a quick method of seeking the best plan in production and scientific experiments. This has been successfully used in the past two years on tens of thousands of items, thereby saving a great amount of raw materials, creating large quantities of wealth for the state and solving many key technical problems.

A mathematical method, it serves to determine, through the least number of experiments, satisfactory ratios of ingredients or the optimum technological conditions (e.g., temperature, pressure and revolution of machine tools) to increase production, improve quality and lower raw material consumption. For instance, 1,000 to 2,000 grams of a certain special element has to be added to make a heat of special steel. But what exactly is the best amount? If an experiment is made after five grams of this element are added each time, then 200 experi-

ments would be needed. By using this quick method, only 11 experiments are enough to produce similar, accurate results.

To increase production of fine ore, iron-smelting workers in the Chienan mining area on the outskirts of Peking applied this mathematical method to arrive at the proper proportion of steel balls and iron-ore in a ball crusher after only four attempts. This resulted in raising the per-hour output of a ball crusher by 16 per cent and bettering the quality of fine ore.

The Hsinhua Printing House in Peking built an automatic gilding machine for book cover titles and designs. But quality fell short of requirements due to the failure to find the proper gilding temperature. About one hundred experiments still did not give satisfactory results. After learning the quick method, the workers worked out a rational plan for making three experiments to find the optimum temperature. This

method accounts for many other similar successes.

### Theory Linked With Practice

Scientific research workers in China have always seen to it that theory is linked with practice and that they integrate with the workers and peasants. Mathematics is a basic science. However, while paying attention to the study of basic mathematical theories, mathematicians are making energetic efforts to let mathematics directly serve production and the working people and they have achieved rewarding results in this respect.

Well-known mathematician Professor Hua Lo-keng (Member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Director of the Institute of Mathematics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences) has since 1964 been studying the extensive application of the quick method of seeking the best plan in making experiments. Author of *The Additive*

*Theory of Prime Numbers, Harmonic Analysis of Functions of Several Complex Variables in the Classical Domains* and other monographs, he has contributed much to theoretical research and teaching of mathematics. In 1958, the year of the Big Leap Forward in China's socialist construction, he and his colleagues went to communications and transport departments and joined the workers in trying out lineal programming. He took an active part in 1964 in popularizing the overall planning method, making further efforts to serve production by using the theories of mathematics.

Since summer 1970, in order to popularize the quick method of seeking the best plan, he and several assistants toured ten provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in south, central and north China where they gave a series of lectures. They explained mathematical principles in simple language and with vivid illustrations and described this quick method in a graphic way. While staying in selected factories, they worked with the workers and technicians to solve many knotty problems arising in production through this method. Hua Lo-keng wrote and compiled simplified handbooks on the method which could be easily understood and mastered by the workers. His *A Plain Course On the Overall Planning Method* written eight years ago has also been warmly received by the working people.

Many other mathematicians are also popularizing the method of seeking the best plan. In Peking, those from the Institute of Mathematics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences who are doing research work in applied mathematics and teachers of the mathematics and mechanics department of Peking University and the mathematics department of Peking Teachers' University have lectured on the method's principles in factories and mines under the metallurgical, machine-building, chemical, light and textile industrial departments. With workers and technicians, they have conducted investigations and studies, made experiments and



Professor Hua Lo-keng (middle) and the workers trying out the quick method of seeking the best plan in a pharmaceutical plant in Hupeh Province.

calculations and summed up experience. In doing this, the mathematicians have established extensive and close contacts with the workers, got to know them and learnt from their fine proletarian qualities. Many of the mathematicians have made friends with the workers.

A group comprising two mathematicians, nine workers and technicians and two staff members under the Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee was formed to guide the work of popularizing this method throughout the capital. The exhibition it set up on the results gained in 160 items has received about 1,000 visitors daily since last August. Members of the group have also organized activities to swap experience, compiled booklets and studied the relevant theoretical problems.

### Masses' Enthusiasm

To build socialism with greater, faster, better and more economical results, workers and technicians across the land are paying great attention to introducing technical innovations. They have warmly welcomed the mathematicians who joined them to try out the quick method of

seeking the best plan. When Professor Hua Lo-keng and his colleagues went to Hupeh Province in central China last summer to popularize the method, over a million workers from the factories and mines heard their lectures. Leading members of the local Party committees and governments also came to acquaint themselves with the method so as to give more effective guidance to popularizing it.

The method is also being adopted in agriculture, medical work and communications and transport. Medical workers in a hospital affiliated to the Shenyang Medical College in northeast China have succeeded in employing it to determine the optimum thickness of physiological saline solution which is used to dissolve penicillin, thus effectively lessening pain caused by injection.

Not only has this method served to boost production, it has also promoted theoretical studies in mathematics. Mathematicians from the Institute of Mathematics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and other cities have written a number of research reports after participating in the popularization of this method.

## China's Economy at a Glance

# Water Conservancy and Power Industry

**T**HE last 23 years have seen big success in building water conservancy works for farmland, harnessing rivers and expanding irrigated acreage. Meanwhile, a group of big power plants serving as the backbone of the power industry and many small and medium-sized power stations have been built in a planned way.

Though China has many rivers and is rich in water resources, reactionary ruling classes in the past knew only how to exploit the people ruthlessly but never paid much attention to controlling the rivers. Floods and droughts were common. After the founding of New China, 1,700 large and medium-sized reservoirs were built, 130,000 kilometres of dykes built or rebuilt, some 100 long channels for draining off floodwaters and 800,000 power-operated wells dug, and irrigation and drainage machines totalling 20 million h.p. were added.

