

PEKING REVIEW

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April 21, 1978

北
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報

**Integrating Moral Encouragement
With Material Reward**

**From Angola to the Horn
Of Africa**

New College Students

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BEIJING ZHOUBAO

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CONTENTS

THE WEEK	3
Somali President Visits China	
Chairman Hua Meets Delegation of Argentine Communist Party (M-L)	
Third Anniversary of Democratic Kampuchea	
Building Grain Bases	
ARTICLES AND DOCUMENTS	
Integrating Moral Encouragement With Material Reward — Excerpts of <i>Renmin Ribao</i> Editorial	6
How It Is Done in Kailan Coal Mine	7
Soviet Strategy in Action: From Angola to the Horn of Africa — Chu Yu	9
Education: New College Students	11
Economic Notes: The Dollar Falls Again — Ku Tsin	16
U.S. Economy: Ominous Signals	17
Commentaries:	
The Namibian People's Struggle Is Sure to Triumph	18
Who Is Sharpening Tension in Northern Europe?	19
Reminiscences: Edgar Snow and His "Red Star Over China" — Chiang Shan	20
Family Planning in Jutung County (III): Measures and Results — Our Correspondent Tso An-hua	23
Explanatory Notes to Volume V of "Selected Works of Mao Tsetung" (8)	26
ROUND THE WORLD	28
South Africa: Aftermath of Arms Expansion	
Copenhagen: E.E.C. Summit	
ON THE HOME FRONT	30
Building a New Tangshan	
Women in Their Evening Years	
Serve the People	

Somali President Visits China

"We appreciate the policy, followed by the Somali people under President Siad Barre's leadership, of upholding national unity and safeguarding national independence and state sovereignty internally and of combating big-power hegemonism and imperialism externally." This was said by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng on April 16 when he met with President Mohamed Siad Barre and exchanged views with him on questions of common interest.

Mohamed Siad Barre, Head of State of Somalia and General Secretary of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, made his third visit to China from April 14 to 18. On their arrival in Peking, President Siad Barre and his party including Vice-President Ismail Ali Abucar were warmly welcomed at the airport by Chairman Hua, Vice-Premiers Li Hsien-nien and Keng Piao as well as other Chinese officials. That same evening, Vice-Premier Li hosted a banquet given by the State Council in honour of the distinguished guests. In their speeches at the banquet, both host and guest laid emphasis on the present African situation.

The Horn of Africa. Speaking of the recent events in the Horn of Africa, Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien said: "The bold actions taken by the Somali Government and people in defence

of national dignity and state sovereignty have dealt heavy blows at the acts of aggression and expansion in the Horn of Africa by that wildly ambitious superpower. They have heightened the morale of the people of Africa and the third world in their united struggle against hegemonism."

"One of the superpowers," he added, "sent mercenary troops to Angola and the Horn of Africa and wantonly meddled and intervened in the internal affairs of African countries as well as the affairs between them and instigated one-armed conflict after another. The other superpower is still bolstering the racist regimes of Vorster and Smith in order to safeguard its vested interests. Whether in southern Africa or in the Horn of Africa, the two superpowers are carrying out unbridled expansion and aggression to grab strategic areas and resources, not scrupling to resort to outright armed intervention."

The Vice-Premier declared that the Chinese Government and people resolutely stand on the side of the African people and firmly support their righteous demand for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Africa.

Struggle Will Continue. President Siad condemned "the naked aggression committed by the Soviet Union in the Horn of Africa and against the freedom-loving Somali people." The President said: "It goes

without saying that this wanton interference on the part of the U.S.S.R. utterly contradicts the very principles that the Soviet Union professes to champion — the socialist principles attributed to promote the cause of liberation movements and other suppressed progressive forces." He demanded the withdrawal of Soviet and Cuban forces from the region. He added: "It is also of crucial importance that Soviet and Cuban forces, the presence of which constitutes a most destabilizing factor in the region, are withdrawn from the scene." President Siad declared that the war of liberation by the Western Somali Liberation Front will continue.

Two Peace Zones. More and more people are expressing concern over the two superpowers' contention for domination of the seas. The Somali President said: "The Red Sea is an important waterway and should, therefore, be a zone of peace so that it could benefit the interests of the littoral states and the world in general. It is the policy of our Party and government that the Red Sea should not be allowed to become a theatre of conflicts of any kind. With regard to the Indian Ocean, the Somali Government maintains that it also be a zone of peace and not an ocean of confrontation."

During the visit, Vice-Premiers Li Hsien-nien and Keng Piao held talks with President Siad and Vice-President Ismail Ali Abucar.

Chairman Hua Meets Delegation of Argentine Communist Party (M-L)

Chairman Hua Kuo-feng recently met and had a cordial and friendly conversation with the Delegation of the Central Committee of the Argentine Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) led by General Secretary Guillermo Juarez.

Keng Piao, Member of the Political Bureau and Head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, was present on the occasion.

After the meeting, Comrade Keng Piao gave a farewell banquet for the delegation on behalf of Chairman Hua and the Party Central Committee.

In his toast at the banquet, Comrade Keng Piao praised the Argentine Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) for its efforts in applying the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism to the concrete practice of the Argentine revolution and for its heroic struggle under white terror.

Comrade Keng Piao pointed out: "The views of our two Parties on the present international situation and major issues of the international communist movement are extensively identical. We are all determined to defend the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism and Chairman Mao's theory on the three worlds and to fight to the end against imperialism, modern revisionism, and hegemonism of the superpowers, particularly that of Soviet revisionism."

Comrade Keng Piao said that the Chinese Communist Party and the Argentine Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) are fraternal Marxist-Leninist Parties which always sympathize with and support each other.

In his toast, Comrade Guillermo Juarez praised Chairman Hua Kuo-feng for his firm leadership in the struggle to smash the "gang of four" and said that Chairman Hua is the wise leader of the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people. He noted that the successful movement to expose and criticize the "gang of four" has resulted in consolidating proletarian dictatorship in China and creating conditions for a big leap forward in socialist revolution and socialist construction.

Comrade Juarez said: "Chairman Mao's correct theory on the three worlds is of decisive significance. It points out the general orientation of the present international struggle and constitutes a powerful theoretical weapon against modern revisionism." He warmly praised China for her resolute support to the struggle of the proletariat and people of all countries.

Third Anniversary of Democratic Kampuchea

April 17 this year was the third National Day of Democratic Kampuchea. Phnom Penh was liberated and the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, the Lon Nol clique, were completely defeated on that day in 1975. In its editorial greeting this glorious festival of the Kampuchean people, *Renmin Ribao* pointed out: "The Kampuchean people have founded a people's

Kampuchea with the help of the gun. This great victory has set for the world's people a brilliant example of a small country defeating an imperialist power."

Heartening achievements have been made by Kampuchea in the last three years. "Since the liberation of the whole country," *Renmin Ribao* went on to say, "the Communist Party of Kampuchea has led the people to resolutely defend national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and vigorously rehabilitate and develop the national economy by upholding the principles of independence and self-reliance and by promoting the spirit of revolutionary heroism displayed during the war years. In a very short time, Kampuchea has become self-sufficient in food grains and with a surplus too."

Speaking of the international situation, *Renmin Ribao* pointed out that "the superpower which claims to be a 'natural ally' of the third world is deliberately sowing discord and undermining the unity of the Asian countries, and intensifying its infiltration and expansion in an attempt to bring Southeast Asia and even the whole of Asia into its sphere of influence." The paper declared that no matter how tricky the social-imperialist designs may be, they are doomed to fail in face of the awakened people of Asian countries.

Building Grain Bases

The State Council recently sent a work team made up of representatives from 21 ministries and other units to north-east China's Heilungkiang Province to help expedite the

work of building a large marketable grain base there.

One of the biggest reclamation areas in China, the province now has 8.6 million hectares under cultivation. About 8 million more hectares are lying waste but are suitable for ploughing. The potential is enormous. The province is expected to provide a much greater amount of grain for the state than at present. However, Heilungkiang has its handicaps too. It has a small population and the frost-free period in most parts lasts only three to four months. To reap and garner more grain, therefore, farm mechanization must be stepped up.

The state has always attached great importance to developing agriculture in Heilungkiang. Recently the State Council decided to provide the province with more tractors, farm implements, accessories, rolled steel, chemical fertilizers and insecticides than last year.

In the Report on the Work of the Government to the First

Session of the Fifth National People's Congress, Chairman Hua called for producing 400,000 million kilogrammes of grain by 1985. To achieve this, an important measure to be taken is to build 12 large-scale bases of marketable grain and run the state farms well. Widely known as a "bread basket" and "homeland of soya beans," Heilungkiang Province has worked out a plan to reclaim 4.66 million hectares of wasteland before that year.

Like Heilungkiang, other provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions have put their best foot forward in the current spring farming season in an effort to gather more grain this year. As for the low-yield and grain-deficient regions, efforts are being made to become self-sufficient in grain within two to three years. A good example in this respect is northwest China's Chinghai Province which is as large in area as Heilungkiang and has a short frost-free period too. In

the years the province was under the sway of the "gang of four's" hatchetmen, Chairman Mao's principle of developing the national economy in the order of agriculture, light industry and heavy industry was not implemented. Instead, they gave priority to the development of heavy industry and even placed light industry before agriculture. They blindly went in for heavy industry and machine building in total disregard of the province's resources and their distribution. The result was that some areas in Chinghai which had achieved self-sufficiency in grain became grain-deficient again. Now the provincial leadership has mobilized the local people to give top priority to developing agriculture.

IN THE NEWS

• Premier Hua Kuo-feng on April 15 sent a message to President Samora Moises Machel expressing sympathy over the recent flood in Central Mozambique.

• Keng Piao, Member of the Political Bureau and Head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on April 12 met the Delegation of the Communist League of Luxembourg led by Charles Doerner, Member of the Political Bureau of the League.

