

# BEIJING REVIEW



A CHINESE WEEKLY OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS

**Chinese Leaders  
Speak on  
Domestic Situation**

•  
**Science for the  
People**



科技服务站  
询问处

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### **Chinese Leaders on Domestic Situation And Tasks**

Strong Party leadership and a stable political situation ensure that 1982's most important tasks of trimming the administrative system and punishing criminals in the economic field will proceed according to plan (p. 5).

### **Popularizing Science**

The chief organ to spread popular science is a national association with branches all over the country. But government departments and other organizations also lend a hand to this work. Reports include descriptions of the spread of scientific knowledge in a city and a commune (pp. 20-26).

### **Soviet Expansion in SE Asia**

The Soviet Union is trying to infiltrate into Southeast Asia by

political, military, economic and cultural means. Since 1975, it has colluded with Viet Nam to make the latter another Cuba in this region (pp. 15-17).

### **Ogarkov's Indochina Trip**

The Soviet Chief of General Staff goes to Viet Nam to bolster Hanoi's authorities and further the Soviet strategic interests in the region (p. 11).

### **To Free Kampuchea**

A three-point agreement was reached between Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan after their talks on the formation of a tripartite coalition to free Kampuchea (p. 10).

### **Latin American Elections**

This year, at least 10 major elections will be held in Latin America, a region engulfed with ailing economies and political instability. The contention be-

tween the two superpowers in this region is further complicating the elections (p. 13).

### **Film Audiences**

Thanks to the rapid progress of the film industry in the last few years, the nation's film audiences surpassed 10,000 million people in 1981 (p. 27).

### **New Book of Modern Chinese History**

Based on a class analysis, the author divides the period between the Opium War (1840) and the May 4th Movement (1919) into three revolutionary upsurges (pp. 29-30).



Science is being popularized all over China.

Photo by Xin Hua

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### Reforming the Cadre System

**China is trimming its administrative system on a large scale. This is a difficult job for any country. Can you succeed?**

China's administrative structure, with overlapping departments which are all over-staffed with deputy chiefs, has been plagued by bureaucratism and inefficiency. This is incompatible with the modernization drive. The whole nation feels it is high time that this problem was solved.

Efforts to resolve this long overdue question swung into high gear a month ago. The method in use is to streamline the organizations and to rotate the re-training of cadres. In essence, this is a fundamental reform of the cadre system. The plan is to finish the whole job nationally within two years or a little longer, first at the central level and then on to the grass roots.

In the early days of the People's Republic, China's leading cadres were all in the prime of life and the Party and government organs were efficient and full of vitality. With the passage of time, the leading cadres have become aged and the administrative system has grown in size and become convoluted. Since the downfall of the gang of four, an enormous amount of work has been done to restore things to normal. Correct principles and policies have been adopted and the nation's political situation has become stable. All this has provided favourable conditions for China to tackle the urgent task of transforming the cadre system.

Reforms of a basic nature include the following measures:

— Abolishing life tenure for leading cadres. Without this move, the elimination of the personality cult will be out of the question and the Party and state political life will not be able to return to normal;

— Streamlining the government organizations, many of which are now redundant and over-manned. At present, there are over 20 million cadres and 127 organizations under the Party Central Committee and the State Council, and some ministries have more than 20 vice-ministers. Buck-passing is quite common, and work that should only require a few days to finish can drag on for months.

The administrative system will be cut down to size, with merges and slashes. The number of deputy chiefs will be drastically reduced and every department will have its functions, setup and size of staff clearly defined. Once this is determined, the retraining of cadres in rotation will begin, and the number of working personnel will be kept within the prescribed size. In this way no one will be unemployed;

— Arranging for veteran cadres to retire. China is a big country and the Chinese Communist Party has a history of 61 years. About 2 million veteran cadres who joined the revolution before New China was born are still working at leading posts in many Party and government departments. Most of them are now advanced in age. They will leave their posts according to a retirement system to be instituted soon.

The people will never forget the great contributions these

veteran cadres have made to the nation. After they retire, they will be well taken care of so that they will be happy in their later years and continue to make socially useful contributions within their capabilities;

— Promoting to leading posts a large number of competent middle-aged and young cadres who are willing to contribute to socialist construction. The Party Central Committee accepted a suggestion by Deng Xiaoping and Chen Yun that younger and more vigorous comrades assume the posts of Party chairman and premier of the State Council even though they themselves are more experienced and enjoy high prestige. Following their fine examples, many veteran cadres have stepped aside for middle-aged and young successors.

The fundamental reform of the cadre system now being carried out is of great strategic importance. It is, in fact, a revolution. It will contribute to the stability and unity of the whole country, ensure the continuity of current policies and speed up the modernization drive. This revolution has won the wholehearted support of the cadres and the people throughout the country.

Needless to say, the task is heavy and involves complicated arrangements. But in the past month, the restructuring of the administrative system has proceeded smoothly at the central level, as the staff members rallied with revolutionary zest to the call of the central authorities to overcome difficulties and obstacles and do the job well. Many veteran cadres in leading positions have volunteered to retire and they have recommended outstanding

# LETTERS

## US-USSR Nuclear Talks

I have particularly enjoyed reading the articles in the "International" column dealing with the negotiations between the US and the Soviets over "reduction" of nuclear weapons in Europe. The value of the articles is that they expose pacifism and arms reduction talks as in fact being essential to the carrying on of the arms race.

If only everyone could realize that these hegemonists have to carry the olive branch in one hand while carrying the sword in the other, real pressure could be brought to bear to halt this danger to world peace. I feel that your magazine could do a great service by publishing articles on the Marxist theory of war and peace, analysing the nature of war today. Certainly the brief articles exposing the US-Soviet "talks" greatly help to clarify the issue. In my country there is massive public concern with the threat of war, but for lack of real thought, it seems that this pacifism could encourage aggression, as pacifism in this country before World War II made Hitler think that he had only to threaten to win.

I like the addition of art works at the end of the magazine. I would be very pleased if occasionally the merits and demerits of the paintings could be discussed, as this would help to make clear the artistic criteria of the artists. Perhaps a brief "why I paint" column by the artist would be a very great help.

A.N. May  
Huyton, Britain

## Reports on Latin America

In the "International" column, you have given too much praise

younger people to succeed them. They see this as the final historical task entrusted to them. Many departments have chosen well-qualified new leading members through repeated canvassing and consultation with the masses.

After the administrative system is trimmed, the next immediate task will be to improve

to some Latin American countries including Colombia, saying that these countries are forming an alliance for their unity, development and defence of sovereignties. I deem this viewpoint wrong, as we ourselves are increasingly feeling the imperialist and social-imperialist infiltration. Given this situation, where lies the state sovereignty? I hope you will be more objective, which, I think, will not be detrimental to their sovereignty.

Hemer Acosta Madronero  
Pasto, Colombia

As your social system is different from ours, we are particularly interested in your scientific elaboration on Latin America and its political developments. I would like to suggest that you carry more articles on organizations of America and their related problems.

As *Beijing Review* is an international magazine, we suggest that you carry more articles on questions of the third world as well as questions of worldwide concern, such as armaments, racism, fascism, capitalism and the factors endangering world peace and causing the present tense situation. We also hope you will scientifically and dialectically show us the difference between hegemonism and imperialism.

Biblioteca Comunal  
"Victor Andres Belaunde"  
Jaen, Peru

## Covers and "Letters"

I think the stamp on the front cover is excellent. But I like the style of the issue No. 1 cover of 1982 (January 4). Do you think it significant to choose one or a few headlines of the "Highlights of the Week" on the third page and put them on the front cover? (I particularly like the first issue for this reason.)

work style and method, raise efficiency and overcome bureaucratism.