**"Irrigation . . . is the lifeblood of agriculture."** Working persistently to build water conservancy works for farmland in winter and spring, China's villagers have turned much arid land into farmland giving high and stable yields. Linhsien County in Honan Province is one example. Extremely short of water resources, the peasants there had to fetch drinking water from several or even scores of *li* away. (One *li* equals half a kilometre.) To change the situation, Linhsien's people started to build the Red Flag Canal Project in 1960 to bring water of the Changho River in from neighbouring Shansi Province. Ten years of hard work resulted in the completion of 900 kilometres of big channels to irrigate 600,000 *mu* of land. In this way, the poor villages in the gullies have become rich hilly areas yielding good yearly harvests.

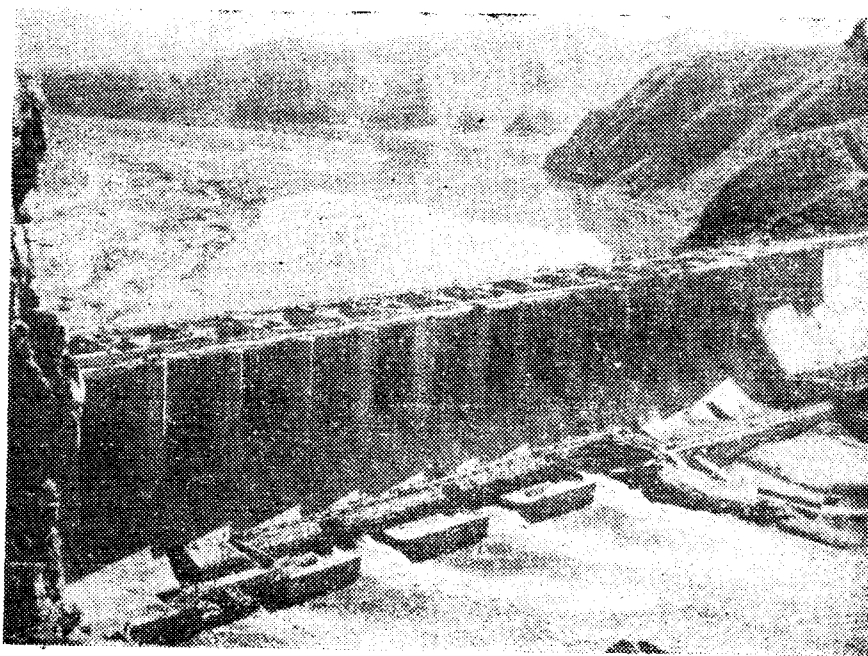
Kuanyun County in Kiangsu Province is another example. On the Yellow Sea coast, the county often suffered from floods and sea tides. The communes and brigades there relied on their own collective efforts to construct dykes and dig channels and build sluice-gates, completing a water conservancy network for irrigation and drainage. Now even 150 mm. of rain daily will not inundate the land, nor will a 100-day dry spell affect the harvest.

Work on harnessing the big rivers has been carried out under unified state planning. In 1951, Chairman Mao issued the great call **"The Huai River must be harnessed."** A large-scale mass movement to do this was launched by 100 million people in the river basin. Over 30 big reservoirs and 2,000 small and medium-sized ones were built in mountainous areas on the upper reaches; more than ten big channels were dug on the plain to divert Huai River water to the sea or to the Yangtze River;

flood storage projects were set up by using lakes and low-lying areas; two big irrigation areas were built and a number of power-operated irrigation and drainage projects were completed. Grain and cotton output in the basin is now 90 per cent and 477 per cent more than in 1949 respectively.

In 1963, Chairman Mao issued the great call **"The Haiho River must be brought under permanent control!"** For eight winters and springs several hundred thousand people in Hopei and Shantung Provinces and Peking and Tientsin went to work to control the river. They dug and dredged some 20 trunk channels, harnessed 200 branch waterways and built more than 20 flood prevention dykes. All this raised the Haiho River's ability to drain floodwater into the sea 6.4 times and to drain excessive rain water into the sea 8.8 times, thereby basically doing away with the threat of flood and waterlogging on both banks. Hopei Province, which suffered most seriously from these disasters and depended on the state for grain supply every year, has achieved self-sufficiency for three years running.

In 1952, China began to harness the Chingkiang River — the most harmful tributary on the middle reaches of the Yangtze River. Chairman Mao



A view of the Shenwo Reservoir dam in Liaoning Province.

wrote the following words for that river's flood diversion project: **"Strive for the successful completion of the Chingkiang River flood diversion project in the interests of the people."**

It was completed in two and a half months by 300,000 armymen and civilians. An exceptionally big flood occurred in 1954. But the floodwaters were diverted, ensuring the safety of the river basin and of Wuhan on the lower reaches of the Yangtze. Several years of work have increased the irrigation acreage on the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze to 150 million *mu* as against some 60 million in the years just after liberation; grain output in 1971 doubled that of 1949 and cotton output increased 5.8-fold.