• Comrade Keng Piao on April 14 met the Delegation of the Editorial Staff of *The Call*, organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the United States of America (Marxist-Leninist), led by the paper's Chief Editor Daniel Leon Burstein.



Presenting a socialist emulation banner to an advanced unit of a state farm in Heilungkiang Province.

Integrating Moral Encouragement With Material Reward

IN his Report on the Work of the Government to the Fifth National People's Congress, Chairman Hua pointed out: "Moral encouragement and material reward must go hand in hand, with emphasis on the former." Implementation of this policy is an effective measure to rouse the enthusiasm of the masses for socialism, speed up the development of the national economy and bring to fruition the magnificent plan approved by the Fifth National People's Congress.

A Socialist Principle

The principle of "to each according to his work" must be followed in applying this policy for Marxism considers it the socialist principle for distributing consumer goods to individuals on the basis of socialist public ownership of the means of production. It is prefaced by "from each according to his ability" and calls for the implementation of "He who does not work, neither shall he eat" and "an equal amount of products for an equal amount of labour." This is a negation of the capitalist exploiting system under which those who do not work acquire wealth, and is a revolutionary change in the system of distribution. Distribution system must correspond to the level of development of the productive forces, and the socialist principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work" is in full accord with our country's present level of development of the productive forces.

Good or comparatively good methods have already been found in many places in carrying out this policy and have won the support of both the cadres at the grass-roots level and the workers. Its application has already yielded remarkable results in production. In the Kailan Coal Mine, for instance, wages and other benefits are different between those work-

ing underground and those on the surface, and workers are encouraged to work in the pits and where conditions are more arduous. This ensures a steady number of miners working underground and raises labour productivity to a level higher than the national average. Another example is Whampoa Harbour in Kwangchow. The introduction of piecework wage system for teams of stevedores has effectively stimulated the enthusiasm of the dockers and staff. Loading and unloading are done promptly and efficiently. In some cities where an appropriate amount of material rewards are given to the barbers who do more work, efficiency has shot up and there is no more waiting.

It is essential to have a comprehensive, correct understanding of this policy. Emphasis on moral encouragement requires us to firmly believe in the truth that "it is the class consciousness and firmness of the working class that count." (Lenin: *Report of the Central Committee.*) Therefore, it is necessary to put political and ideological education before everything else, really do well ideological and political work, learn from the communist attitude towards labour of the people of Taching and Tachai, foster the spirit of defying hardships and death and seeking no personal fame and gain and commend the advanced so as to get everybody to do his best and do more for socialism.

Marxism Endorses Material Rewards

But in the historical period of socialism where social products are not in enormous abundance and the people's political consciousness is not yet greatly enhanced, moral encouragement alone is not enough and the material interests of the masses must be taken into consideration. The difference in skill and work should be reflected in the pay of the workers, with those making outstanding achievements

given extra material rewards. Marxism affirms material rewards. Lenin explicitly pointed out: "We must remember that the production propaganda which we have firmly decided to launch will be supplemented with a different kind of persuasion, namely, bonuses in kind." (*Report on the Work of the Council of People's Commissars.*) He also said that "in the period of transition from capitalism to communism bonuses are indispensable, as is borne out by theory and by a year's experience of Soviet power." (*The Basic Tasks of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat in Russia.*) Way back in the period of the Second Revolutionary Civil War, Chairman Mao had pointed out that increasing workers' enthusiasm, organizing emulation drives in production and rewarding those with outstanding achievements in production were important methods in boosting production. During the War of Resistance Against Japan, he again pointed out: "All available forces must be mobilized for the extensive development of agriculture, industry and trade and the improvement of the livelihood of the soldiers and the people. For this purpose there must be labour emulation campaigns, and rewards should be given to labour heroes and model workers." (*On Coalition Government.*) Chairman Mao had approved the system practised in China in which staff members and workers in state enterprises are paid primarily on a time-rate basis with piecework playing a secondary role, wages plus bonuses. The socialist principle of "to each according to his work" and the payment system and policies that embody this principle are there in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China adopted by the Fifth National People's Congress.

For the purpose of usurping Party and state power, the "gang of four," however, spread for years the lie that "to each according to his work" was a capitalist principle. They especially attacked material reward, piecework and pecuniary allowances for certain jobs, branding them all as "putting bonuses in command" and "using material incentives as a bait." The socialist principle of distribution, "to each according to his work," was vilified by the gang as the root of all evils.

But did the "gang of four" and their henchmen really reject material benefits and

live plainly and simply? Not at all. Facts brought to light over the past year and more showed that members of the gang were big embezzlers who stole state property and who batten on the blood of the people. They were parasites, squandering the people's money on luxuries.

The gang also fanned up anarchy and distorted political equality to mean equalization of living standards. They invented the absurd idea that "inequality inevitably gives rise to class exploitation" and used it as an argument against the bonus system. How is it possible for a worker to turn into a capitalist for receiving 10 to 20 yuan a month in addition to his wage? The gang was straining for absolute equalitarianism, and this led to the extremely unreasonable state of affairs where no distinction was made between those who did more work and those who did less, between those who did a good job and those who did a poor one, and between those who worked and those who did not. Thus correct, accepted social standards were debased and people's minds confused, their enthusiasm for production was dampened and production seriously disrupted. This is why we must thoroughly criticize the "gang of four" for their crimes of undermining the implementation of the principle of "to each according to his work" and rehabilitate the practice of material reward, piecework and monetary allowances for certain jobs.

(Excerpts from the editorial of
"Renmin Ribao," April 9)

How It Is Done in Kailan Coal Mine

SINCE 1973, the Kailan Coal Mine in Tangshan, on the premise of politics put in command, has implemented the principle of "to each according to his work" in which moral encouragement is combined with material reward, with emphasis on the former. Different kinds of work are paid differently and those who do a fine job in production are given an appropriate amount of material reward.

In Kailan a daily wage system on the time-rate basis is practised. Those working down

the pits are paid a little more than those on the surface and those doing the main job receive a slightly higher wage than those doing auxiliary work. Those no longer able to work underground because of their age or poor health are given an allowance to help offset difficulties which may ensue through a pay drop.

Bonuses are given out like this:

The team or group of workers that fulfils its quantitative and qualitative quotas and other requirements is entitled to bonuses issued monthly. The largest bonus for mining workers is 22.6 per cent of their standard wage and the smallest, 12.1 per cent. For the cadres, the amount of their bonuses is in inverse proportion to their wages. Those who get 100 yuan or more a month do not have bonuses.

Soon after this bonus system was put into practice, it was attacked by followers of the "gang of four." After repeated study of what the revolutionary teachers said about bonuses, the Party committee of the Kailan Coal Mine concluded that commending and giving an appropriate amount of bonuses to those who put in more effort and achieved greater successes than others in production was in keeping with the socialist principle of "to each according to his work," and it had nothing to do with "putting bonuses in command." So the system was continued.

In the days before the Cultural Revolution, under the influence of Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line, there were as many as 70 different kinds of bonuses in Kailan and the sum was so big that sometimes the bonuses some people got added up to more than their wages. And as some cadres relied mainly on bonuses and not political and ideological work to activate worker enthusiasm, a few workers became obsessed with bonuses. Obviously, these trends should be criticized.

Over the last few years, Kailan has been running political evening schools and classes



Famous Kailan labour hero Hou Chan-yu.

where workers and staff members study works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and by Chairman Mao. In addition, frequent labour emulation drives have been launched to see who has a sounder ideology and who has made greater contributions to the revolution. The Party committee has often cited advanced, dedicated workers and educated the workers to foster the idea of mining coal for the socialist motherland. As a result of these efforts, many have become advanced or model workers. The national coal industry conference held early this year called upon the miners throughout the country to learn from the revolutionary spirit of the Kailan workers who are "particularly good fighters."

Ideological education combined with implementing the principle of "to each according to his work" has fired the Kailan workers and staff with mounting enthusiasm and brought labour productivity to a level higher than the national average. Output of raw coal in 1975 was twice the mine's designed capacity. And although seriously damaged by the strong earthquake in July 1976, the Kailan Coal Mine rapidly restored production and by December last year reached its pre-quake daily level of output.

From Angola to the Horn of Africa

by Chu Yu

AFTER fomenting an armed conflict in the Horn of Africa, Soviet social-imperialism sent upwards of ten thousand mercenaries to take an active part in the fighting there. Although the Somali troop withdrawal from the Ogaden Region has created favourable conditions for the peaceful settlement of the dispute in the Horn of Africa and thus deprived Moscow of its pretext for military intervention, these mercenaries are still hanging on there, while preparing public opinion and getting ready for new adventures. This is the same trick the Soviet Union employed in its war of aggression against Angola. The occupation of Angola was followed by a Soviet-instigated armed invasion of Zaire. These Soviet moves in Angola and in the Horn of Africa have further given away Moscow's global strategy and the insidious wiles used in its expansion overseas.

Kremlin's Global Strategy

That the Soviet Union is seizing one strategic position after another in these local wars is an important part of its stepped-up preparations for a new world war. Its purpose is to gradually build up a network of military bases to complete its global strategic deployment before it launches a global war. Because Europe is the focus of its contention for world hegemony with the United States, the Middle East and Africa, an important flank of Europe, has caught Soviet attention. It intends to seize the oil and other strategic natural resources in the Middle East and Africa which the West, particularly Western Europe, cannot do without, and to control the West's two supply lines — one running from the Indian Ocean to Western Europe via the Red Sea and the other from the Indian Ocean, round the Cape of Good Hope and across the Atlantic to Western Europe and the Americas. This would put a stranglehold on

Western Europe and isolate the United States. The flames of war it ignited in Angola, Zaire and the Horn of Africa are in fact all peripheral wars in its contention with the United States for hegemony over Europe and the world as a whole.