It is expected that this administrative restructuring will bring a new outlook to each of China's Party and government organizations.

— Political Editor  
An Zhiguo

The new design of the "Letters" column in the French edition of *Beijing Review* suits the page very well, as the letters you carry come from all over the world. From it we can also see when *Beijing Review* started publication. And since you print letters of criticism as well as congratulation, the readers are impressed with the objective nature of the "Letters."

Manzon Pierre  
Trivieres, Belgium

The diversified front covers are interesting. The changes have been expressed in the layout of the name of the weekly, the principal headlines and the photos in issues No. 51 and 52 in 1981 and in issues No. 1 and 2 in 1982. Personally, I favour using the smaller version of the name of the magazine like the one on the first issue of 1982, so as to allow more room for the picture. A whole-page picture is more eye-catching. I think this is preferable, especially when you are carrying articles on big events or important questions and you want more people to read them.

As for the headlines, I have noticed an inconsistency between the headlines on the front cover and the importance of the articles. Take issue No. 2 of 1982 for example. The headline for the article "Better Year Ahead" was interesting and encouraging, but the whole article occupied only one and a half columns. This is not enough. The article in issue No. 3 encouraging people to engage in self-study was more or less the same.

Laval Joel  
Penac, France

## Cultural and Scientific Exchanges

We have read much on all aspects of China. Please let us have more articles on China's cultural and scientific exchanges with new emerging nations in the Caribbean, Oceania and Australasia as well as Latin America. So many new nations have joined the world community. Many are eager to play an important role in the third world, of which China is one of the nations. Surely China must be establishing good relationships with these new friends. Let's hear about them.

Robert Djeng  
Kowloon, Hongkong

## POLITICAL

**Chinese Leaders on Domestic Situation**

**T**HREE top Chinese leaders, on different occasions in the third week of February, made important remarks about China's present political and economic situation.

**Hu Yaobang: Party's Leading Core United and Strong**

The core of the Chinese Communist Party's collective leadership is very united, said Party Chairman Hu Yaobang during a meeting with Prof. Samuel C.C. Ting from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Decades of working together in the Party have led to full mutual understanding and respect among the leadership. Several very old and capable Party leaders, in particular, have rich experiences behind them and enjoy high prestige. That's why the Party leading core is very strong, he said.

Streamlining the administrative structure and punishing criminals in the economic field are two most important tasks for this year. They must be handled in real earnest as they are vital to the future of the Party and the nation, he said.

He noted that China's government institutions are overstaffed and inefficient. "Our foreign friends have repeatedly called this to our attention and we ourselves are also keenly aware of it. Now we intend to promote to leading posts a number of outstanding comrades in their prime who are knowledgeable, competent and socialist-minded."

"At the same time," he added, "aged comrades will retire.

They have worked for the Party for decades and contributed greatly to the people. So, when they leave their posts, they will get the same political treatment and their livelihood will be well provided for."



Addressing the issue of violations of state laws and Party discipline in the economic field, Hu Yaobang said: Since the founding of our Party in 1921, there have always been people who have attempted to corrode it. That was why Chairman Mao warned the whole Party in 1949 against "sugar-coated bullets." Not that such violations are now too numerous to tackle, but there are really some people who have succumbed to the "sugar-coated bullets" even though they were never beaten by the enemy's military force or by the gang of four's despotism.

He added that discretion will be applied in dealing with these problems and

that no innocent people will be wronged.

The whole Party and the people across the land responded enthusiastically immediately after these two tasks were announced. Their wholehearted support has given the Chinese leaders greater confidence to do the work well, Chairman Hu said.

Talking about the domestic situation, Hu Yaobang expressed confidence that the steady improvement of recent years will continue and that this year will be even better than the last. Total industrial and agricultural output value last year increased by 4 per cent, and he estimated that this year the increases will reach or surpass 5 per cent. He attributed the impressive agricultural advances to the institution of the responsibility system in production.

In the scientific arena, Hu Yaobang expressed the hope that Chinese scientists will make great efforts to promote the nation's science and technology so that China will be among the most advanced countries in the world at the turn of the century.

**Deng Xiaoping: Political Situation Very Stable**

Stability in the political situation and continuity of policy in recent years are the reasons that the work of trimming the administrative system is proceeding according to plan, said Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping when he met with Samdech and Madame Sihanouk in Beijing on February 18. He told them that there had been much speculation abroad about his absence of nearly a month from



Deng Xiaoping with Samdech and Mme. Sihanouk.

the capital. "I was taking a holiday away from Beijing," he said. "The present situation in China is one of unprecedented stability."

"Now we are trimming our government system. Bureaucratism should be eliminated and the question of overlapping and overstaffing of government departments should be resolved. We've also made up our minds that we must solve the pressing problem that many of our functionaries are too old. We regard this as a revolution. Of course this is a revolution against the administrative system and not against any one person."

"The work to streamline the administration system has been proceeding smoothly since it began a month ago. Our Party members, the old ones included, hold unanimous views on this issue. Judging from the present situation, the work will be finished sooner than anticipated. The fact that this work is going on without a hitch makes it very evident that the situation in our country is stable."

In the course of their cordial conversation, Deng Xiaoping expressed his resolute support for the Kampuchean people's struggle against Vietnamese aggression and for national liberation. He said he hoped that the leaders of the three anti-Vietnamese parties of Kampuchea would meet together as soon as possible and uphold unity so as to achieve positive results.

#### Zhao Ziyang: Open-Door Policy Unchanged

Premier Zhao Ziyang told a visiting delegation of oil-tanker owners that China is stepping up the fight against crimes in the economic field. This, he said, will not affect the present policy to promote economic exchanges with foreign countries and liven up the economy at home, but will facilitate the implementation of this policy.

"We note that there has been much talk abroad about our work to streamline the administrative system," the Premier said. "Most are of the opinion that it is of great significance to China's modernization drive. But there are also people who

think that we will encounter many problems in the process. Some even doubt whether we can carry it through. But we are confident we will make it a success."

"We have formulated our fundamental political and economic policies," he continued, "and our work is already on the right track. The key problem at present is to raise efficiency. That is why we want to streamline our government



organizations. At first we thought that to do this work we need to overcome great difficulties. But in fact it is proceeding more smoothly than we anticipated."

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

### Chinese Leader Meets Khieu Samphan

The Democratic Kampuchean Delegation led by Khieu Samphan, President of the State Presidium and Prime Minister of the Kampuchean Government, arrived in Beijing on February 20 to meet with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and to pay a visit to China in passing.

Premier Zhao Ziyang met with the delegation the next day and gave a banquet in its honour. Speaking at the banquet, Zhao Ziyang praised the efforts made by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea to promote the formation of a union of patriotic forces to fight against Vietnamese aggression. He expressed the hope that their meeting in Beijing will achieve positive results and contribute to the just cause of joint resistance to Vietnamese aggression.

Zhao Ziyang condemned the Vietnamese authorities for continuing their aggression and expansion with Soviet backing in a vain attempt to swallow the whole of Kampuchea and achieve regional hegemony. "Confronted with this situation," the Premier said, "all countries that uphold justice, world peace and the principles of the UN Charter should support the Kampuchean people in their struggle."

Zhao Ziyang reiterated that the Chinese Government and people will, as always, support the Kampuchean people in their struggle against Vietnamese aggression until they win final victory.