The Yellow River, China's second biggest, used to be a scourge. After liberation, Chairman Mao personally inspected the river many times and issued the great call **"Work on the Yellow River must be done well."** The people of the whole basin cooperated closely under a unified state plan. Those on the upper and middle reaches went in for water and soil conservation and transforming the mountains and gullies, and a number of people's communes and brigades succeeded in checking water loss and soil erosion. On the lower reaches they fought flood and flocs and used the river's water and silt to expand the acreage under irrigation and improve the alkaline soil to the benefit of the people. In the over 20 years since liberation 1,300 kilometres of dykes have been strengthened and there has been no breach in the early autumn flood season. The time when there were two breaches every three years is gone for good. The basin's grain and cotton production is 79 per cent and 137 per cent more than in 1949 respectively.

China's ancient irrigation systems have got a new lease of life. The Tuchiangyen irrigation system built by the working people 2,200 years ago was out of repair before liberation and was in a state of disorder because the channels were silted up. As a

result, the acreage under irrigation had gone down from 3 million *mu* to 2 million *mu*. Constant harnessing since liberation has expanded the irrigated acreage to 7 million *mu* in 27 counties and cities as against 2 million *mu* in 12 counties and cities in the early post-liberation days.

The total generating capacity of power plants built in the 70 years before 1949, the year of liberation, was only 1.9 million kw. with an annual production of 4,300 million kwh. At that time, the power industry was poorly equipped and was mainly in the hands of the imperialists, bureaucrat-capitalists and compradors. Most of the power plants were concentrated in a few coastal cities, and China's rich power resources had not been explored and used.

Large-scale construction in the power industry has been undertaken in the spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle since liberation. The total designed capacity of power plants built in one year now exceeds the total for the 70 years before liberation. A number of new power plants

have sprung up in northwestern and southwestern China where the power industry had only a weak base. Power plants were also set up in areas inhabited by national minorities where there was no power industry to speak of in the past.

The power industry has gradually expanded. Electricity generated in 1970 was 71 per cent more than in 1965, overfulfilling the set target of the Third Five-Year Plan in an all-round way. Last year saw another increase, 19.5 per cent, over the previous year. While building big power plants to serve as the backbone, China has built a large number of small hydroelectric stations in the rural areas. Before liberation China had only 26 small hydroelectric stations with a generating capacity of 2,000 kw. The number had increased to more than 9,000 in 1960, and those built in 1970 and 1971 exceeded the total number built in the 20 years from 1949 to 1969. There are now 35,000 small hydroelectric stations all over the land, which account for 16 per cent of the total hydroelectric installed capacity in the country.

## Financial and Monetary Affairs

CHINA'S state revenue and expenditure, as well as credit receipts and payments, have greatly increased over the past 20 years or so; today they balance. A country free of domestic and foreign debts, China has a stable currency. All this has ensured progress in the socialist economy, science, culture and education, and steady improvement in the material and cultural well-being of the people.

The country is completely free of the inflation and chaotic financial conditions prevailing in old China. The value of the Renminbi has remained stable. Prices of daily necessities have remained basically constant for more than 20 years, with prices of some consumer goods progressively cut. The Renminbi has the full confidence and support of the people. Although interest on savings deposits has been rationally

lowered several times since liberation, bank deposits in city and countryside continue to grow. Internationally, the Renminbi enjoys high prestige and a number of countries and regions are now using the Renminbi for quoting prices and settling accounts in trading with or receiving assistance from China or in other economic dealings.

The founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 wiped out the feudal landlord system of exploitation and saw bureaucrat capital confiscated. Socialist transformation was carried out step by step in agriculture, handicrafts and capitalist industry and commerce to free the social forces of production and lay the foundation for accumulating funds for construction in a planned way on the basis of a rapid growth in production.



The 1950 income from state-owned enterprises came to only 34.1 per cent of the total state annual revenue against 62.5 per cent from the individual economy and capitalist industry and commerce. Today, income from state-owned enterprises accounts for over 90 per cent of the total while that from collective and individual economy amounts to less than 10 per cent.

Increased state revenue comes basically from mass movements launched by the workers to increase production and practise economy and from strengthened economic accounting, rising labour productivity and reduced production costs and not from adding to the burden of the people.

There is no personal income tax in China.

For the benefit of the peasants, the state agricultural tax is fixed although farm output has gone up. Thus, the tax which was 12 per cent of actual production in 1952 has been halved today—a positive factor in expanding farm production and raising the peasants' living standards.

A major task in China's financial and monetary work is to aid and support the development of agriculture. Hand in hand with the policy of stabilizing and reducing the burden of the commune members, the state has allocated large sums for building water conservancy projects on the farmland and helping com-

munes and production brigades with a weak economic base develop farm production. State funds for agriculture from 1953 to 1971 were 23.4 per cent greater than the agricultural tax of the same period.

Industrial investments account for an important part in the allocation of state funds. State investments in capital construction for industry every year are now several times the total annual state revenue in the early post-liberation years. Because of expanding production and a great number of new enterprises going into production, enterprises have much more circulating capital. The state each year not only allocates large sums of circulating capital from state funds but also gives out large amounts of industrial credits through the banks to meet the demands resulting from continually developing industrial production.

The state also provides funds for education, health, science and culture. Such funds annually come to more than four times the 1952 figure.

To swiftly change the legacy of backwardness of the national minority regions left over from history, the state provides all-round help. Apart from funds for developing the economy and promoting the cultural well-being of the minority nationalities, it also allocates subsidiary funds for minority nationality regions' special needs. Thanks to state help, tremendous changes have taken place in the economy of regions inhabited by the minority peoples. The

autonomous regions of Kwangsi, Ningsia, Inner Mongolia and Sinkiang last year turned out anything from a dozen to 100 times as much gross industrial output value compared with pre-liberation days.