In northeast Africa, the Soviet Union, after a series of setbacks in Egypt, the Sudan and Somalia, chose to place a big ante on the Horn of Africa in view of the latter's important position in its strategic move to outflank Western Europe. It hopes that by getting a foothold on the Horn of Africa it could take the West by the throat. Moscow has recently made it clear that the Horn of Africa is important to the Soviet Union because it is the "estuary" of the Red Sea, because "there are a lot of good sea-ports in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean," and, "moreover, there are sea lanes which link oil producing countries with America and Europe and 70 per cent of Western Europe's



imports of raw materials travel over these sea lanes." To the Soviet Union the Horn of Africa is also a forward base for its further expansion in Africa and the Middle East. By hanging on there, it is scheming for a return to its lost positions in northeast Africa, and it can thrust south into southern Africa or push north up to the Arabian Peninsula. This is made clear by the fact that Soviet military intervention in the Horn of Africa coincided with Moscow's arms shipments to the two said regions.

In its involvement in the local wars in Angola and the Horn of Africa, the Soviet Union has tried its utmost to cause antagonism and conflict among the third world countries. The course of its conduct can be summarized as follows: first, sowing discord among third world countries or among various national-liberation organizations, aggravating disputes, inciting hostile feelings and thus infiltrating its forces; next, provoking armed conflicts among these countries or organizations and even financing subversion and armed incursions by desperadoes in certain countries, utilizing these countries' or organizations' dependence on Soviet military and other "aid" to tighten its grip on them; then, sending mercenaries to start a war of aggression under Moscow's direct command; finally, entrenching itself there and turning the area into a base for new wars of aggression.

Colonialist of the Latest Type

What it has been doing in the Horn of Africa has strictly followed this pattern. Professing itself to be the "natural ally" and dangling its "selfless aid," the Soviet Union intervened in the dispute between Somalia and Ethiopia left over by history, supporting one side today and the other tomorrow. You want my "aid"? Good, let me use your bases and do what I like. A country regarded by Moscow as "progressive" becomes "reactionary" overnight once it opposes Soviet control. And then come arms blockade, economic blackmail and political subversion. The "advisers" who once stayed in that country suddenly become the commanders of the mercenaries attacking it. Facts prove that each side in the dispute, whether "aided" or opposed by Moscow, is the victim of social-imperialist aggression and the object of its colonial enslavement. Things are not going well either for that country which supplies

mercenaries for the expeditionary forces in the service of the Soviet Union everywhere. The more cannon-fodder it provides, the more tightly it is controlled. In the interests of wresting world hegemony, the new tsars will stoop to any foul deed. This latest-type social-colonialist has not only inherited but also developed the old colonialists' methods of "divide and rule," getting the local people to fight each other, using mercenaries as the spearhead, etc.

Moscow Capitalizes on West's Appeasement

In incessantly provoking local wars from Angola to the Horn of Africa, the Soviet Union is making use of the appeasement trend in the West to press on with its expansion. Soon after the European "security" conference, there was the Angola incident. In March last year when the new U.S. administration was anxious to hold talks with the Soviet Union, the Zaire event broke out. In September last year, after the United States made concessions in its talks with the Soviet Union on strategic arms and other matters, the problem in the Horn of Africa exploded. While it kindles the flames of war, the Soviet Union clamours about avoiding "internationalizing of the conflict" to threaten and tie the hands of its adversary in contention for world hegemony. When it finds out that its adversary's reaction is weak, its arrogance soars and its expansion escalates. In the past, it was in Angola and Zaire; today, it is in the Horn of Africa; and tomorrow, it will be in many more places in the world where it will instigate wars like those fought in Angola and the Horn of Africa. Soviet social-imperialism is travelling the same road as the fascists in the bygone days—the road to a world war preluded by a series of local wars. The old fascists in Europe also started their drive in the Horn of Africa, followed by one armed aggression after another. At that time, the appeasers in the West were always conniving with them and making one concession after another which hastened the outbreak of World War II. The lessons drawn from history and reality all prove that pushing a policy of appeasement, instead of averting war, will only increase the danger of war and make it come sooner.

From Angola to the Horn of Africa, it can be clearly seen that the danger of a third world

war is on the increase. To strive to delay the outbreak of war, the whole world needs the formation of the broadest international united front against hegemony. Each country should increase its own strength and preparedness, oppose the policy of appeasement and wage a tit-for-tat struggle against the Soviet Union. During the Zaire event last year, Moscow's plot was smashed, thanks to the persistent struggle of the international united front against hegemony. In the Horn of Africa today, this sort of action is also needed. The more resolute the blows to foil every Soviet war deployment and the more forceful the disruption of its global strategic disposition, the greater will be the possibility of upsetting its plans for launching a world war and postponing the outbreak of the war. Thus, if it breaks out some day, the revolutionary people of the world will be in an advantageous position.

The Third World Must Strengthen Unity And Persevere in Struggle

The third world is the main force in the international united front against hegemony. It

is mainly because the third world has brought into play the might of unity against hegemony that the Soviet Union in recent years met with successive setbacks in the Middle East, South Asia, Africa and other regions and found it difficult to complete its global strategic disposition. Precisely because this is so, the Soviet Union is working more cunningly than before to sow discord and create splits among the third world countries in a vain attempt to stem the surging tide of unity against hegemony. To oppose such machinations, the third world countries need even more to unite and oppose the enemy, to settle their disputes or differences left over by history through consultation on the basis of equality, and to exclude superpower intervention and splitting activities. By persevering in unity and struggle, the third world countries and peoples will smash superpower plots to divide the third world and enslave its people again. By uniting all anti-hegemony forces, including the second world, the third world will deal heavier blows at superpower war plans.

*(A translation of an article in "Hongqi,"
No. 4. Subheads are ours.)*

Education

New College Students

College enrolment work ended in February, the first under the new enrolment system. Altogether 5.7 million young people applied for admittance and those accepted are now in class.

Not long ago, our correspondent interviewed Chang Lung-hsiang, responsible for the work of enrolment in Peking University, and several new students. — Ed.

Correspondent: Could you tell us something about this year's new students?

Chang Lung-hsiang: Peking University took in 947 new students from 28 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions inhabited by minority nationalities. Most of these new

students are workers, peasants and cadres who have working experience. The others were 140 who came straight from senior middle schools, graduates as well as students with excellent records.

Recently we accepted 210 more new students according to a Ministry of Education and State Planning Commission directive to expand the intake. They are mostly day students, selected from among those who had passed the entrance examinations last year.

The new students are now studying in one of the 13 departments they chose: physics, geophysics, geology physics, chemistry, Chinese, history, philosophy, economics, law, international politics, library science, Russian and Western languages.

Correspondent: How were the students enrolled?

Chang Lung-hsiang: They first applied to the factories, mines, people's communes, office administrations where they worked or to their schools. The names of those qualified were forwarded for approval by county or city enrolment committees. Then those approved sat for their entrance examinations. Preliminary lists were then drawn up according to grades obtained. These candidates were checked politically and physically.

After this, those still in the running were assessed morally, intellectually and physically by the various colleges together with the enrolment committees of the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. Each college then finalized its list, taking into consideration candidate's choice of college and department.

Correspondent: What did the examinations show?

Chang Lung-hsiang: Science and liberal arts candidates took separate exams. The former took examinations in mathematics, politics, Chinese, physics and chemistry, the latter mathematics, politics, Chinese, history and geography. Those who wanted to major in a foreign language took an additional exam in that field.

In terms of 100 points, most of those who newly entered our university had an average of 70 and more; 35 per cent had an average of above 80. Some are very talented. It all goes to show that although the educational standard was very much affected as a result of the sabotage of the "gang of four," the gang could not totally suppress the young people's urge to study diligently to build up the socialist motherland.

Correspondent: What are the criteria of the political check-up?

Chang Lung-hsiang: Political check-up refers essentially to the student's political attitude—his political record must be clear, he is devoted to the Chinese Communist Party and socialism, not adverse to labour, abides by revolutionary discipline and is set on studying for the revolution.

Correspondent: What about students' family background?

Chang Lung-hsiang: Those from families of workers, poor and lower-middle peasants and cadres make up at least 70 per cent of the new students; 28 per cent are children of former small traders, urban poor and professional people, such as professors, scientists and physicians; a very few come from the bourgeoisie or parents with grave political records. Towards the last group of students, our position is that, as Chairman Mao has always instructed, "we take class origin into account, but do not rely solely on it. The emphasis should be on the individual's political attitude."

One cannot choose one's parents, but one can choose the road one takes. In assessing a student, in judging whether he is revolutionary or not, we go by his political attitude, that is, who he sides with in class struggle and which class' interests he upholds, not by his family origin or his parents' political performance. When a youth has drawn a clear demarcation line politically with his reactionary family members, he should not be discriminated against.

In place of this policy, the "gang of four" employed the feudal doctrine of family lineage, i.e., like begetting like, the children having a share in whatever their parents have done. After stigmatizing and persecuting a large number of good comrades, the gang used this doctrine to victimize their children as well. This, of course, hurt the revolutionary enthusiasm of a number of young people and is now being rectified.

This is just the barest outline. What about letting the students speak for themselves.

Chih Hsiao-hsing (physics student): I finished middle school in 1975 and went to settle down on Peking's outskirts. I am 20 this year. My father is a government office worker and my mother is an engineer in a machinery plant. I was brought up by my parents to seek and acquire revolutionary theory



and culture. When I was in the countryside, I saw that if I were to do more for the revolution I had to have more skill and learning to serve the people with. Scientific knowhow was needed, and to get that I must have a foreign language. I had taken English in middle school and picked up Russian by myself after school. In the countryside, I worked in the fields with the peasants during the day and studied German, Japanese and French by myself after work. In the evening I followed foreign language lessons over the radio. Sometimes I felt so tired after a day's work that I wanted to drop the lessons. But when I thought about the motherland's socialist modernization I'd buck up and go on. Over the last two years, I did my share of labour while continuing with my studies.

Chang Hsueh-pin (a cadre of the Party committee): Chih Hsiao-hsing's perseverance in his studies is quite pronounced. He's made a lot of progress studying foreign languages by himself. He has already translated some English, German and Japanese technical data for others. He now can study calculus and physics in English.