Khieu Samphan said at the banquet that his delegation had come to Beijing with a sincere desire to achieve a union of all national forces of Kampuchea.

He said: "We met with Samdech Sihanouk in an atmosphere of understanding and reached identical views on some questions concerning a coalition. We believe that, through the joint efforts of all Kampuchean forces and with the blessings of the Governments of China and other friendly coun-

tries, the formation of a union of all the Kampuchean national forces will make progress."

## ECONOMIC

### Exploring Energy Resources in Southwest China

A new inter-ministerial and inter-provincial joint corporation — the General Corporation for the Joint Development of Energy Resources in Southwest China — was recently inaugurated in Beijing. It represents a first step in co-ordinated efforts for developing energy and other natural resources in southwest China.

Southwest China is rich in mineral and hydropower resources. The three provinces of Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan have between them 68,600 million tons in known coal reserves, accounting for 11 per cent of the country's total, according to current estimates. Guizhou alone has 46,200 million tons. The area's known reserve of phosphorus ore is 3,620 million

tons, accounting for 34.6 per cent of the country's total. The hydropower resources in southwest China are estimated at about 270 million kilowatts, with explorable reserves of 180 million kilowatts. The reserves of aluminium, vanadium, lead, zinc, tin and three other non-ferrous metals account for 48 per cent of the nation's total.

The new corporation was jointly launched by the Ministry of Coal Industry, the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Railways, with the participation of the Bank of China, the China Construction Bank, Guizhou Province, Yunnan Province, Guangdong Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and the Xianggang (Hongkong) Branch of the Bank of China.

The corporation, which is under the administration of the State Council, will in accordance with relevant state laws and regulations raise funds, mainly from foreign countries, for the development of the coal industry and the improvement of transport facilities in southwest China. After this initial step, efforts will be made to exploit its non-ferrous



metals, phosphorus and hydro-power resources.

The corporation will control all the development projects and the transport and sale of the products within the scope of its rights as defined by the state, as well as the processing and export of its own products. The corporation's registered capital is RMB 200 million yuan and it will open a foreign exchange account with the Bank of China. It also has the right to use foreign exchange earnings to repay foreign loans and to expand production.

Gao Yangwen, Minister of the Coal Industry and chairman of the corporation's board of directors, said: For the development of energy and other natural resources, the corporation is prepared, in co-operation with compatriots in Xianggang (Hongkong) and Aomen (Macao), overseas Chinese and foreign businessmen, to arrange compensation trade and loans and run joint ventures.

The programme of development will involve two steps, Minister Gao said. It will start with the expansion and technical transformation of 21 major coal mines in Guizhou Province, with a designed capacity of 10 million tons, the extension and rebuilding of five trunk railways between Kunming in Yunnan Province and Zhanjiang in Guangdong Province, and with the transformation of the phosphorus docks in Zhanjiang harbour into coal docks.

The second step will be to expand coal production in the Liupanshui area in Guizhou Province, to further improve the railways and to build new docks and new railways, as well as to develop other resources.

The corporation will start exporting coal this year. By the

end of 1985, the production capacity of coal will be raised from the present 6 million tons to 9.5 million tons; the railways will be improved so as to be able to handle 4 million tons of coal a year and the docks will be rebuilt to facilitate the loading of 2 million tons of coal a year for export.

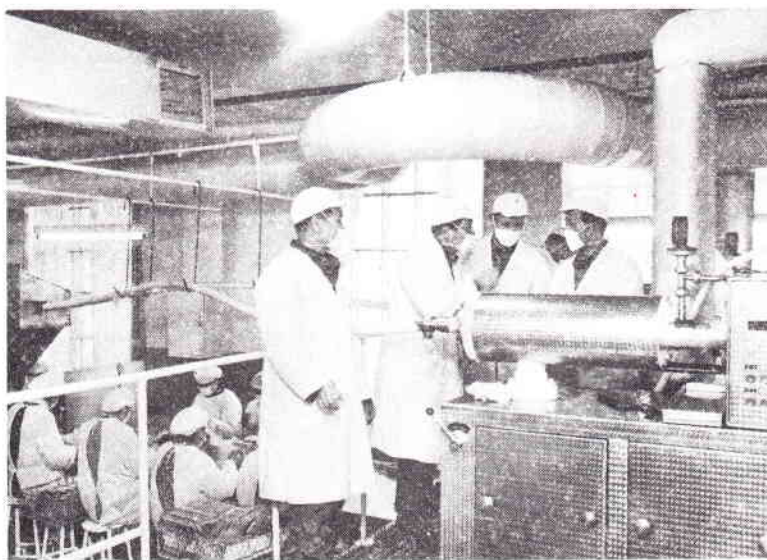
## Machine-Building Industry Picks Up

In 1982 China plans to increase the total output value of its machine-building industry by 5 per cent over that of 1981, and export is to increase by 22 per cent. During the current readjustment period, the machine-building industry has passed the rock-bottom mark and production is gradually picking up. This was disclosed recently by Rao Bin, Minister of the First Ministry of Machine-Building.

Last year, owing to the readjustment of the national economy, the production tasks of enterprises under the First Ministry of Machine-Building, as re-

quired by the state plan, were only about one-third of their actual production capacity. Confronted by this situation, the workers and staff did their best to expand their range of service to cover the light and textile industries, agriculture, commerce and environmental protection instead of mainly serving the metallurgical, chemical and other heavy industries as they did in the past. At the same time, they raised the quality of their products and increased their varieties. After one year of arduous efforts, these enterprises succeeded in overfulfilling their 1981 output value plan by 22 per cent and turned out 1,300 new products. The export of equipment and electrical machinery registered a 28 per cent increase over that of 1980, which is the fastest rate of increase for years.

Rao Bin said that the production tasks of enterprises under the First Ministry of Machine-Building this year will be more demanding. About 1,800 kinds of new products will be developed. 200 important research items on



Responsible members of the Shanghai Chemical Machinery Plant, which has extended its scope of service to producing food-processing equipment, canvassing opinions about its new products.



basic technology will be completed and study on the manufacture of a batch of complete sets of large equipment with advanced technology will be carried out.

This year, too, a group of machine-building factories will undergo technical transformation so that they can produce advanced equipment for their customers.

## SOCIAL

### "Five-Guarantees" Households in the Countryside

One of the many positive effects of agricultural collectivization in the 1950s was the promise of a secure livelihood for the old, weak or disabled people in the countryside who had no one to support them.

These people who were unable to participate fully in labour were attended to by the production teams (or production brigades). They were assigned whatever light jobs they were able to perform, and they enjoyed the "five guarantees"—food, clothing, housing, medical care and burial expenses. Parentless children were also provided for and given the opportunity to receive an education. This social relief was greatly appreciated by the peasants.

How are the "five-guarantees" households now? Are they still cared for by the collectives? The answer is: In most places, they are well cared for. But there have been some changes in the methods.

The Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region has done very well in this respect. In production teams with unified distribution, the collectives take the overall responsibility in supporting them.



Old people who enjoy the "five guarantees" in a commune in Hubei Province playing Chinese chess.

Some production teams adopt the system of fixing output quotas on the household basis, in which case the production teams are taken as the basic accounting units, and each peasant household is assigned a certain piece of land with a fixed output quota. Under this system, the peasant household hands over to the production team the set amount but retains the above-quota portion. In these teams a unified plan is drawn up to ensure the livelihood of unsupported people.