An important principle in financial and monetary work in this country is improving the living standards of the people on the basis of increased production. In early post-liberation days, when China's economy was still beset with difficulties, the People's Government did everything possible to develop production, stabilize prices, check inflation and ensure a steady supply of daily necessities for the people. The state also allocated large sums for relief and solved the problem of unemployment step by step. With the growth of production, the state has raised wages on several occasions so that the average real income of every worker and staff member has increased by a wide margin as compared with that of early post-liberation days. It has also allocated large sums for labour insurance and welfare facilities.

Every year the People's Government has allocated funds and issued loans through the banks to help the peasants develop production and increase their income. At the same time the state has steadily raised the purchasing price of agricultural and side-line products and reduced the selling price of manufactured goods. During the Third Five-Year Plan, this has benefited the peasants to the tune of 10,000 million yuan.

### Report From Middle East

## **Tour of Three Gulf Countries**

Three newly independent Arab countries—Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates—have come into being on the Gulf, known as the "lake of petroleum" in the Middle East. They proclaimed their independence one after another in the latter half of 1971 after protracted and heroic struggles by

the people there and forced the colonialists to put an end to century-old so-called "protection." As a Hsinhua correspondent, I have recently toured these three Gulf countries.

### **Glorious Tradition**

On the southern coast of the Gulf, the United Arab Emirates consists

of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Umm al Quwain, Ajman, Fujairah and Ras Kheima. Its northwestern neighbour, Qatar, is a sizable peninsula jutting out into the Gulf. The 30-odd big and small islands west of Qatar are the state of Bahrain, which is a land of coconut groves and flowers.

In the museums in Doha, capital of Qatar, and Abu Dhabi, provisional capital of the United Arab Emirates which this journalist respectively visited, the historical relics on display show that these Gulf countries have a 3,000-year old civilization. Their people, industrious and courageous, have since ancient times engaged in animal husbandry, farming, fishing and the world-famous industry of pearling. From the 16th century onwards, Western colonialists made inroads into the area which occupies a vital strategic position and is a hub of sea and land communications linking Europe, Asia and Africa. The local inhabitants, however, fought the aggressors heroically with long swords, arrows and shields. In 1820, the British colonialists occupied by force of arms seven Emirates on the southern shore of the Gulf and then imposed on them a so-called "eternal truce," and thus named the area "Trucial Oman." But in the last one and a half centuries, the people there never had any "truce" with foreign aggressors. Their prolonged struggle against imperialism and colonialism and for national independence, which entered a period of upsurge in recent years, in 1971 finally forced Britain to forsake its "protective" treaties and withdraw its troops. In the same year, Bahrain in August, Qatar in September, and the United Arab Emirates on December 2 became independent.

Today, the people of the three Gulf countries are carrying on their struggle against colonialist forces. The workers of the American Petroleum Company in Bahrain held a strike last March against the plunder of U.S. monopoly capital. Earlier, on February 21, Qatar removed two colonialist officers from the important posts of army commander and police chief and appointed two Qataris to take their place. As announced by the Emir of Qatar, the

entire army, police and administration were to be Arabianized.

### Defending Oil Rights

Flying over the Gulf — or the "lake of petroleum," one finds a strip of land stretching into the green, quiet waters like a huge suspension bridge. On this small and yet oil-rich peninsula of the United Arab Emirates, there were red glows shaded by black columns of smoke curling skyward and giant silvery tanks glittering under the sunlight. Oil derricks in the Gulf were extracting oil from the sea-bed while oil tankers not far away came sailing in for the oil. . . .

The United Arab Emirates produced more than 50 million tons of oil last year, ranking sixth in the Middle East. Oil output in Qatar and Bahrain was also rather high. Last year, the large oil refinery on the island of Bahrain refined over ten million tons of crude oil produced by Bahrain and its neighbouring countries.

For many years, oil prospecting, extracting, refining and marketing in the three countries were in the hands of Western oil magnates who took away fabulous profits from them. To defend their rights to the nations' oil resources, the three countries have, since independence last year, fought together with other oil-producing countries bordering the Gulf against the foreign monopoly companies. In January this year they compelled American, British and other Western monopolies to agree to raise by 3.49 per cent the price of crude oil to make up for their losses caused by the devaluation of the dollar. In March the Western monopolies were again compelled to allow the oil-producing countries to hold 20 per cent of the shares of these companies. A responsible official of the United Arab Emirates said that this was a significant move and that the percentage should

increase step by step. He stressed that the governments of oil-producing countries must have their say and right of administration in oil production and no arbitrary actions on the part of the Western oil monopolies would be tolerated. The United Arab Emirates had established its own oil company by the end of 1971. Qatar decided in April this year to set up a state-owned company to exploit its own oil deposits.

### Common Desire

This correspondent received warm reception from responsible officials of departments concerned and from the people of the three countries.

Friends of the three countries always referred with great interest to the historical friendly contacts between the Gulf area and China. In ancient times, this area used to be one of the busy centres of world trade. Many Arabs journeyed from the Gulf area to China and many Chinese came to the area, all by way of the Indian Ocean. History shows that friendly ties were established between the Gulf area and China in the distant past, but these ties were for some time disrupted by imperialist aggression. And now they are being resumed. The Under-Secretary of the Information Ministry of the United Arab Emirates told this correspondent: "Our contacts with the Chinese people were broken in the past few centuries when we were reduced to the status of a colony or protectorate of the imperialists. Now our two countries can work to promote mutual understanding and friendship."