Tu Hsiu-hung (philosophy student): My parents are poor peasants. My home is in a village in northern Shensi Province, not far from Yen-an [the seat of the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Mao during the 30s and 40s]. When Kuomintang troops attacked the revolutionary base area in northern Shensi in 1947, Chairman Mao once came to our village while directing the campaign.



Before northern Shensi was liberated my family was so poor that two elder sisters and an elder brother died of starvation or under the whip of the landlords. A paternal uncle told me that 20 days after I was born in 1947, Kuomintang troops closed in on our village. My mother fled with me to live with her brother. Those were terrible days.

After my father fell in battle the next year I was packed off to live with the paternal uncle.

In old society, we labouring people could not even think of going to school. Only after liberation did we manage to. When I finished senior middle school in 1966, I went home to do farm work. Later I was transferred to work in a county factory. I love reading philosophical works. The people of my home village were really happy when they heard I was going to study in a university in Peking. They gave me a warm send-off. I'll study hard, for I know that this chance the new society has given us labouring people did not come easily.

Correspondent: Both Chih and Tu have worked in the countryside. Anyone here who came directly from middle school?

Kao Chia-li (chemistry student): I was a fourth-year middle school student in Heilungkiang Province before I took the entrance examinations. My parents are middle school teachers.



When the "gang of four" was on the loose they wanted only students who "had horns on their heads and prickly spines on their backs" and claimed that those who handed in unanswered exam papers were "heroes who dare to go against the tide." Those who really wanted to learn something were labelled as "putting knowledge first" or "taking the road to becoming white experts." As a result, teachers dared not teach and students dared not learn. While I could not learn in school hours, I studied by myself in the evenings at home. In my junior middle school years I studied senior middle school mathematics, physics and chemistry. What I learnt I dared not show in my homework.

Now we can go ahead and study for all we're worth. The "gang of four" is finished. Now I'm doing higher mathematics too. I am

going to see that I master the basic theories so as to have a good solid foundation for scaling the pinnacles of science.

Chang Hsueh-pin: We have enrolled some students before they finished their middle school. They have excellent scholastic records. They are actually up to senior middle school graduate levels. Their schools recommended them for the college entrance examinations upon their request. Kao Chia-li is one of those we accepted without regard to conventional practices.

Sun Ai-hua (woman, student of the Department of Western Languages): I have exactly what Comrade Kao means about that "gang of four" sabotaging education. I was in Shanghai's Fudan University for a foreign language training course after I finished senior middle school four years ago. I could learn very little in those days.



My father is an old worker. While the "gang of four" praised the worker-peasant-soldier college students to the skies, trumpeting that they should enter the universities, administrate them and transform them, this sinister gang actually stopped us from getting an education. Many of my classmates dared not study because the gang was yelling that "the more knowledgeable, the more reactionary," that all scholars inevitably become "bourgeois" and that all experts are unquestionably "intellectual aristocrats." Those unwilling to fritter away their time could only read surreptitiously or study in bed at night. Some of them ruined their eyes this way.

Things have changed with the smashing of the gang. I am going to make every minute count and really learn something useful.

Chang Lung-hsiang: We have with us here today a member of a minority nationality from border area as well as an overseas Chinese girl who has come all the way from Argentina. We'd like to hear what you two have to say.

Polata (philosophy student): I'm a Uighur from Sinkiang, northwest China. I did labour in the countryside for a while after graduating from a teachers' school in 1966 and until I was transferred to the autonomous region's education bureau.



Comrades have just spoken about the "gang of four" sabotaging education. Our autonomous region was also badly affected. Due to historical reasons culture and education in areas populated by us minority people are much more backward than in other parts of the country. We must work to catch up. Education in Sinkiang was making headway quickly after liberation. But some years ago when the "gang of four" was whipping up great-Han chauvinism we had a hard time getting an education. The schools were in a terrible mess and the people were very dissatisfied.

Last year, when the college enrolment system was reformed, 100,000 people in our autonomous region sent in applications. This shows how keen the young people are to learn. A lot of them have now gone into local institutes of higher learning, and about 900 have been admitted into universities and colleges in other parts of the country.

Chang Mei-shang (woman student of the Department of Chinese): I was born in Taiwan Province. When I was 11, I moved with my parents to Argentina where the people speak Spanish. I got over the language barrier and finished senior middle school there. At school, I was for ever telling myself that I was Chinese and I had to do well.



I had wanted to return to the motherland to study in a university when I finished high

school, but the "gang of four" then was inciting others to discriminate against us overseas Chinese. So I gave up the idea. In April 1976 I returned for a visit. The gang were still running amuck then and I saw a lot of queer things during that visit. I saw some young people giving little thought to studies. Instead, they were wasting their time loitering about in the streets. Some shop assistants were unbearably arrogant and downright rude. Friends spoke vaguely, evasively, as if something was troubling them. It was all so incomprehensible. I went back to Argentina with many puzzling questions plaguing me.

Some months later I heard about the "gang of four's" downfall and a lot of my questions were answered. I felt tremendously relieved. In October 1977 when I learnt that the college enrolment system had been changed I came back in spite of many difficulties and was accepted by Peking University.

I have no relatives in Peking but I never feel lonely. The other students are ever so friendly and considerate. One leading member of the university said to me: "You're welcome home!" It made me ever so happy to hear that, for it is true that I am home again.

Correspondent: Is anyone here a worker?

Chang Lung-hsiang: Yes, Ma Po. He's been through a lot of ups and downs. Come on, Comrade Ma, speak up!



Ma Po (student of the Department of Chinese): I am a 1966 senior middle school graduate and I am 30 years old. Chairman Hua and the Party Central Committee have made it possible

for me, an alleged "active counter-revolutionary," to become a university student.

Both my parents are Party members and veteran cadres.

Chang Hsueh-ping: Comrade Ma's mother is Yang Mo, the well-known writer of *The Song*

of *Youth*, a novel depicting the Party-led student movement of the 30s. His father is a university Party committee secretary. His parents were groundlessly attacked by the "gang of four" during the Cultural Revolution.

Ma Po: In 1968 I left Peking and settled down in a pastoral area in Inner Mongolia. I became a factory bench worker in 1976. When I first arrived in Inner Mongolia, I was filled with the revolutionary ideal of doing my part in building up the border region, the local lackeys of the gang, however, had me branded an "active counter-revolutionary" because I had said a few things which I didn't like about Chiang Ching. My "reactionary ideology," they alleged, stemmed from having "reactionary parents." I was deprived of all civil rights and sent to work in a quarry. I was there for five years.

Then in 1975, Premier Chou, resolutely carrying out Chairman Mao's instructions, got a number of veteran cadres liberated. My parents' case was cleared up and shortly after that my own case too was cleared up on instructions from Premier Chou's office. When I heard that I had been exonerated I was so overjoyed that I rushed outside and ran wildly about and rolled on the snow. . . .

I have been rehabilitated politically but how am I to make up for the time lost? I guess I must study real hard. In Inner Mongolia, I saw for myself the many moving deeds by urban middle school graduates in building up and safeguarding the frontier region. I want to improve my writing so as to be able to put down what I saw into words for others to read. Only with the overthrow of the "gang of four" by the Party Central Committee and Chairman Hua that I, hounded by the gang for so many years, have been able to become a university student. When I was leaving for Peking, the old Party secretary of my factory said to me, "Study hard! Live up to the expectations of Chairman Hua who has given you this opportunity!" My fellow workers said to me, "Ma Po! Don't forget us workers when you become a student." No, I shall never forget. I'll study hard, and do my bit for the motherland.

The Dollar Falls Again

by Ku Tsin

The value of the U.S. dollar which started to drop in March again fell on April 3. This has thrown the Western money markets into confusion and adversely affected trade and finance in the capitalist world with the Western countries and Japan bearing the brunt of the attack.

ON April 3 the U.S. dollar registered another sharp decline on the European and Japanese foreign exchange markets. It fell to 218.20 yen, the lowest rate since the end of World War II, from 303 yen only two years ago and to 1.997 Deutsche marks from 2.010 on March 31. It did just as badly against other West European currencies such as the pound and the French franc.

The Fuse

This latest drop in the dollar's strength was triggered by a U.S. Commerce Department announcement on March 31 of a 4.52 billion-dollar record U.S. trade deficit for February. The stability of the dollar has been placed in ever greater doubt by the growing U.S. trade deficit which has caused even more dollars to flood the foreign markets. The amount in circulation in European exchange markets has already exceeded 500 billion. In these circumstances, the dollar's further decline was inevitable when its outflow continued.

The U.S. Government has used the dollar to monopolize and dominate the finance of the entire capitalist world. With the increase in the amount of Eurodollars from 30-40 billion to over 500 billion in the last decade, the dollar's circulation on international markets has swelled to staggering figures. At the end of 1976, according to figures released by the International Monetary Fund, U.S. dollars made up 80 per cent of the total of 120 billion dollars' worth of foreign exchange held by the central

banks of 76 capitalist countries. The shrinking dollar is, therefore, not only a monetary problem for the United States but a major event affecting the finance, trade and economic stability of the whole capitalist world, an event which is sure to create storms in the various countries.

Repercussions

The steady decline of the dollar has first of all brought great chaos to the international foreign exchange markets and touched off an orgy of speculation in which large sums of idle capital ran into such relatively stable currencies as the Deutsche mark, the Swiss franc, the Netherlands guilder and the Japanese yen. The result is that large amounts of foreign capital flow into these countries to cause the sudden appreciation of their currencies and the steep increases in the export prices of their commodities and other signs of instability. This not only disrupts their finances, but also upsets their exports, giving rise to an outburst of complaints from these countries. To cope with the situation, the Swiss national bank has taken measures to control foreign exchange and stem the massive influx of foreign capital. West Germany and Japan, too, are ready to take similar emergency measures.