When production teams sign contracts with individual peasants for production, the contracts include provisions for donating money, grain and other necessities to the "five-guarantees" households, taking into consideration the amount of land and labour power each household has. At the end of the year, the production teams collect the grain and money and distribute them to the old or disabled people. In other cases, some plots are marked out and the peasants are asked to make bids for cultivating the land. The fixed amount of output agreed upon

is for the "five-guarantees" households, while the above-quota portion goes to the peasants who till the land. The production teams see to it that the living standard of the old and disabled is not lower than that of the local peasants.

Guangxi has now a total of 67,000 "five-guarantees" households with 74,000 people. A recent survey among 33,000 of them shows that 80 per cent of these households now lead a secure life. Most of the remaining 20 per cent are in poor teams and in areas which have suffered natural calamities. Their food rations and living expenses are provided by the government.

When the responsibility system was first introduced in production, the Guangxi regional people's government discovered that the policy of ensuring the livelihood of the "five-guarantees" households was not being implemented in some places. It issued a circular in 1980 calling on people's governments at all levels to pay attention to this work. Now, many counties have special files to keep track of the "five-guarantees" households and leading cadres visit them at regular intervals. In addition, many Communist Party members in the rural areas have designated supporting the "five-guarantees" households as a major task for themselves in caring for the livelihood of the masses and in achieving a high level of socialist morality and ethics. They take turns helping these people collect firewood, fetch water, clean their houses and husk rice. Their example has inspired the peasants. Today, care for the old and the young, the weak and the disabled, has become a general trend in many rural areas.

CORRECTION: In the 18th line of the left-hand column on page 7 in issue No. 8, the name of the book should be *A Death With Dignity*.

## Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan Reach Three-Point Agreement



Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan hold talks.

**S**AMDECH Norodom Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan recently reached a three-point agreement in Beijing after conducting official talks on the formation of a tripartite coalition to free Kampuchea.

The agreement, released to the press by Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan after their talks in the Samdech's residence, emphasized the following points:

1. If we form a tripartite coalition, we must have a minimum political programme;
2. Should the tripartite coalition government be formed, we must make clear that the legal status of the new government will be consistent with the legal framework of Democratic Kampuchea, which is a full member of the United Nations;
3. The three parties represented by Khieu Samphan, Sihanouk and Son Sann will enjoy full autonomy and ideological freedom. But if a tripartite government is formed, they will have common rules, rights

and duties in order to promote co-operation and harmony.

"We hope there will be a possibility for Khieu Samphan and myself to meet Son Sann," said

Sihanouk. "If we cannot have a formal conference as the tripartite conference in Singapore, we may have a tripartite meeting."

"If there are differences among us, it is precisely the reason for us to meet and discuss our viewpoints. We hope that Son Sann will take into account our wish and come here as soon as possible. Khieu Samphan has said that in Kampuchea he has many things to do, including fighting the Vietnamese, so he cannot stay in China very long. I have sent a telegram to Son Sann and Khieu Samphan supported my telegram," he added.

Khieu Samphan told reporters: "I have just told the Samdech that I wish, together with him, to meet the former Premier Son Sann as soon as possible."

## Viet Nam's Futile Trick

**T**HE recent fifth "foreign ministerial conference" of Viet Nam, Laos and the Phnom Penh regime under the direction of the Vietnamese authorities concluded in Vientiane. The conference participants issued a communique showing that the Vietnamese authorities want to make "contact" with Thailand and consider a "partial troop withdrawal" from Kampuchea. This offer is another trick by Viet Nam, which is seeking to legalize its aggression against Kampuchea.

### Deception

Recently, the Vietnamese authorities have repeatedly created incidents along the Kampuchean-Thai border areas

while attacking the Kampuchean resistance forces. Their airplanes have violated Thai airspace. They have also fired shells into Thai territory, killing and wounding many citizens. They have put pressure upon Thailand and contributed to increased tension in the region. Nonetheless, they have again issued a call for a so-called "partial troop withdrawal" designed to lure Thailand into "contact" with them.

Viet Nam claimed in the communique that it invaded Kampuchea to cope with the "threat" from China and that such a "threat" should be removed before it withdraws its troops from Kampuchea. It even asserted that its military presence

in Kampuchea poses no threat to Thailand's security. While uttering such fallacies, it also expressed readiness of the three sides to talk with Thailand for the "stabilization of the situation in the Kampuchean-Thai border areas," and its willingness to pull some of its troops out of Kampuchea in accordance with the results of "contacts" with Thailand.

Isn't this self-incriminating? How does the issue of "stabilizing the Kampuchean-Thai border situation" arise since Vietnamese aggressors in Kampuchea allegedly do not constitute a threat to Thailand's security? If a withdrawal of Vietnamese troops should be contingent upon the elimination of an alleged "Chinese threat," how could the results of Thailand-Viet Nam "contacts" be expected to lead to a "partial withdrawal," irrespective of a "Chinese threat"? This shows clearly that the so-called "Chinese threat," "stabilization of the situation in the Kampuchean-Thai border areas" and "partial withdrawal," are all nonsense. Viet Nam's true aim is to have Thailand join a "dialogue."

### Reaction From Thailand

Viet Nam thinks that the present situation is in its favour. And if Thailand is willing to enter into "contact" and "dialogue," it would be possible for Viet Nam to open the door leading to a "dialogue" and "a regional conference" with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, thus turning the UN resolution calling for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Kampuchea into a piece of waste paper, and legalizing Viet Nam's occupation of Kampuchea. However, as soon as the offer was put forth, it was rejected by Thailand. Thai Foreign

Minister Siddhi Savetsila has pointed out that in order to maintain peace and stability in this region, Viet Nam must unconditionally withdraw all its

troops from Kampuchea in accordance with the UN resolution.

— "Renmin Ribao" Commentary  
(February 20)

## Soviet Chief of General Staff Tours Indochina

**C**HIEF of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces Nikolai Ogarkov and a Soviet military delegation recently visited Hanoi, Phnom Penh and Vientiane to hold secret talks. The time and purpose of the visit should raise concern among those committed to peace and stability in this region.

### Bolstering Hanoi's Authorities

Vietnamese authorities, supported by the Soviet Union, have gained control of Laos and invaded Kampuchea. The country now poses a serious threat to the security of the Southeast Asian countries. But Hanoi has suffered because of its aggressive policies. Viet Nam's forces are suffering increasing casualties along the Kampuchean battlefield, and the country's economy is deteriorating so quickly that complaints are rife.

The Italian weekly *L'Espresso* recently described Viet Nam as a country facing failure, grief, perplexity and disappointment. Vietnamese agriculture is not providing people with enough food and its light and heavy industries are only utilizing half their production capacity. The country's leadership has reportedly lost prestige and trust because of these developments. The significance of Ogarkov's visit must be interpreted within the context of these conditions.

During his stay, Ogarkov reportedly told Viet Nam's leaders the Soviet Union will always "side with Viet Nam" and give it "all possible aid" to help increase its material and moral strength. It is obvious that his visit was an effort to bolster Hanoi's authorities.

Reports from Western news services indicate Ogarkov's trip was arranged to obtain permission to build more Soviet military facilities in Viet Nam, using Hanoi's needs for military and economic aid to further Soviet strategic interests in the region.

Hanoi previously agreed to permit the Soviet Union to expand its military facilities and advanced communication system in Viet Nam, endangering the security of Asia, the Pacific region and nations elsewhere.

Ogarkov reportedly demanded more control of military bases in Da Nang and Cam Ranh Bay and asked Hanoi for another military airport.