"Promote mutual understanding and friendship" — this is the common desire of the peoples of the three Gulf countries and the Chinese people who have similarly suffered from imperialist aggression in the past and are now facing the common task of opposing imperialism.

## ROUND THE WORLD

### SOUTH VIET NAM

#### People Miserable in Puppet-Controlled Areas

Egged on by U.S. imperialism, the puppet Nguyen Van Thieu clique has continuously intensified its anti-popular war which has landed the puppet Saigon regime in insurmountable financial difficulties. The Saigon paper *Buoi Sang* reported that the regime's financial deficit has reached 130,000 million piastres (puppet currency) in 1972. The 1973 budget provides for an estimated total expenditure of 436,000 million piastres and an estimated total revenue of 281,000 million, showing a deficit of over 150,000 million.

To make up for this enormous financial deficit, the Thieu clique, while begging alms from the United States, issued paper money amounting to 169,000 million piastres between 1970 and 1972, bringing on inflation and currency devaluation. The fourth devaluation in recent years was announced on October 29. The piastre's parity with the U.S. dollar was thus further marked down, going from 118:1 to 445:1.

The Thieu clique has repeatedly increased levies on the people. According to an AFP report, taxes and duties collected by the puppet Saigon regime amounted to 51,000 million piastres in 1970 and 68,000 million in 1971, and will reach 90,000 million in 1972 as the budget indicates. The clique has increased levies under all sorts of names and pretexts. For instance, there are 77 different taxes and duties on imported goods alone. Workers and other employees and even students have to pay taxes. The Thieu clique has recently forced all undergraduates to pay a tax of 10,000 piastres annually. Taxes swamp a fisherman from the moment he catches his basket of fish. For example, he has to pay at the place of his catch a "native products tax," a "provincial export tax" when he

takes it out of the province, a "provincial import tax" when he takes it to another province and finally he has to pay a "market tax."

The perverse acts of the Thieu clique have made the people's life unbearable. Jobless workers in the puppet-controlled areas have reached nearly a million. Even more are semi-employed. Some big factories and enterprises have time and again discharged workers. Rice and sugar prices rose 58 per cent and 83 per cent respectively in the year ending August 1972. Many teachers bring sweets, biscuits and other sundry goods to school to sell to their pupils between classes as a way of earning a little money to make ends meet. Unable to live on their income, a good number of the puppet regime's employees have to work at other jobs in their off hours, some as motorized pedicab drivers. The number of people who cannot find work and therefore have to roam the streets as beggars are countless. In the puppet-controlled countryside, there are hamlets where everyone is a beggar; such hamlets are known as "beggar hamlets."

The abject misery of the people in the puppet-controlled areas in south Viet Nam is the result of U.S. imperialism's "Vietnamization of the war" policy and the Thieu clique's reactionary rule. Heard everywhere in these areas are the words: "To get freedom, we must drive out the Yanks; to gain independence, we must down the Nguyen Van Thieu clique."

### PANMUNJOM

#### U.S. Denounced for Shipping Arms to South Korea

The Korean Military Armistice Commission held its 333rd meeting in Panmunjom at the proposal of the Korean-Chinese side.

Major-General Kim Pung Sop, senior member of the Korean-Chinese side, denounced U.S. imperialism at the meeting for having shipped into south Korea a great quantity of modern weapons and combat equipment after the publication of the Korean North-South Joint Statement and for openly declaring that it would push ahead with the "modernization" of the south Korean army. U.S. imperialism is now committing the serious crime of again bringing in F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers in squadron size and handing them over to south Korea, he pointed out.

Besides, he said, the U.S. imperialist aggressors are scheming to ship scores of amphibious tanks from the United States to south Korea.

He pointed out that these were outrageous acts of wrecking and violating the Korean Armistice Agreement and, furthermore, another unpardonable challenge to the entire Korean people and the world's progressive people who want peace and the reunification of Korea.

He continued: With the publication of the North-South Joint Statement on the basis of the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity and the holding of the meeting of the North-South Co-ordination Committee to implement the agreed points of the joint statement and the north-south Red Cross talks in our country, contacts and dialogues are going on between the north and the south and the prospect of the country's reunification is brighter than ever before.

By bringing into south Korea new types of weapons and combat equipment at such a time, Major-General Kim Pung Sop stressed, the U.S. imperialist aggressors sought to perpetuate the split in Korea and block the independent, peaceful reunification of Korea. This vividly showed that the U.S. imperialist aggressors, while pretending in words to support the North-South Joint Statement and "welcome" the peaceful reunification of Korea, were in fact resorting to crafty double-dealing tactics to encourage the diehard advocates of "reunification by prevailing over

communism" and war-like elements still active in south Korea and egg them on to provoke a new war.

Major-General Kim Pung Sop demanded that U.S. imperialism stop at once the criminal acts of sending large quantities of arms to south Korea.

#### AUSTRALIA

### New Prime Minister On Relations With China

Australia's new Prime Minister Gough Whitlam was sworn in on December 5 in Canberra.

At a press conference after the swearing in ceremony, Whitlam said: "A change of government however does provide a new opportunity for us to reassess a whole range of Australian foreign policies and attitudes." "The general direction of my thinking is towards a more independent Australian stance in international affairs," he added.