Next, the worldwide rise in prices and the weakening of purchasing power caused by the fall of the dollar are messing up the investment plans of enterprises in the various countries which are uncertain of the profits they could

make in the future and therefore are inclined to cut down on their investments. At a time when the Western countries after an economic crisis are troubled by enterprises' sluggish investment and slow rates of economic growth, the harm done to an economic upturn by the dollar's decline cannot but meet with universal condemnation. Moreover, there is a still greater danger. The weakness of the dollar may also lead to a disastrous new crisis of petroleum price increases and prompt one country after another to take protectionist measures which would confront the Western world's free trade system with a major calamity.

Shifting the Burden on to Others

Obviously, it is in the interests of the Western countries to maintain the stability of the dollar. However, the U.S. Government has taken a position of shifting the burden on to others on the question of how to solve the dollar crisis. It has all along demanded that Japan, West Germany and other E.E.C. countries should stimulate their economies and boost

their economic growth by budget deficits in disregard of the danger of inflation. This, the United States insisted, would enable them to import more U.S. goods to help reduce its trade deficit so that its trade imbalances can be levelled up and the dollar crisis alleviated. As for the two other important factors that cause the dollar's plummet — huge U.S. imports of petroleum and its serious inflation at home — they are all but ignored and this cannot but anger U.S. partners.

Furthermore, as the West European countries and Japan are more dependent on exports to maintain their economic growth than the United States and their export industries occupy a far more important place in their national economies, they are even more hard pressed by the high prices of their exports caused by the dollar's decline and the appreciation of their currencies, and the subsequent difficulties in their exports. For example, in 1977, to halt the dollar's fall, they got their state banks to purchase over 30 billion dollars on the market.

U.S. Economy

Ominous Signals

Sluggish recovery, even a fall in industrial production, price hikes and a continued foreign trade deficit — all add up to a gloomy picture for the U.S. economy this year.

Despite an 0.5 per cent pickup in February after an 0.8 per cent drop in January, all signs indicate that the American industry as a whole is having difficulty in holding on to its upward trend.

At present, recession is haunting the three mainstays of the U.S. industry — steel, construction and auto. In January, private housing starts fell 29 per cent from the previous month. And most experts forecast a continued decline. In the auto

industry, domestic production by the big three decreased 3.05 per cent in January this year from the corresponding month last year, and again dropped 1.6 per cent in February.

Inflation is still serious. January wholesale prices rose 0.6 per cent and hit 1.1 per cent in February, i.e., a 13.2 per cent increase on an annual basis. This was the biggest monthly rise in the past three years. The January consumer price hike was also the largest for the past year.

Foreign trade deficit for January was 2,400 million dollars and 4,500 million dollars in February, a record monthly deficit in U.S. history and the 21st consecutive monthly deficit.

U.S. officials, businessmen and economists have all expressed concern over the U.S. economic outlook.

Since the beginning of the year, they have continued to buy up large amounts of dollars. The United States on its part, however, has looked on with folded arms and even taken advantage of the dollar's depreciation which means low prices of U.S. goods abroad to increase its exports. In other words, besides forcing its "partners" to dig into their own pockets to stabilize the dollar, the United States is making use of the dollar's drop to undermine these countries' domestic and overseas markets. This naturally has caused the latter to put up a stiff resistance.

Recently, arguing that the continued fall of the dollar and steady rise of the Deutsche mark have done much harm to its industrial exports, West Germany angrily declared that if this state of affairs was allowed to continue, its economic growth rate for the year would further drop. That is to say, the United States will not be able to expand its exports to West Germany this year. Meanwhile, Japan's industrial production in February also registered a drop with the resultant sharp increase in unemployment. It is unlikely that Japan will keep its promise to the United States to achieve a 7 per cent growth of its economy this year. The Japanese state bank has recently declared that it will no longer buy up huge amounts of dollars to stabilize the market because this is first

of all the business of the Washington authorities.

A Time-Bomb

With the United States and its allies becoming more and more at loggerheads, the sinking dollar is very much like a ticking time-bomb menacing the entire capitalist world's monetary system. How to prevent the falling dollar from causing great havoc has once more become a burning question for the Western world. This is why British Prime Minister Callaghan had to shuttle between Washington and Bonn in an effort to ease the contradictions with a view to averting the looming catastrophe by joint action. U.S. President Carter has also sent his Special Economic Adviser Owen to West Germany to find emergency measures to save the dollar from its plight. The leaders of the nine E.E.C. countries too have held an emergency session, warning the United States to reduce its oil imports while discussing a "common strategy" of their own. Since the United States and its allies have different intentions, even if they could draw up an interim emergency programme of action, it would be extremely difficult indeed for them to get the Western economy out of the grave predicament it is in.

COMMENTARIES

The Namibian People's Struggle Is Sure to Triumph

THE Extraordinary Plenary Meeting of the U.N. Council for Namibia held in Lusaka from March 20 to 23 adopted the Lusaka Declaration which gives full support to the armed struggle for liberation waged by the Namibian people under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). A special session of the U.N. General Assembly on the Namibia question is to be convened in April and May. These developments show the concern

of the people of various countries over the situation in Namibia and the greater support they are giving to the Namibian people's struggle.

The armed struggle carried on since 1966 by SWAPO against the Vorster regime enjoys the firm support of the Organization of African Unity and is solidly backed by the people of the world. In these circumstances, the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council have adopted several resolutions demanding the pullout of

South African forces from Namibia and the transfer of power to the Namibian people.

The Vorster regime, however, refused to carry out these resolutions. But the Namibian people's struggle and the denunciation by international public opinion have exerted strong pressure on Vorster. To cope with this, he followed his gestures of favouring a "peaceful settlement" with engineering a "constitutional conference" to rig up a provisional puppet government under South African control. He also professed agreement to Namibia becoming "independent" on December 31, 1978. The Vorster regime resorted to this trick of "internal settlement" to undermine the Namibian people's unity, disintegrate their struggle and maintain its colonial rule. The scheme is strongly opposed by the Namibian people and the Organization of African Unity.

It is worth noting that the rivalry between the two superpowers in this region of strategic importance is sharpening. Flaunting the banner of "supporting the national-liberation movement," the Soviet Union is meddling in the affairs of Namibia and trying to bring the Namibian people's struggle against the Vorster regime into the orbit of its contention with the other superpower for world domination. To protect their interests in this region and counter Soviet infiltration, the United States and several other Western member countries of the Security Council are also zealously intervening in the Namibia question. Their representatives had many rounds of talks with the Vorster regime last year. According to press reports, the proposal tabled by five countries included a general election with the participation of Namibian citizens and under the supervision of the United Nations, phased withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia and the striving for the realization of independence by the end of this year. Although the Vorster regime was compelled to agree to stop its activities for setting up a "provisional government" last year and to hold a general election under U.N. supervision, it continued to haggle over the question of withdrawal. It declared that as of September 1, 1977, Walvis Bay was no longer part of Namibian territory but belonged to South Africa. In other words, South Africa will continue to occupy this deep-water bay, using it as a military

base, after Namibia's independence. This was denounced by SWAPO President Sam Nujoma. It is stated in the Lusaka Declaration that Walvis Bay is an inalienable part of Namibia.

The Namibian people's struggle for independence and liberation has achieved marked progress and no matter how the Vorster regime sabotages and obstructs and no matter how the superpowers intervene, the Namibian people are certain to win final victory. As Nujoma stressed at the recent Lusaka Conference, nothing can prevent the Namibian people from liberating their country.

Who Is Sharpening Tension in Northern Europe?

A RECENT TASS dispatch accused the Swedish Government of "sharpening tension in Nordic Europe" which, it said, had impaired "Swedish-Soviet relations."

How comes it that Sweden, a neutral, small country with limited armed forces, suddenly became guilty of "sharpening tension" in Nordic Europe?

The cause is not far to seek. In a recent interview with the Swedish paper *Svenska Dagbladet* Swedish Foreign Minister Karin Soeder announced that the Soviet Union has since last year stationed permanently in the Baltic Sea six submarines armed with intermediate-range nuclear missiles evidently targeting Europe. For this, the Swedish Government lodged a protest with Moscow against the Soviet threat to Sweden's security. This obviously touched the men in the Kremlin to the quick. Hence the false counter-charges by TASS which laid bare the hypocritical and tyrannical features of the new tsars.

All the while the Soviet Union has been talking about turning the Baltic Sea into a "sea of peace" and Northern Europe a "nuclear-free zone." What the countries and people in the region have seen with increasing clarity, however, is this: Soviet words are at complete

variance with its deeds and its "peace" and "friendship" rhetoric smells of gunpowder.

Sweden knows only too well that the Soviet deployment of nuclear-missile submarines in the Baltic is a strategic move serving its policy of expansion. Politically, this show of force is its "gun-boat diplomacy" in action, designed to exert pressure on the North European countries to make concessions or even to submit on many issues. Militarily, equipped with nuclear missiles which range 1,200 kilometres to cover Britain, France, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and the Nordic countries, these submarines are deployed to reinforce the land-based Soviet missiles aiming at

Western and Northern Europe. The Swedish paper *Dagens Nyheter* was right in pointing out that "nuclear-missile submarines are not a symbol of peace." As the Danish paper *Jyllands-Posten* put it, after the presence of Soviet nuclear-missile submarines, what Moscow calls the "sea of peace" has become a Soviet nuclear base.

There has been no peace in the Baltic region ever since it was made a cockpit in Soviet contention for maritime hegemony. Soviet naval vessels and spy ships are cruising in the Baltic and Soviet planes frequently making intrusions into the air space of other countries. What is facing the North European countries is growing Soviet menace, certainly not peace and security.

Reminiscences

Edgar Snow and His "Red Star Over China"

by Chiang Shan

ONE afternoon in June 1936, with the scorching sun beating down on the loess plateau in northern Shensi and a hot wind whipping up clusters of dust, a small group of people trudged



Snow in the northern Shensi revolutionary base area, 1936.

along a mountain road leading to Pao An, then the seat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. The peasant in front, leading two donkeys packed with luggage, cameras and medical supplies, was followed by two young foreigners — Edgar Snow, an American correspondent, and George Hatem, an American doctor. Their emaciated faces and unbuttoned coats were covered with dust. They pressed on despite their fatigue.