### Foundation of Moscow-Hanoi Collaboration

Ogarkov's trip to Viet Nam coincided with intensified military offensives launched by Viet Nam in Kampuchea. His Indochina trip indicates the development of intensified military collaboration between the Soviet Union and Viet Nam. Vietnamese leaders said Ogarkov's visit helped to

bring about "very important new progress" in Soviet-Vietnamese relations. The Soviet Union looks at Viet Nam as an outpost in its southward expansion and Viet Nam regards the Soviet Union as the supporter of its regional hegemony. Herein lies the foundation on

which the Soviet-Vietnamese military collaboration is based. Any country that hopes to lure Hanoi from Moscow's domination by providing assistance and making loans, compromises or concessions surely will meet failure.

— Mei Zhenmin

## OAU Peace Proposal on Chad Rejected

**T**HE Organization of African Unity's recent attempt to achieve a ceasefire in Chad has been rejected.

Goukouni, President of Chad's National Union Transitional Government, announced the rejection. He also said that "the so-called standing committee of OAU on Chad had no reason to exist."

Demonstrations were held in Ndjamenas to oppose the resolution adopted by the OAU and to demand an immediate withdrawal of the pan-African peace-keeping forces from the country.

### The OAU Committee Resolution

The ceasefire resolution was adopted on February 11 in Nairobi. The OAU summit concluded that the problem is essentially political. The resolution calls for the Chadian transition government and the armed forces of the North (Chad) to stop fighting and enter into negotiations and hold legislative and presidential elections so as to restore peace and national unity.

Nonetheless, President Goukouni refuses to hold talks with the armed forces of the North

(Chad) and rejects a political solution.

Chad won independence in 1960, but various factions have been fighting within the country for the past 17 years. Although some of them have sought support from outside forces in order to obtain an edge in the struggle, none has managed to achieve a decisive victory. In November 1979, the OAU and neighbouring African countries persuaded the 11 political factions of Chad to reach an agreement and set up a transitional government of na-

tional unity. However, the two most important factions — one led by President Goukouni and the other led by former Defence Minister Hissene Habre — fought fiercely for the control of the capital Ndjamenas. Though President Goukouni had support from most of the 11 factions, he could not win the war.

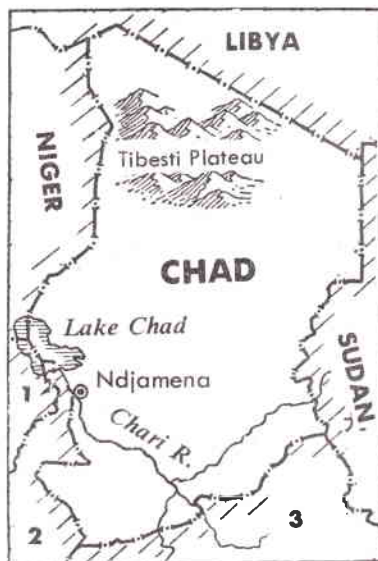
After Goukouni visited Libya in January of 1981, the two countries issued a communique which announced that they would be merged into a single state. Subsequently, large numbers of Libyan troops were dispatched to Chad. Habre's men were forced to evacuate their positions in Ndjamenas and resort to guerrilla war in the eastern mountainous areas. With the help of Libyan troops, Goukouni's forces temporarily won the upper hand. Thereafter, President Goukouni accused Habre of "rebellion" and sentenced him to death in absentia.

However, the Libya's armed intervention and the proposed merger split the government at home and drew sharp condemnation from other African countries.

The 18th summit conference of the Organization of African Unity held last June demanded a foreign troop withdrawal from Chad and declared that a pan-African peace-keeping force would be established and dispatched to Chad in order to take care of the defence and security of the country. The OAU peace-keeping force was also supposed to help Chad set up an integrated national army.

### Pan-African Peace-Keeping Force

Libya withdrew its troops last November, and shortly



1. NIGERIA 2. CAMEROON  
3. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

thereafter the pan-African peace-keeping force from six African countries entered Chad. But from the beginning, differences existed between Goukouni and the OAU on the role of the pan-African peace-keeping force. Goukouni wanted the pan-African peace-keeping force to help him annihilate Habre's armed forces. But the OAU considered the civil war Chad's internal affair and refused to interfere. This infuriated Goukouni.

### Chad's Situation

The withdrawal of Libya's troops generated a significant transformation in the civil war. Having consolidated their position in the eastern mountainous areas, Habre's forces skirted the positions taken by the OAU

peace-keeping force, and took over many of the towns vacated by the Libyans. It was reported they have acquired control over a major portion of the country, and Goukouni responded by suggesting that he may ask Libya to send its troops back to Chad.

Goukouni's rejection of the OAU's political solution raises the question of whether the pan-African peace-keeping force should remain in Chad. If the pan-African peace-keeping force withdraw, the civil war will certainly escalate. Because Chad's instability threatens security and unity throughout Africa, the OAU will almost certainly continue its admirable efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of this unfortunate war.

— Dan Lin

## Latin American Elections

LATIN American countries will have conducted at least ten major elections by the end of this year.

Roberto Suazo Cordova's big victory in January was the first Honduran presidential election in a decade. It highlighted that country's return to civilian rule.

Costa Rica's presidential election on February 7 was won by Luis Alberto Monge, who will assume office on May 8. Elections in Guatemala are scheduled for March 7. Colombia will hold general elections on March 14 and its presidential election on May 30.

Dominica will hold national elections on May 17. Mexico's presidential election is scheduled for July 4. El Salvador will elect a Constituent Assembly on March 28. In November, military controlled Brazil will elect members to its Congress and

Senate. St. Lucia, whose government was toppled by labour and business discontent in January, will conduct elections in July. Popular demand for democracy has forced the Bahamas and Grenada to announce national elections towards the end of this year. Seldom has there been so many elections in one year in this region.

### A Major Political Event

Most of the elections are taking place in Central America where ailing national economies have exacerbated social contradictions and political instability. Increased Soviet and Cuban infiltration designed to challenge the United States' domination has turned the region into another area of intense superpower confrontation. Political observers are closely watching to see how this will affect the elections, whose results will obviously have a significant im-

pact on the immediate future of this region.

### Current Problems

**Ailing Economies.** Given the pressing economic problems of many Latin American countries, most of the contending political parties are claiming that "improving the living standards of the people" is their highest priority.

The present recession in the West is exerting a negative impact on Latin American economies. The region's economic growth rate declined from 5.8 per cent in 1980 to 1.2 per cent last year, the lowest in 35 years.

Most of these countries are faced with declining rates of production, inflation, high unemployment and budget deficits. In addition, they have huge debts and deeply-entrenched socio-economic problems. Opposition party candidates frequently claim that incumbent governments and ruling juntas cannot solve these problems nor check widespread corruption.

Election promises and economic programmes designed to promote growth are generating skeptical responses. Most people in the region realize that the problems which their countries face are too complex to be solved by optimistic promises, most of which they've heard before.

**Ominous.** Because Mexico, Costa Rica and Brazil are relatively stable, their elections will probably be peaceful. But in El Salvador, Guatemala and several other countries, the elections are essentially attempts to pacify popular discontent. The Government of El Salvador says that its election will bring peace and democracy to the country, but left-wing politicians claim the upcoming election is really a ploy designed to

perpetuate military control. The guerrillas of Guatemala have announced that they will launch an offensive to stop the elections.

Escalating violence is casting an ominous shadow over the elections. Some commentators say that even if the elections are held, political instability will continue.