Whitlam announced at the press conference that he had instructed Australian Ambassador in Paris Alan Renouf to discuss the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and China with Chinese Ambassador Kuang Chen. He hoped that ambassadors would be exchanged between the two countries at the beginning of 1973 and he also expressed the wish to visit the People's Republic of China in the same year.

A spokesman of the Australian Foreign Ministry announced on December 6 that the new Australian Government would recall its "ambassador" to Taiwan and close its "embassy" in Taiwan within the next few weeks as a preliminary to the talks on the establishment of diplomatic relations with China, according to a Western news agency report.

The Australian Labour Party was victorious in the general elections on December 2. It defeated the Liberal-Country Party coalition which has ruled Australia for 23 years since 1949. According to the Australian

Constitution, a new cabinet will be formed by Labour Party leader Whitlam.

During the election campaign, the Labour Party announced a foreign policy standing for the continuous, close co-operation with the United States, New Zealand and other British Commonwealth countries; supporting the proposal on the neutralization of Southeast Asia; withdrawing Australian forces from Singapore and Malaysia; and establishing diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. In the campaign, Whitlam condemned the Australian Liberal-Country Party coalition government for sending troops to take part in the U.S. war of aggression against Viet Nam and for adopting a hostile policy towards the People's Republic of China.

#### DAHOMEY

### General Policy Programme

Major Mathieu Kerekou, new President of the Republic of Dahomey, announced the general policy programme of the new Dahomean Government in Cotonou on November 30.

President Kerekou said that the policy of national independence is the foundation of the general policy programme of the Dahomean Government.

The "prime reason for our country's backwardness is foreign domination," the President pointed out. "The history of this domination is one of political oppression, economic exploitation, cultural alienation and the spread of inter-regional and inter-tribal contradictions."

President Kerekou added: "Dahomey's relations with foreign countries must be based on the principles of non-alignment, equality, mutual respect for sovereignty, reciprocal advantages and national dignity." "Dahomey will undertake economic co-operation with all the African countries who respect national sovereignty." He promised that Dahomey would give active support

within the Organization of African Unity to the peoples struggling for liberation, in particular those of Guinea (Bissau), Angola, Mozambique, Azania, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Viet Nam.

#### AFRICA

### In the News

**Chad Severs Diplomatic Relations With Israel.** President Francois Tombalbaye of the Republic of Chad announced on November 28 that the Republic of Chad had decided to sever diplomatic relations and all forms of co-operation with Israel.

In a radio speech, President Tombalbaye condemned Israel as a threat to the African and Arab countries.

The decision was made at an extraordinary meeting on November 27 of the National Political Bureau of the Chadian Progressive Party and the Government.

**Zaire Expels South Korean Ambassador.** The Government of the Republic of Zaire has expelled the south Korean ambassador to Zaire, according to a report from Kinshasa on December 1.

The report said that on November 29, the Zaire People's Movement of the Revolution announced its recognition of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Disclosing that the south Korean ambassador had opposed the Republic of Zaire's decision to recognize the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the spokesman of the National Executive Council of Zaire declared: "Nobody else in the world but the Zaire people has the right to judge the official position taken by the Political Bureau of the Zaire People's Movement of the Revolution."

The report said that the Government of the Republic of Zaire had declared the south Korean ambassador *persona non grata* because of his interference in the internal affairs of Zaire, and ordered him to leave Zaire within 48 hours.

## FRIENDSHIP LOG

### *Chinese Scientists in Sweden*

A Chinese scientists' delegation with Pei Shih-chang as the leader and Pai Chieh-fu deputy leader paid a friendship visit to Sweden from October 20 to November 3.

The guests were warmly received by friends in Swedish scientific circles.

In Sweden, the delegation visited institutes of scientific research and higher learning, factories and mines and met with members of two academies of sciences there. Scientists of the two countries spent many days together, and exchanged opinions on how to promote further intercourse in the realm of science and technology.

On October 25, the delegation went to visit Gothenburg, the second largest city in the country. A heavy industry city, Gothenburg is also Sweden's leading commercial port having a regular shipping service with the Chinese port of Shanghai.

It was from Gothenburg that the Swedish people first sailed the seas in the 17th century to establish friendly ties with the Chinese people. Many Swedish homes still keep as heirlooms the chinaware their forbears brought back from China. While in Gothenburg, the visitors were welcomed by both the local officials and people.

Uppsala, which was also on the visitors' itinerary, is northern Europe's oldest cultural centre, cradle of the Swedish nation. The early Swedish kings reigned here 1,500 to 2,000 years ago. Uppsala is still the country's major scientific, cultural and educational centre. Founded approximately 500 years ago, Uppsala University, the oldest in Sweden, has over 40 research institutes with 20,000 students and scientific workers out of a local population of less than 100,000. The university's President and professors gave the Chinese scientists a rousing welcome. Vice-President Holmdahl expressed his great pleasure at meeting the long-awaited guests. As a medical professor, he warmly praised the medical service in China's vast coun-

tryside, which he saw something of in 1966. He was about to give a lecture on Chinese acupuncture the day the delegation came to the university.

Professor Hofsten of the Institute of Biochemistry was delighted to learn that Hu Shih-chuan, a young scientist from the Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry, was coming. The professor first met Hu while giving an academic report at that institute in Shanghai last April. Making use of his off days, Professor Hofsten drove his Chinese guest three times to visit his institute.