Setting out from Peiping (now Peking), Snow made a four-month visit to northwest China's revolutionary base area where the Chinese Communist Party and the Red Army were located. At the risk of his life, he had to break through one cordon line after another of the Kuomintang troops and cross areas infested with bandits.

The First Foreign Correspondent in Revolutionary Base Area

Born in 1905 in Kansas City, Missouri, Snow graduated from the School of Journalism, Uni-



Snow's works on China.

versity of Missouri, in 1928. That same year he embarked on a long sea-voyage to China, landing in Shanghai. He worked as a correspondent for several American and British journals, during which time he toured many places in China. In those days, the country was plagued by internal troubles and foreign aggression — a tragic situation which became deeply engraved in his memory. In the spring of 1933, Snow left Shanghai for Peiping. When he was teaching at what was then Yenching University, he contacted some revolutionary students and underground workers of the Communist Party. He showed concern for and supported China's student movement and the Chinese people's anti-Japanese struggle. Making every effort to learn from all the sources available to him, he came to know that the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army under Chairman Mao's leadership had carried through a 12,500-kilometre Long March in a victorious shift from the Chingkang Mountains revolutionary base area in Kiangsi Province to northern Shensi. The rumours spread by the Kuomintang made it difficult for people on the outside to know the truth about the Communist Party and the Red Army and the victories they had won. To break down this barrier, Snow secretly entered the northern Shensi revolutionary base area to cover these important events.

On arrival, he saw a completely new world, the dawning of a people's new China as the filth of old China was being washed away by the current of the revolution. He

pitched into his work. Wearing the grey uniform of the Red Army soldiers, he talked cordially with frontline officers and "Little Red Devils." On visits to peasants in their cave-dwellings or to factories, he lived as the local people did, subsisting on the millet diet and sleeping at night on a *kang* (traditional mud-brick bed which can be heated).

During his stay, Chairman Mao Tsetung had talks with him in his cave-dwelling, often lasting the whole night in the dim light of a kerosene lamp. Chairman Mao told him the history of the development of the Chinese revolution, acquainted him with the situation of the Red Army and the northern Shensi revolutionary base area, explained fully the Chinese Communist Party's stand against Japan and his own experience in the revolution. Vice-Chairman Chiou En-lai, Commander-in-Chief Chu Teh and other leaders of the Red Army also had many long talks with Snow. He collected an abundance of valuable materials, the most precious of which were the verbatim minutes of Chairman Mao's long talks and the photos he took of the Chairman.

During his tour of northern Shensi, Snow struck up a deep friendship with the army men and people of the revolutionary base area. Later, he wrote in a book about his feelings on leaving the base area: "I walked down the main street of Defended Peace for the last time, and the farther I got toward the gate, the more reluctantly I moved. . . . It was very depressing. I felt that I was not going home, but leaving it."

A Best Seller

Immediately after his return to Peiping, he applied himself to writing what he had seen and heard during his visit and called the book *Red Star Over China*.

In this book, written in a direct lucid style and furnished with many photos, he told the people of the world about the revolutionary struggle being waged by the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of

China and Chairman Mao. He reported on the epic 12,500-kilometre Long March by the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army. He described in detail the prevailing situation and development of the political organizations, economic policy, industrial and agricultural production, cultural, educational and health work as well as the revolutionary ideals and new life of the ordinary peasants, workers, Red Army commanders, fighters and cadres at the grass-roots units in the northern Shensi revolutionary base area. In particular, there are vivid, detailed descriptions of the revolutionary activities of Chairman Mao, Vice-Chairman Chou En-lai and Commander-in-Chief Chu Teh and other leaders of the Party and the Red Army.

This visit enabled Snow to understand the revolutionary strength of the Chinese people and the correctness of the policy of the Chinese Communist Party. He unerringly foresaw the inevitable victory of the Chinese revolution. He wrote: "The movement for social revolution in China may suffer defeats, may temporarily retreat . . . but it will not only continue to mature; in one mutation or another it will eventually win." "And that triumph when it comes will be so mighty, so irresistible in its discharge of katabolic energy, that it will consign to oblivion the last barbarities of imperialism which now enthrall the Eastern world." In his *Red Star Over China* and in his interviews with and speeches to friends in China and other countries, he always earnestly told the truth that only under the leadership of Chairman Mao and the Chinese Communist Party could the Chinese people drive out the Japanese aggressors and the suffering old China become a bright new China.

Snow's articles, speeches and the photos he provided gave the lie to the slanders hurled by the reactionary gang of Chiang Kai-shek against the Communist Party and the Red Army, and were a great inspiration to the Chinese people's revolutionary struggle. The appearance of *Red Star Over China* the following year instantly created a great stir all over the world. In the United States, this book was a best seller among works of non-fiction about the Far East, and letters asking for publication of his articles about his tour of northern Shensi poured in from all parts of the country. In London, over 100,000 copies were sold in a few weeks. In the

Kuomintang-ruled area under the reign of white terror, many Chinese people risked their lives to read his books and articles. Readers copied them for circulation among the people. Those who were influenced to take the revolutionary road to the northern Shensi base area brought with them copies of his book.

His Second Trip to Northern Shensi

During his second trip to northern Shensi in 1939, Snow visited Yen-an and other places, where he saw how the Eighth Route Army men and the people of the base area under the leadership of Chairman Mao and the Communist Party fought indomitably against the Japanese aggressors and the Kuomintang reactionaries. He made more detailed and intensive studies of the organs of political power and other aspects of life in the base area and once again reported to the world about what he had witnessed.

Snow spent 13 solid years in old China. During this long period, he did many useful things for the Chinese revolution and the Chinese people. In co-operation with others, he translated into English many of the works of Lu Hsun, noted Chinese revolutionary writer and thinker, and introduced them to other countries. He ran many personal risks to rescue leaders of the Chinese Communist Party, underground workers and revolutionary students, and to give wide publicity to the Chinese Communist Party's stand against Japan. He also joined with Rewi Alley, a faithful friend of the Chinese people and writer from New Zealand, in founding a Chinese co-operative organization, called "Gung Ho" for short.

Snow left China in the spring of 1941. He had seen with his own eyes the historic changes that were taking place in old China and knew from his own experience that the revolutionary base area and the Kuomintang-ruled area were two entirely different societies. What he learnt set the orientation for his own life; since then his pulse beat in rhythm with the advance of the Chinese people.

(To be continued. The second half of this article which will appear in our next issue recalls Snow's visits to New China and his continued efforts to promote friendship between the Chinese and American peoples.)

Measures and Results

by Our Correspondent Tso An-hua

The population growth rate in east China's Jutung County fell to 3.68 per thousand in 1977. People there say, the key to carrying out family planning well lies in educating the masses so that they do it of their own will. Specific policies and measures and practical help are also necessary for more conscious, effective family planning. — Ed.

Living With Wife's Family. In China's countryside there is still the old idea that daughters are "tipped out" like used water — of no more use to the family once they are married. Only sons are expected to support the parents in their old age and only sons can inherit property. The property of those without a son then goes to a nephew of the same clan. Married men going to live with their parents-in-law in the old days were targets of ridicule and discrimination and were frequently driven away over the issue of inheriting property. This view is still alive with many people so that couples already with several daughters still want a son.

Jutung County constantly propagates the idea that daughters too should support their parents in their old age and encourages men to marry girls with no brothers and to go and live with their in-laws. There is a regulation made by the county that husbands moving in to live with their parents-in-law must be considered native members of that community and must not be discriminated against.

I called in on one family in the Chapei People's Commune which had only a daughter in each four generations. All four sons-in-law lived with the wife's family. Chi Fang-chen, the fourth generation, has only a daughter (in primary school) but she is not keen on having

another child — son or daughter — yet. Altogether there are seven in her family, a great grandmother, grandmother, mother, father, husband and daughter. Her husband hails from other village and is the production team accountant. His job is to help the team leader make annual production plans, look after the team's financial affairs, keep tally of the work points and work out according to Party policy distribution of team's annual income. This is a job that calls for someone capable, politically reliable, who is honest and fair and who has the confidence of the team members. Although he comes from another village he was made an accountant and is just another team member to everyone. With only one child, Chi Fang-chen has plenty of time and energy for work and study. She was admitted into the Communist Party in 1975 and she is chairman of brigade women's federation, vice-chairman of the commune women's federation and a standing committee member of the county women's federation. With two male labourers, the family leads a happy life. They have a brick-and-tile house of eight rooms, adequate furniture, a bicycle, a sewing machine and wristwatches. Before liberation her family had lived in a damp straw hut. Now life is much better. With four sons-in-law living under one roof the Chi family shows that it makes no difference today whether a family has sons or daughters.

Men and Women Get Equal Pay for Equal Work.

This is state policy, but because of the feudal idea that men are superior, women inferior, the policy is still not fully implemented in some rural areas where men and women doing the same job get different pay. In Jutung County, the policy on the whole has been well carried

out. More work points are given for more work and better work done regardless of sex. This has greatly stimulated women's initiative. Women in this county today do most of field management work as well as a part of the heavy physical labour; they are paid the same as men.

Good Care Taken of Elderly Childless Couples.

Parents raise children who in turn support their parents when they are old. This tradition is still very much so in New China, so the idea of "bringing up sons against old age" still persists. The rural people's communes in Jutung take good care of the old people who have no children and are unable to work any more. They are provided with food, clothing, housing and medical care, a standard of living not lower than that of an average peasant in the locality, by the communes. Cadres and commune members often help them with chores about their house. Hence the peasants see that only the socialist system is the basic guarantee for a happy, care-free old age.

Free Contraceptives. Various contraceptive measures are available free of charge to the people, contraceptive devices and pills are brought to the masses at their homes by cadres, medical workers and members of family planning propaganda and advising groups.