**Democracy Wanted.** The demand for democracy has been building up in Latin America, particularly in countries under military rule. Many people are extremely dissatisfied with military governance and want power returned to civilians. The demand for an end to military rule is so widespread that the juntas which rule many countries have had to announce timetables for the implementation of constitutional government through elections.

## US Policy Towards El Salvador

US policy towards El Salvador has become a controversial issue in Washington's political circles and the US press.

Much concern is being expressed about increasing US involvement in the Central American country's civil war. Many people are openly expressing fear that the Reagan administration's policy towards El Salvador will prove disastrous.

**Congressional Opposition.** President Ronald Reagan recently requested more military aid for El Salvador in a report submitted to Congress. He claims that the country's military junta has made a little progress in restraining its troops from slaughtering civilians and that the government can not survive

### Complex Situation

The United States has publicly announced support of elections and the "democratization process" in Latin America. This was obviously done to stabilize the situation and to maintain its vested interests in the region. The United States also hopes the elections will mitigate the situation in a manner which will prevent the Soviet Union from taking further advantage of the present chaos. The Soviet Union for its part is trying to create more trouble in the region in order to undermine the US position. Both superpowers are making the Latin American elections much more complicated. They are also exacerbating the problems responsible for much of the destruction and human suffering in the region.

— *Guang Yangzong*

without increased US aid. Thirty Congressmen strongly disagreed with the President's assessment of El Salvador's recent human rights record. They contend that government troops are still murdering large numbers of innocent civilians.

In addition, 50 Congressmen wrote a letter to Reagan asking him to withdraw his report. A group of 29 Congressmen formally complained the Reagan administration has violated the 1973 "War Powers Act" by providing military aid to the Salvadorean military junta.

**Official Position.** Although the administration's representatives admit that basic economic and social problems are largely responsible for El Salvador's plight

and that government troops are slaughtering civilians, they claim that the rebellion results from Soviet and Cuban attempts to exacerbate the situation.

**Press Opinion.** Many US newspapers say that the Soviet Union and Cuba are exploiting the political situation in El Salvador and other Central American countries to heighten their influence in the region. But the newspapers also point out that the root causes of El Salvador's instability are social injustices and poverty.

When Ronald Reagan took office one year ago, Salvadorean anti-government guerrillas were preparing to launch a large-scale offensive on the government's national guards. The Reagan administration declared the United States might resort to armed interference in order to defeat the guerrillas. The administration later toned down its aggressive attitude because of strong international and domestic opposition.

Because of a recent series of particularly damaging attacks on the Salvadorean military regime, the United States has increased its military assistance to the ruling junta. US Secretary of State Alexander Haig has vowed that the United States will do "what is necessary" to deal with the situation. This approach has aroused increasing criticism in the US. Many people who fear that El Salvador could become another Viet Nam sent petitions to Congressmen, stressing that the United States should not become more deeply involved in El Salvador. Several demonstrations have been held against the administration's policy.

— *Wu Jin*

# The Soviet Drive Into Southeast Asia

by Song Fusheng

SOUTHEAST Asia is high on the Soviet list of geopolitical priorities. The region, which encompasses the Indochina peninsula and the Malay archipelago, straddles the Indian and Pacific Oceans. It has China on the north, India on the west and is linked by sea to Japan, Australia and US bases in the Pacific.

If the Soviet navy is to effectively challenge the United States in the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean for supremacy, it must first of all establish a line of communications connecting Asia, Africa and Europe stretching in an arc from the Mediterranean, through the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, the southwest Pacific up to the Sea of Japan. This would permit Soviet fleets in the Black Sea and the Pacific to reinforce each other and, if need be, challenge the US Pacific fleet's access to the Indian Ocean. It would also undercut US strength in the Far East and threaten China from the sea. Another threat, particularly to Japan and the United States, would be the severance of communication lines between the Far East, Oceania and Europe. Japan, which depends on foreign trade for economic survival, could become hostage to Soviet warships. Soviet domination of the Indochina peninsula would mean greater co-ordination between Soviet expansionist activities in northeast Asia, central Asia and the Indian subcontinent, in addition to threatening China from bases in the south and southwest.

In addition to its critical strategic importance, Southeast Asia possesses considerable natural resources: more than one half of the world's tin reserves and 35 per cent of its natural rubber. Although development of natural gas and oil fields has just begun, the region's potential is considered substantial.

Although most Southeast Asian nations won independence after World War II, they are poor and very eager to develop their economies. In addition, most countries in the region are faced with complicated national, religious and border

problems. The Soviet Union would like to exacerbate these to further its interests.

## All-Round Infiltration

From the mid-1950s to the end of the 60s, the Soviet Union sought to exploit conflicts between the countries and peoples of Southeast Asia and the new and old colonial powers. It selectively infiltrated certain countries under the cover of assisting national-liberation movements and fighting imperialism and colonialism.

From the end of the 60s to the mid-70s, while the United States was mired in its war in Indochina, the Soviet Union built up its military and economic strength to challenge the United States on a global scale. It was during this period that the Soviet Union launched its full-scale expansionist move into the region. The present USSR-USA tensions in Southeast Asia constitute one aspect of this worldwide confrontation.

The Soviet drive into Southeast Asia is taking place politically, militarily, economically and culturally.

Politically, the Soviet Union has announced an "Asian collective security system," which has as its goal the complete domination of Asia, including Southeast Asia, by the Soviet Union. However, the proposal has received little support. In fact, the ASEAN nations have issued a counter-proposal, which pointedly asserts that the region should be free from foreign interference.

In regard to Viet Nam, Soviet policy has changed. When Khrushchov was in power and Viet Nam was fighting the United States, the Soviet Union refused aid to Viet Nam because it did not want to be dragged into a confrontation with the United States which would jeopardize "detente." After Brezhnev took over, the Soviets began to send aid to Viet Nam. By the end of 1975, the Soviet Union had provided

more than \$5,000 million in "aid" to Viet Nam, a tactic which promoted the ascendance of a pro-Soviet faction.

Militarily, the Soviet Union has built up a huge Pacific fleet. But the Soviet Pacific fleet can operate out of only two bases, both highly vulnerable, Haishenwai (Vladivostok) and Petropavlovsk Kamch. This is why the Soviet Union wants ports in Southeast Asia.

The Soviet Union has recently been seeking to infiltrate deeper into the region through trade, joint ventures and multinational corporations. It has experienced some success because the Southeast Asian countries want to become less dependent on European and American shipping monopolies. The Soviets are also attempting to penetrate the region with loans. The Singapore branch of the Moscow Norodny Bank is using loans to acquire control of local companies. It is also financing speculators, whose activities tend to disrupt local markets.

The Soviets also use special agents working as diplomats, journalists, seamen and scholars to infiltrate the region. They support pro-Soviet elements and collect economic, military and political intelligence. The most recent example is the head of Aeroflot, the Russian airline, who was expelled from Indonesia for espionage.

### **Collusion With Viet Nam**

After the 1975 conclusion of the Indochina war, the Soviet Union altered its expansionist policies in Southeast Asia. The primary objective of the new policy is to fill in the "vacuum" created by the United States' withdrawal from Viet Nam. The Soviet Union's ultimate objective is the creation of another Cuba in Southeast Asia.

The Soviet Union is attempting to help Viet Nam sell its "Indochina federation" to the world, a proposal designed to bring the countries in Indochina under Vietnamese domination. The Soviets supported this plan by providing Viet Nam with an approximately 2,500 million rubles worth of "aid" for its 1976-80 economic plan. Trade with Viet Nam was increased to 610 million rubles in 1980 from the 200 million mark in 1975. In July 1981, the Soviet Union signed a 1981-85 economic and technical agreement with Viet Nam under which it agreed to help Viet Nam build approximately 100 industrial facilities. This will obviously tie Viet Nam closer to the Soviet Union.