The Uppsala Municipal Council welcomed the Chinese scientists in the traditional Swedish way. At the banquet given by the Council in honour of the visitors, a municipal official dressed in the ancient national costume of northern Europe presented both the Swedish and Chinese scientists with a large pot of wine for them to drink together. This was said to be a ceremony reserved for only the most honoured guests of this old city.

The hosts at Uppsala presented a key-chain to each of the Chinese guests when they left, signifying that the door to friendly contacts between the Swedish and Chinese peoples is always open.

The delegation then went to northern Sweden and visited the Kiruna iron mine, the meteorological rocket launching ground and the Institute of Geophysics in the Arctic Circle. Kiruna is only two hours by air from Stockholm, but the weather changed from mild autumn to snowy winter. The hosts' warm hospitality made the guests from afar oblivious to the arctic cold.

When the Director of the Institute of Geophysics, a professor at Umea University, first learnt that the scientists were to visit his institute, he was touring the United States. He immediately returned home to meet the Chinese guests.

When the Chinese scientists went to call on Professor Gunnar Hambræus, Managing Director of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, at his home, he and his wife and the whole family were all at the door to meet them. Professor Hambræus said this was

the first time so many guests from a far-off country had been in his home. Among the Swedish scientists present were many who had visited China. The scientists of the two countries enjoyed a warm and cordial chat.

As one Swedish scientist put it, the friendship between scientists of the two countries is of long historical standing and the visit by the Chinese scientists has paved the way for strengthening further the friendly ties between the Chinese and Swedish scientists.

### *Friendly Co-operation*

Dar-es-Salaam Harbour was full of stir and movement on November 18. Fluttering in a breeze blowing in from the Indian Ocean were a huge streamer — "Long live the friendship between Tanzania and China!" — and the Tanzanian and Chinese national flags. It was the day of the ceremony commissioning the Chinese-Tanzanian Joint Shipping Company's 10,000-ton-class ocean-going vessel *Chamwino*.

*Chamwino* is the company's third ocean-going ship. The two others are the *Africa-Asia* and *Co-operation*. The vessel's name comes from Chamwino, the Swahili name of a *ujamaa* village in the Dodoma region in central Tanzania, which was built up in 1970 under the personal guidance of President Nyerere.

Speaking at the harbour ceremony, Tanzanian Minister for Communications and Work Lusinde reviewed the progress and achievements of the shipping company since its establishment in 1967.

He emphasized the significance of the establishment of the company in breaking the imperialist powers' monopoly of maritime transport and safeguarding national independence and promoting the national economy of Tanzania, particularly in developing its national maritime transport and foreign trade and communications.

He had high praise for the close co-operation and fraternal friendship between the Tanzanian and Chinese working staffs in the company, and between the people of the two countries.

## ON THE HOME FRONT

### *Liaoning's Big Reservoir*

THE Shenwo Reservoir in Liaoning Province, northeast China, was essentially completed in November. One of the key projects of an overall plan to harness the Liaoho River, it is situated on the middle reaches of the river's longest tributary, the Taitzu, and has a capacity of 800 million cubic metres. It will be used for power generation (about 100 million kilowatt-hours of electricity a year), irrigation (700,000 *mu* of farmland), flood prevention (for 1,600,000 *mu*) and supplying part of the water needed by the big industrial and mining centres including the iron and steel centre of Anshan.

The People's Government had planned the harnessing of the Liaoho soon after liberation. Funds for building the reservoir were allocated in 1951 and again in 1959, but Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line, which pressed for doing things in a "big, modern, comprehensive" way irrespective of existing conditions, shackled the masses' spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle. While progress foundered, a big administrative building and a plush club for specialists went up near the construction site. Then the project was wiped off the slate altogether when difficulties arose.

Then came the Cultural Revolution, and in October 1970 a force of 20,000 workers, peasants and armymen came to the site to take up the work. They conscientiously studied the Party's general line of "going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism" and mounted a mass criticism campaign against Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line. They pledged that they would work hard to make up for lost time. A socialist emulation drive was soon under way. The reservoir, which was on the whole completed by November 1972, took only two years instead of the planned three and quality of work was up to standard.

For years the people living on the banks of the Taitzu had dreamt of

building a reservoir. Today that dream has come true. A concrete dam 532 metres across and 50 metres high spans the river valley between towering peaks and holds back the water, storing it in a huge man-made lake.

An important factor in the speed of construction was the unstinting aid and support given by the People's Liberation Army, industrial enterprises concerned and the finance and trade departments.

### *Hangchow—A Charming City*

KNOWN for its scenic West Lake, Hangchow is a popular sightseeing resort and a rising industrial city as well.

With a history of more than 2,000 years, the city began to thrive in the wake of the building of the Grand Canal in the Sui Dynasty (beginning from 605 A.D.). It was the capital of the Southern Sung Dynasty in 1127.

Hangchow is now the capital of Chekiang Province on the coast of the East China Sea. The province covers an area of over 100,000 square kilometres and has a population of 28.32 million.

Picturesque West Lake is encircled on three sides by hills. Strenuous efforts by the labouring people down through the centuries to build embankments, bridges and pavilions and plant willows and flowers here have made it a famous scenic spot.



In pre-liberation days, housing conditions were miserable for the working people, but the reactionary ruling classes made Hangchow a pleasure centre for themselves. They built luxurious villas and gardens behind high walls and railings, while public parks and recreation grounds became more and more desolate, and the lake got silted up year after year until its average depth was only 60 centimetres.