If a contraceptive measure is requested (including ligation of spermatic duct, tubal ligation, induced abortion and insertion or removal of intrauterine devices) the state will pay all expenses including hospitalization fees.

Medical workers are being constantly trained and their skills improve all the time. Over the past eight years the Chanan Commune Public Health Centre did some 2,000 operations without a mishap. I saw a tubal ligation done by two doctors in 10 minutes.

Peasants and workers who have such operations are allowed several days of leave with full pay.

Flexibility. In Jutung County, a maximum of two children per family is encouraged but exceptions are made for those with handicapped children.

While Tsao Mei-fang of the Chanan Commune was busily nursing her elder child in hospital for a heart disease, she forgot to take

her pills and later started her third baby. She asked for an abortion but the doctor the commune health centre sent to her home found that her elder child had a congenital heart disease so abortion was ruled out for Tsao. Later, the child died and Tsao had her third child. Then her request for tubal ligation was granted.

Protection of Women and Children. Since 1970, Jutung County has been conducting extensive check-ups among women and popularizing health and hygiene knowledge during menstruation, pregnancy, parturition and breast-feeding. Women today in Jutung have good health habits, and much has been accomplished in preventing certain women's diseases. Over the past six or seven years occurrence of certain diseases has fallen 50 per cent. Modern midwifery is the rule in the county and since 1975, there has been no case of tetanus of the newborn or puerperal fever.

In the county rural areas kindergartens and nurseries have been widely set up. Production team nurseries accept children under three years old and production brigade kindergartens care for children between three and seven. The expenses of the kindergartens and nurseries are paid out of the collective's public welfare fund. In 1977, 53.4 per cent of the county's children were in nurseries and 87.8 per cent in kindergartens. Teachers and nurses teach the children



Free contraceptives over the counter.

good health habits, and pay attention to improving children's health. As the children now grow up healthily, the parents are no longer worried and do not wish to have a lot of children.

What Family Planning Accomplished. Family planning in Jutung County has proved beneficial in many aspects.

In the past, women with five or six children were burdened with onerous household chores and reduced to mere drudges.

Now, with only two children and an extended interval between births and with nurseries and kindergartens to lighten the family's burden of looking after them, a woman spends less time looking after babies and more time for work, study and social activities.

Farming needs a lot of manpower. Prior to 1965, the turn-out rate of able-bodied women participating in labour was 75 per cent because of too many children and onerous household chores. Since family planning was introduced in 1970, women in the county have fewer children and many more are able to take part in collective production. The turn-out rate in 1976 was 96 per cent — the 4 per cent represented monthly, nursing, pregnancy and confinement leave.

Women take part in sowing, field management and harvesting together with men. They do up to 90 per cent of the work in cotton fields. The men are engaged mainly in levelling the land, digging canals and shoulder-pole work. In the old days no woman in fishing communes went out to sea to fish, but today women accompany the men out at sea for two to three months at a stretch. Those who stay home fish along the coast.

As a result of participation in revolution and production as well as study of politics and culture, women enhance their political consciousness and abilities. Many have become agro-technicians, tractor or truck drivers, barefoot doctors and workers. And there are more and more women cadres and teachers in the county.

Having children later, less children and extending the interval between births are a boon to women's health and their babies. Fewer babies mean better care and better babies. Children can now all go to school; usually they can finish junior middle school.

Family planning also helps raise living standards. At the Yellow Sea Fishing Brigade, I was told by its Party branch secretary that in 1966 the brigade had to subsidize at least a dozen families who were having a tough time economically because of too many children. By 1976 only one family, because of illness and the children attending school, required help. With one half of the investment coming from the public welfare fund and the rest from the fishermen, the brigade put up two two-storied buildings to house 20 families. More houses are going up for other families in the brigade.

Planned control of population growth cuts down the consumption of material wealth of society and provides more materials for the expanded reproduction of the state and collective.

In 1965 the county's birth rate was 34.66 per thousand and the population growth was upwards of 25 per thousand. Since family planning was introduced, between 1972 and 1976, there were 20,000 fewer births annually than in 1965, that is, 100,000 less in five years, which meant a great saving in grain and materials.

Planned population growth is something quite new. In a letter to K.J. Kautsky, Engels predicted that there would be the abstract possibility, that the population would grow so big, that its increase would have to be limited. But when communist society had to deal with the population growth just as it dealt with the production of materials, it and it alone would be able to do so without any difficulty.

Inheriting the Marxist theory on population, Chairman Mao put forward the policy of planned population growth. Socialist China today is turning this "abstract possibility" of limiting the population increase into concrete, practical action.

Chairman Mao said in *On Contradiction*: "True, the productive forces, practice and the economic base generally play the principal and decisive role; whoever denies this is not a materialist. But it must also be admitted that in certain conditions, such aspects as the relations of production, theory and the superstructure in turn manifest themselves in the principal and decisive role."

The Opium War

(See p. 58.)

The Opium War took place in the years 1840-42 because Britain, under the pretext of protecting commerce, sent its troops to invade China when it was faced with the Chinese people's opposition to its dumping of opium on the Chinese market. In the decades following the end of the 18th century, Britain exported an increasing amount of opium to China. More than 40,000 crates were exported to China in 1838 alone. This not only seriously impaired the health of the Chinese people, but also plunged China into financial difficulty resulting from the outflow of large amounts of silver. The Chinese people were outraged by this.

In March 1839, Lin Tse-hsu was sent to Kwangtung as special commissioner to ban the opium trade. After his arrival, from June 3 to 25 that year, he destroyed before the eyes of the people in Kwangchow's Humen 1.2 million kilograms of opium confiscated from British and American merchants. Britain, determined to maintain its notorious trade in opium, launched a war of aggression against China in early 1840. Lin Tse-hsu led the Chinese troops in firmly resisting the invaders. The people of Sanyuanli near Kwangchow organized of their own accord the "Ping Ying Tuan" (Quell-the-British Corps), dealing heavy blows at the intruders. The British troops later moved northward and occupied Amoy, Ningpo and other ports and threatened Nanking. The Chinese people fought back courageously, but the decadent Ching government, frightened by the brutal British invaders in expanding the war, adopted a traitorous and capitulationist policy. In 1842, it signed the humiliating Treaty of Nanking with the British aggressors, which provided for the opening of the five ports of Shanghai, Foochow, Amoy, Ningpo and Kwangchow for trade, in addition to war indemnity and the cession of

Hongkong. Availing themselves of this opportunity, the United States and other imperialist countries stepped in and successively imposed similar unequal treaties on the Ching government. Thereafter, China was reduced to a semi-colonial, semi-feudal country.

Economic formations of society

(See p. 58.)

Economic formations of society refer to the sum total of the relations of production at a definite stage of historical development and to the society characterized by specific relations of production. Elaborating this scientific concept of Marx on the economic formations of society, Lenin pointed out: "Marx put an end to the view of society being a mechanical aggregation of individuals which allows of all sorts of modification at the will of the authorities (or, if you like, at the will of society and the government) and which emerges and changes casually, and was the first to put sociology on a scientific basis by establishing the concept of the economic formation of society as the sum total of given production relations, by establishing the fact that the development of such formations is a process of natural history." (*What the "Friends of the People" Are and How They Fight the Social-Democrats*, 1894.) The primitive communal system, the slave-owning system, the feudal system, the capitalist system and the communist system are different economic formations of society in human history. With a specific economic formation as the base, there is the corresponding superstructure both politically and ideologically. Among the common laws governing all the economic formations of society, the law that the relations of production must conform to the nature of the productive forces is the basic and most important. This basic law shows that the development and resolving (through revolution) of internal contradictions of every economic formation of society will inevitably result in its supersession by an economic formation of a higher level.

The question of Tibet has been solved by peaceful means

(See p. 60.)

The Chinese People's Liberation Army began its march into Tibet on October 7, 1950. It

(Continued on p. 29.)

ROUND THE WORLD

SOUTH AFRICA

Aftermath of Arms Expansion

The ever growing military spending of the racist Vorster regime for the suppression of the black masses and its armed provocations against neighbouring countries has caused greater economic chaos in South Africa.

South Africa's military budget for this year has reached 1,682 million rand (one rand equals 1.15 U.S. dollars), 28 million more than the previous year. According to U.N. figures, South Africa's military expenditure shot up from 414 million dollars in 1972 to 1,494 million in 1976.

A staggering amount of it is appropriated for arms expansion by buying hardware abroad. Between 1965 and 1975, its arms import totalled 1,100 million U.S. dollars. Militarily, the Vorster regime is strengthening its collaboration with Israeli Zionism, making heavy investments in Israel's arms industry to procure naval vessels, radar equipment and other up-to-date weapons produced in Israel.

Arms expansion by the Vorster regime has put South Africa in a still greater economic predicament. To extricate themselves from this predicament, the South African authorities have resorted to the massive issuance of government bonds and more extortionate tax levies, which, however, have led to soaring prices and the

further devaluation of the rand. Not long ago the South African "minister of agriculture" announced a 25 per cent increase in the price of bread and a 23 per cent increase for sugar. The prices of maize, vegetables, meat and eggs will also have a steep rise.

As a result, the cost of living in South Africa is going up. This means that the 2 million jobless or underemployed black people will have to suffer more. What is more, there is also an exodus of the whites who anticipate a bleak future because of the unstable political situation and deteriorating economy there. Last year, over 26,000 whites quit the country, the highest record since 1960.

COPENHAGEN

E.E.C. Summit

The heads of state and government of the nine European Economic Community (E.E.C.) nations ended a two-day meeting in the Danish capital on April 8.

Economic problems were the main subject of the discussion at the meeting. The E.E.C. countries, after an economic crisis, are now facing difficulties, such as the slow recovery of production, the currency instability of the capitalist world caused by the constant decline of the dollar. The present number of unemployed in these countries stands at over six million and the situation is going from bad to worse. The E.E.C. member

states, moreover, hoped that through the current meeting they could seek co-ordinated positions and common proposals in preparation for the forthcoming summit conference to be held in Bonn in mid-July — a seven-nation summit consisting of the United States, Canada, Japan, Britain, France, West Germany and Italy — to discuss economic problems.