The Soviets are providing such generous assistance to Viet Nam because they want to use

it to further their interests in the region. This is also why the Soviet Union gives unqualified support to the Vietnamese claim of sovereignty over China's Xisha and Nansha Islands in the South China Sea. Five months after Viet Nam joined the Soviet-controlled Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) in November 1978, the two nations signed a "friendship and co-operation" treaty, which is essentially a military pact.

The Soviet Union also supported Viet Nam in 1977 when it forced Laos to sign "friendship and co-operation" and "border" treaties. The following year Viet Nam unleashed its war against Democratic Kampuchea and installed a puppet regime in Phnom Penh.

The Soviet Union is using Viet Nam to build up its military presence in Southeast Asia. Since 1980, the Soviet Union has sent arms and military equipment to Viet Nam at the rate of 3 million US dollars a day. This enhances the attack capability of the Vietnamese land and naval forces and facilitates its war against Democratic Kampuchea. The Soviets have also stationed large numbers of military advisers in Viet Nam. Reports indicate that at least 10,000 Soviet military experts and advisers are working with Vietnamese army, navy and air force units. The Soviet Union has also established numerous military facilities in Indochina. Soviet warships are using the large, modern naval bases of Cam Ranh Bay and Danang built by the Americans and the deep-water port of Kompong Sam in Kampuchea. These bases facilitate enormous extensions of Soviet naval capacity. Electronic monitoring stations and ground-to-air missile bases have been set up along the coast of Viet Nam close to China all the way to Laos and Kampuchea. As a result, Soviet long-distance reconnaissance planes and spy ships operating from Viet Nam are now ranging far and wide in Southeast Asia.

This large and palpable Soviet military presence has obviously generated considerable tension in the region and in Japan and the United States. Using bases in Viet Nam, the Soviet Union could obstruct US and Japanese access to vital sea lanes. Moreover, they facilitate effective Soviet challenges to US military influence in the Persian Gulf, the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The Soviet Union and Viet Nam have worked closely to legalize Viet Nam's invasion of Democratic Kampuchea and the Vietnamese-



installed puppet regime in Phnom Penh. They have even attempted to get the regime recognized by the United Nations. However, the attempt proved unsuccessful. In addition to rejecting their proposal, the UN passed the resolution sponsored by the ASEAN nations which demands that Viet Nam withdraw its troops from Kampuchea.

Soviet efforts to get ASEAN to conduct talks with Viet Nam has also proven fruitless. The association refuses to bargain over recognition of Viet Nam's puppet regime in Kampuchea and, as a result, Viet Nam and the Soviet Union have found no friends in the region for their friend in Phnom Penh.

The Soviet Union and Viet Nam have responded by redoubling their efforts to win rec-

ognition for the Phnom Penh regime. Leaders of the Soviet Union, Viet Nam and occupied-Kampuchea conducted a secret meeting in September 1981 in order to develop a strategy. They agreed to a plan designed to weaken ASEAN opposition through the use of a series of "talks" and "proposals." They also agreed to engage in activities designed to weaken unity between ASEAN nations. They are presently engaged in efforts to accomplish these ends.

Although the Soviet Union and Viet Nam have altered tactics, their goal of dominating Southeast Asia remains unchanged. Those who recognize the hegemonistic nature of their regional and global objectives should take appropriate measures to block them. □

## ***Shaanxi Province***

# **Democratic Meetings**

*In northwest China's Shaanxi Province, the fourth session of the fifth provincial people's congress and the fourth session of the provincial committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference were held around the time of the 1982 New Year. The following excerpts from speeches by deputies to the congress and members of the committee are taken from "Shaanxi Ribao" (Shaanxi Daily). They may help our readers understand an aspect of China's democratic life and what the people want the local government to do. — Ed.*

## **Too Many Meetings**

There are too many meetings. For example, the head of a prefecture has to go to the provincial capital a dozen times a year just to attend meetings. For a time the Zizhou County head and two deputy heads found it hard to attend all the meetings held outside the county. In order not to miss a meeting they had to ask two vice-chairmen of the standing committee of the county people's congress to join them. A lot of work remained at meetings.

— *People's deputies Wang Yancheng and Guo Shengying*

March 1, 1982

## **Endless Documents**

We are being swamped by documents. Of the 2,592 documents Meixian County received from January to December 20 last year, 1,689 came from higher authorities and 903 from various county departments. During that period, I read 2,027 documents. I suggest that the Shaanxi provincial government do something to change this situation so as to free the cadres at various levels from meetings and reading documents and enable them to spend more time among the people solving problems.

— *People's deputy Zhu Zongzhu*

## **Invite Experts as Advisers**

Our provincial governor already has his hands full just administering the government's day-to-day work. It is, therefore, impossible for him to know the particulars of every field. We suggest that experts in their prime years be selected to work as his advisers. They could keep him abreast of what's really happening and enable him to make correct decisions. Such advisers could provide information concerning Shaanxi in such fields as industry, farming, science, technology, education and economic

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**A peasant family in Zhidan County, Shaanxi Province, planting trees on a hill-side plot designated for their use.**

policies. They could also present opinions and suggestions. In this way the governor would be helped with regard to understanding, analysing, taking measures and solving problems. Experts invited from universities and colleges, scientific research institutes, industrial and agricultural fields could serve one- to two-year terms. They could serve more than one term when necessary.

— *People's deputies Zhang Zhihe, Yan' Zuti, Li Chengxi and Liang Zengji*

### **Protect Historical Relics in the Xian Area**

As the capital for 11 Chinese dynasties, Xian is world-famous for its many historical relics. After the founding of New China, the Party and government attached great importance to preserving them. As a result, many ancient buildings and historical relics remain in good condition. However, some have been ruined. The 1,000-year-old Dayan Pagoda is tilting; many sections of the city wall have almost fallen and the city-gate towers need to be repaired. We suggest that the relevant provincial departments devote increased effort to protecting historical relics in the Xian area.

— *People's deputies Liu Renhe, Wang Caiqin, Wang Changshui and Xu Huicui*

### **No More Wanton Felling Of Trees**

Trees are being felled in the dense forests of Ningshan County in a wanton manner. Since 1976, a factory run by the Xiaochuan People's Commune has cut down a forest of more than 100 *mu* which belongs to the Liyuan Production Brigade. The trees were subsequently processed and shipped out for sale. A small number of commune members have also joined in the wanton destruction of trees.

— *People's deputy Li Shenglu*

The indiscriminate felling of trees continued unchecked in our province even after the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress promulgated the Law Governing Forests. This session of the provincial people's congress has adopted Provisional Measures for Protecting and Managing the Forests of Shaanxi Province. We suggest that appropriate provincial departments conduct yearly examinations to determine whether national and provincial laws are being observed. Moreover, people should be encouraged to save timber and replace it whenever possible with other materials. Coal should be supplied for inhabitants in wooded areas. This will eliminate the people's need for wood to heat their stoves.

— *People's deputies Li Zhigong, Yang Qingli, Shen Xi and Jin Jianhui*

### **Transformation of the Loess Plateau**

The loess plateau used to be covered by luxuriant vegetation. Now it is crisscrossed by gullies and the Shaanxi people have suffered as a result. We should send in crews of ecologists to study this problem and recommend comprehensive solutions.