The city has undergone great changes since liberation. Under the leadership of the Party and Chairman Mao and in line with the principle of making urban construction serve production and the working people, Hangchow has put up and rebuilt houses with a total floorspace of over 200,000 square metres, widened and paved many roads, laid a network of sewers, extended bus lines and started a trolley-bus service. Dredging machines were used to remove over 7 million cubic metres of silt from West Lake, thereby increasing its depth to an average of 180 centimetres and doubling its storage capacity. Thirty million trees have been planted around the lake and some 60,000 *mu* of barren hills afforested. With the building of many new parks, the total park area in the city has increased to 4,000 *mu*, six times that before liberation. West Lake is today dotted with lawns and flower-beds and refurbished pavilions and gardens.

There were only 33 factories and workshops with more than 100 workers each before liberation. Now apart from the rapid growth of the existing silk and cotton textile industries, metallurgical, machine-building, chemical, rubber, glass, electronic, plastic and other industries have come into being, and steelmaking furnaces, steam turbines, equipment for making chemical fertilizer, motor vehicles, tractors, ships for inland navigation and various types of metal-cutting lathes are mass-produced. Total industrial output value in 1971 was 18.7 times that of early post-liberation years, or 79 per cent higher than in 1965, the year preceding the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Heavy industry makes up 41 per cent of the total industrial output value as against only about

3 per cent in the early years after liberation. What with a twelvefold increase of light industry, Hangchow has been changed from a consumer city to a rising socialist industrial city.

A famous silk producer, it has rebuilt and expanded old silk mills and erected China's biggest modern silk dyeing and printing complex and a modern synthetic fibres mill. Hangchow has 18 large silk mills and is an important centre turning out silk textile machinery, silk raw materials and various kinds of silk products. It now produces more than 500 varieties of silk in nearly 4,000 designs.

Hangchow also produces more than 700 varieties of light industrial products and an increasing number of applied arts, such as sandalwood fans and silk parasols for which Hangchow is famous.

The city has five institutes of higher learning and 56 middle schools, while primary school education is universal. There are eight general hospitals and six specialized ones.

### **National "Wushu" Competition**

**I**N November the city of Tsinan in Shantung Province hosted the National Wushu Competition, the biggest of its kind since the Great Cultural Revolution got under way. It drew a gate of 100,000. Performers of both sexes took part, and the entrants were from among the various nationalities of 24 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, as well as from the Peking Physical Culture and Sports Institute. Children made up two-thirds of the 360 competitors, the youngest still looking forward to his seventh birthday. Veterans in the field were also present, the oldest still young at 68.

Wushu, which includes traditional Chinese boxing and sword play, is uniquely Chinese, created by the labouring people and developed down through the centuries. It is very popular, and one can see enthusiasts of all ages practising early in the morning in urban parks and quiet tree-lined streets.

Many youngsters performed difficult sets of movements showing a



**A 68-year-old competitor giving a 6-year-old entrant some tips at the 1972 National Wushu Competition.**

fine mastery attained through hard training and exacting practice. Veterans in their fifties displayed skill and grace in boxing and swordsmanship. "Friendship first, competition second" was the keynote. Performers of various nationalities, tested in the Cultural Revolution, learnt eagerly from each other, with the more skilled entrants and the coaches freely passing on their advice and experience to members of fraternal teams.

### **Big Ovarian Tumour Removed in Commune Clinic**

**A** 37-kilogramme ovarian tumour was successfully removed recently from a peasant woman of Chuang nationality in a south China rural commune clinic. Analgesia was induced with four needles and the patient remained fully conscious throughout the two-hour-long operation. Fifty-four kilogrammes of fluid had been withdrawn from the tumour pre-operatively in three stages.

Pan Ya-ying, the patient, lives in a tiny remote mountain village in the Tuan Yao Autonomous County of the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region. When the commune clinic doctors on mobile service found her, she was reclining in a specially-made chair. Her abdomen measured 183 cm. around. They made many

visits after that, climbing the difficult mountain paths to get there, and made a thorough study of how, when and where to operate. They decided to do it in her home, to spare her the pain and hardship of a journey.

The county health bureau director led a team of doctors to help at the operation and many commune members volunteered to donate blood. After it was over, leading members of the county revolutionary committee and people's commune visited the patient regularly to see that everything possible was being done to ensure a complete recovery.

All treatment including the operation was free. In addition, the patient received a grant from her commune for special nourishment during convalescence. She was restored to health after a month's careful nursing.

The medical care received by Pan Ya-ying is by no means exceptional. In 1971 alone, 270 successful operations were done in peasants' homes and village clinics by doctors from the commune medical centres in the county. They make a regular practice of going the rounds of the production brigades and teams to help the "bare-foot doctors" carry on the work of treating and preventing diseases.

Prior to liberation this county had only one clinic, with a staff of seven. Now it has a hospital and several clinics, with a staff of 539.

## ELEMENTARY

## CHINESE

(In two volumes)

This book is intended for beginners learning Chinese. In two volumes, it consists of 66 lessons (including 12 lessons in phonetics and oral practice). There is a vocabulary table at the end of volume 2.

The aim of this book is to enable the student to speak and read simple Chinese, not to give a comprehensive and systematic knowledge of Chinese grammar. There are simple notes to the fundamental grammatical points in each lesson from lesson 13 on.

Upon completing the two volumes, beginners will be able to carry on everyday conversation and read simple Chinese.

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