Leaders of the Nine were basically in agreement at the meeting on reviving economic growth and reducing unemployment. They agreed, according to a statement issued at the end of the meeting, that "the Community and its member countries will over the coming three months develop a common strategy," which will cover economic and monetary affairs, employment, energy, trade, industrial affairs, and relations with the developing countries.

With regard to the situation in the Horn of Africa, Prime Minister Anker Joergensen of the host country said at a press conference held at the end of the session that the nine E.E.C. countries are watching with concern and hope the situation can be settled by the Organization of African Unity. Discussing the situation in that part of Africa at a meeting on April 7, the nine E.E.C. Foreign Ministers expressed support for the April 5 statement of British Foreign Secretary David Owen denouncing the Soviet-Cuban military intervention in the Horn of Africa. In that statement, Owen warned that Western countries' relations with the Soviet Union would be adversely affected if it became clear that the Soviet Union and Cuba were actively committed, and on a

massive scale, to a military campaign in Africa.

The E.E.C. heads also issued a statement on the Middle East situation, reiterating their support for the U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Caribbean Briefs

• Under heavy pressure by the Puerto Rican people, the United States has recently called off its planned military exercises on the Vieques Island.

Vieques, east of the island of Puerto Rico, is an islet with 9,000 inhabitants. Sometime ago, the United States, whose

navy controls two-thirds of the island, planned to carry out military exercises there this spring to be participated by 20,000 men of the three services. This was strongly opposed by the Puerto Rican people.

• St. Lucia Premier John Compton recently declared that his country was to become independent on December 13 this year. In August 1976, the St. Lucia House of Assembly adopted a resolution calling upon Britain to alter the island's constitution and grant it independence. In recent months, Premier Compton has repeatedly accused the British Government of working against St.

Lucia's aspiration for independence.

• The Parliament of St. Vincent, a British associated state, recently passed a resolution on moves towards independence. According to the resolution, the St. Vincent Government under Premier Milton Cato will invite all trade unions and other interested organizations to submit memoranda to or discuss with the government the provision of an independent constitution.

The St. Vincent Government has informed the British Government of its intention to seek nationhood within the parliamentary term which started in December 1974.

(Continued from p. 27.)

liberated Chamdo on October 19 that same year. Notified by the Central People's Government, the Tibetan local government sent a delegation which arrived in Peking towards the end of April 1951 for negotiations. On May 23, the Central People's Government and the Tibetan local government concluded the Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet (namely, the 17-article agreement). Its main contents were: The imperialist aggressive forces must be expelled from Tibet; the People's Liberation Army will send troops to Tibet to strengthen national defence; Tibet will exercise national regional autonomy under the unified leadership of the Central People's Government; the Tibetan army is to be reorganized to become part of the People's Liberation Army; the social system of Tibet should be reformed according to the wishes and by the initiative of the people. In accordance with this agreement, the People's Liberation Army marched into Lhasa on October 26, 1951.

Democratic reform in factories and other enterprises

(See p. 60.)

Here democratic reform refers to the series of reforms carried out in the factories and other

enterprises in the early post-liberation days when the state confiscated bureaucrat-capitalist enterprises and thoroughly transformed them into socialist enterprises owned by the whole people.

These reforms mainly included: Removing the foremen, gang-masters and counter-revolutionaries, eliminating all the remnants of bureaucrat-capitalist and feudal relations of production under which the workers were exploited and establishing the socialist relations of production; reorganizing the leading bodies of enterprises and strengthening the Party's unified leadership; setting up management committees and congresses of workers and staff so that the workers can take part in management and give full play to their enthusiasm for production; uniting, educating and remoulding the old staff members and technical personnel so as to stimulate their initiative in the service of socialism; abolishing the old rules and regulations which oppress and exploit the workers and establishing socialist rules and regulations.

As the workers were fully mobilized and reliance was placed on them during the democratic reform, a patriotic movement to increase production soon emerged on the industrial front.

(To be continued.)

ON THE HOME FRONT

Building a New Tangshan

WORK on building a new Tangshan has got under way since the year began. The plan is to make preparations in the first year, go full steam ahead in the next three years and complete the whole project in the fifth.

The strong earthquake in summer 1976 devastated the city and there was debris everywhere. What should be done with the ruins and wreckage? This is a question the leading members and people of Tangshan had to handle. The heroic people of Tangshan set about the work of clearing away the rubble with determination and thoroughness. Practically all the inhabitants, men and women, young and old, have been mobilized to break the fallen bricks and stones and use them for making cement. An estimated 600,000 to 700,000 cubic metres of ballast will be available a year, which is a favourable condition for speeding up the construction of houses.

Chairman Hua Kuo-feng has inspected Tangshan three times. He told the people of Tangshan on New Year's Day this year that while they strive to develop production they should build new residential areas complete with shops, recreational centres, parks and avenues, so as to make the city more beautiful than it was before the quake. In accordance with Chairman Hua's instructions, the Tang-

shan city Party committee has adopted a series of measures, including the building and expansion of 18 building materials factories. It plans to build houses and workshops with a total floor space of a million square metres by the end of this year, using new materials which are light, strong and quake-resistant.

Is there enough labour force? The Tangshan people's slogan is: Let two people do the work of three so that the third can join in construction! Office workers of the city Party committee now devote half of their time to office work and half to physical labour. In Tangshan today, an ebullient atmosphere prevails everywhere — in the workshops, coal pits, shops and offices — with everyone doing his bit in building a new Tangshan.

Women in Their Evening Years

HOW do Chinese elderly women spend their days? The lives of the three women living in Peking's Fusuiching Street will provide something of an answer.

Chen Fu-chin, 61, has five children — two sons and three daughters — four of them married. She now lives with her youngest daughter after the death of her husband in 1976.

All her children want her to live with them in her old age because they feel it their bounden obligation to provide for

her. The mother, however, preferred to keep her unmarried daughter company and also have her old neighbours of many years about her. She has been chairman of a neighbourhood committee for 20 years and has thus built up close ties with people in her neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood committees are organizations through which the residents run their own affairs, and each usually looks after an area embracing 500-600 households with about 2,000 people. Committee members are elected from among housewives or retired workers in the area concerned and their duties involve organizing political studies for those not belonging to any factories, government organs or other organizations, keeping the environment clean and tidy, arranging extra-curricular activities for pupils, helping medical workers in preventing epidemics, popularizing family planning and doing other things concerning the welfare of the local people.



Yeh Yu-nien at a political night school run by the neighbourhood committee.

It is a custom in our country that adults living together with their parents pool their earnings. Chen Fu-chin's youngest daughter, who works in a machine building factory, hands most of her pay over to her mother who runs the household. She also helps do the washing and other chores on Sundays. The other children give their mother money every month or buy her things she needs. The whole family meets at the mother's house every Spring Festival.

Yeh Yu-nien, 62, and her husband, a primary school teacher, have no children. Yeh was a model teacher before she retired in 1970.

Yeh did not like the idea of having nothing to do all day, so she volunteered to help the neighbourhood committee. With her education she would be a great help to the labouring women in her neighbourhood who could not afford to go to school in the old society. She was quickly accepted and has been reading newspapers to them, telling them about happenings at home and abroad, teaching them to read and write. Life is not hard for her, with her pension of 70 per cent of her former salary.

Tung Hsin-fu is a 78-year-old childless widow whose railway worker husband died ten years ago. She depends entirely on a government pension and does not have to pay rent or for medical treatment.

She is well looked after by her four neighbours living with her in a typical Peking courtyard. When an earthquake

warning was given the year before last, worker-neighbour Sung Shih-tung immediately carried her out to a safe place. Children of the courtyard like to call on her, and she loves to watch them play about her. In the evenings she often drops in on her neighbours.

Once when Tung Hsin-fu scalded her foot, a woman worker in the courtyard came over every day to wash and cook for her. This elderly woman, on her part, does whatever she can for the neighbours such as taking care of the children after school.

Serve the People

Respected Old Workers. To help young people acquire skills, old workers in the service trades in Chengtu, capital of Szechuan Province, recently got together to demonstrate their skills before an audience of 5,000.

The first item was six cooks who, in two minutes four seconds, killed, plucked and cleaned four chickens, cut the breast meat into cubes, cooked and served up a well-known Szechuan dish of chicken dressed with peanuts and steeped in chili sauce.

In two strokes a butcher accurately cut out half a kilogramme from a side of pork. On weighing, it was exactly 0.5 kg.

Next a worker and two assistants from a laundry asked people in the audience to burn a hole with cigarettes in three pieces of woollen fabrics and then they mended the holes. The work was done so well that

it was hard to find where the holes had been.

Four tailors demonstrated their skills in measuring, cutting, tailoring and ironing by making two suits of fine workmanship in very little time.

Other skills demonstrated at the meeting included repairing bicycles, decorating cakes and cookies and making fancy pastries. These old workers with both the spirit and skills to serve the people commanded the respect from the audience.

Thanks to Comrade "E5-00721." Under this title *Renmin Ribao* recently carried a letter from a woman textile worker of Shensi Province.

This worker and three workmates were sent to Peking in March to learn new skills. On the way she fell gravely ill. It was dark when they arrived in Peking and as her colleagues went to phone an ambulance, a P.L.A. driver saw her condition and offered to take her to a hospital in the car he was meeting his comrades with. At the hospital, he treated her as if she were his own relative. Her bleeding was caused by an extrauterine pregnancy and she had to be operated on.

Then the soldier went back to the station to pick up the worker's colleagues and take them to the hospital. When they asked him his name, he drove off with a smile and no answer. They got his car registration number — E5-00721.

In her letter to *Renmin Ribao*, the woman worker praised the P.L.A. soldier for cherishing the people.

WORKS OF MAO TSETUNG

Booklets in English

(Some of his essays written between 1937 and 1940)

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