— *Member of the CPPCC provincial committee Shi Nianhai*

## Treat and Cure Endemic Diseases

Endemic diseases still constitute a grave problem in Yongshou County. Kaschin-beck disease poses the biggest threat to local people. Moreover, the situation is getting worse. Survey results indicate that the number of patients suffering kaschin-beck disease increased from 17,971 to 36,659 between 1970 and 1977. X-ray examinations conducted last May by a state survey team show that, of the 9,115 children between 5 and 13 years of age examined, 44.5 per cent suffered this disease. The incidence runs as high as 50 per cent in six communes. If this situation is not checked, there will not be any able-bodied people in this county 10 years from now.

— *People's deputy Lei Zhihai*

## Mass Efforts to Wipe Out Rats

Rats are running rampant in many sections of our province. They spread contagious diseases, damage furniture and equipment, cause breaches in dams and dykes and eat grain, wheat seedlings, seeds, orange saplings and sunflower seeds. We wiped out most of the rats during the 1950s, but during recent years our efforts have been far from satisfactory. The local people are attempting to deal with the problem, but their efforts are neither co-ordinated nor sustained. Furthermore, the scale of operation is too small. We suggest that the provincial government immediately launch a mass campaign to wipe out rats during winter and spring, just before they reach the mating season.

— *People's deputies Shen Yuanfu, Ma Zhenjie, Zhou Chunfu, Zhao Xujin and Li Yaoqing*

## Solving Xian's Water Supply Problems

Xian city has experienced a shortage of potable water for a long time. Though some successful measures have been taken to deal

with the problem, it still exists. In order to solve the problem, water must be conserved and used in accordance with a plan. The 462 biggest water consumers are using water according to a plan which saves 60,000 tons each day. Efforts should now be devoted to recycling and recovering water for industrial use. On the other hand, new water resources should be tapped. A water-supply basin is being opened up in the northwest suburbs of Xian and another in the northeast. I hope both projects will be completed as soon as possible.

— *People's deputy Sun Jihua*

## For More Theatrical Performances

Drama and opera troupes seem to have lost their appeal with city audiences. This is primarily because of the low quality of their performances. I don't believe, as do some,



Peasant paintings in Shaanxi's Huxian County have contributed to China's cultural exchanges with other countries and won high prestige for Chinese peasants.

that young people do not like attending performances. They certainly enjoy good performances which appeal to them both ideologically and artistically. More efforts should be devoted to scenario-writing, especially modern themes. Writers should go among the people because high-quality plays cannot be produced behind closed doors. I suggest that the provincial cultural bureau show the theatrical writers some fine examples of plays with contemporary themes. Only when a breakthrough is made can the artistic quality of theatrical works as a whole be raised.

— *Member of the CPPCC provincial committee Wang Yiqun*

# Popularizing Science in China

By Our Correspondent Li Ming

*Popularizing science is important to China's modernization drive. The following reports focus on China's recent accomplishments in this field. — Ed.*

## Organizations and Activities

**T**HE low scientific and technological level of the cadres and masses is considered a stumbling block in China's modernization drive.

According to a 1980 national survey, 80 per cent of the workers and staff are below the level of junior middle school graduates and many of the technical personnel, which account for only 2.8 per cent of the total work force, have had no higher education. Providing primary school education for the nation's 800 million peasants is still a problem. Therefore, the popularization of science has attracted the serious concern of the government.

The Chinese Scientific and Technical Association is the chief organ for popularizing science among the people. Its work is co-ordinated with the efforts of government departments and people's organizations. It has branches in 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions and 1,800 counties. Moreover, many factories, mines and people's communes have their own organizations to popularize science. There are also the popular science writers' society, the society of the natural science museums, the scientific film society, the

research institute of Chinese scientific and technical newspapers.

Famous scientists, professors, doctors, educators, popular-science writers and engineers form the core of the 105 societies, associations and research institutes under the Chinese Scientific and Technical Association. Apart from research work and teaching, they write articles and give lectures on scientific knowledge and new scientific and technical developments at home and abroad. They also disseminate scientific information ranging from rudiments to sophisticated agricultural and industrial techniques and scientific management know-how.

The government provides funds, facilities and equipment for popularizing science. These include industrial and agricultural exhibition centres, natural science museums, planetariums, geological museums, aquariums and health education centres. Preparations are under way for the construction of a large, modern science and technology centre in Beijing. Similar centres have been constructed or are being designed in some other provinces and municipalities. As China can only devote limited resources to these facilities, they

are generally small and poorly equipped.

### Widespread Attraction

Although their methods are simple, these facilities have achieved remarkable results. Their lively and distinctive work has caught the fancy of millions.

**Lectures.** The Chinese Scientific and Technical Association and academic groups have sponsored many lectures and training classes relating to China's modernization drive. Participants range from top Party and state leaders to ordinary workers and peasants. Since 1980, members of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee and State Council leaders have attended five lectures given by noted scientists.

Cadres, technicians, staff members, workers and peasants



Pan Yongsheng, a commune chairman of Shanghai's Qingpu County, studying.



Popular-science workers exchange views on publications.

are also trained in classes sponsored by government departments, research institutes, universities, factories, mines, enterprises and people's communes. Doctors give lectures to those working in hospitals and medical schools.

**Popular-Science Readers.** Public interest in science and technology is higher than it has ever been. As a result, there are always long lines at the doors of bookstores, where there is a constant flow of new publications on science and technology. China published 4,300 popular-science books between 1978 and 1980.

Since 1976, China has published 30,000 science fiction books. These include adventures in outer space, the world beneath the seas, prehistoric animals, the world of tomorrow, robots and synthetic creatures.

**Periodicals.** About 100 popular science magazines are being published at the national and provincial levels. Some of them are in minority languages including Uygur, Mongolian, Korean and Tibetan. Their circulation totals 17 million. *Popular Medicine*, *Science Pictorial*

and *Science and Life* each sells more than a million copies per issue; *Radio*, with a circulation of 1.9 million, is the most popular.

Such journals contribute significantly to widening the public's scientific and cultural horizons and spreading scientific knowledge. In a 1981 national prize-giving ceremony for outstanding popular-science writings, 48 books and 58 articles were awarded prizes in three classes.

The article "Sounding Temperature With Transistors" won a first-class prize. After it was published, more than 100 scientific research institutes, universities and factories sent people to visit the author. With his help, some factories have produced transistor-thermoscopes.

"An Illness That No One Worries About," a second-class prize winning article carried in *Science Pictorial*, drew widespread attention from parents, teachers and medical workers. It suggested that hyperactivity and the short attention spans of some children may be due to mild brain malfunctioning. Medical research is being con-

ducted on this problem in some hospitals. Several outpatient departments have also been set up in Shanghai, Beijing and Tianjin to treat children suffering from this problem.

**TV, Radio and Newspapers.** *Renmin Ribao*, the Party's newspaper, with a circulation of 5 million and the nation's 29 major newspapers feature popular-science columns. The science and technology newspapers published by provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions have a combined circulation of 3.5 million. Twice or three times a week, TV and radio stations air forums on health and medicine and other popular-science programmes.

**Films.** The nation's three scientific film studios make about 300 films a year. In a 1980 national film appraising conference, the documentary *Weasels* was awarded for being the best scientific film of the year. With vivid examples, the film shows that weasels, long regarded as harmful poultry-killers, are actually helpful because they subsist mainly on rats and insects and because their fur is valuable.

A Chinese society of scientific film workers is being organized. Central industrial departments and scientific and technological organizations in various localities are also setting up scientific film studios.

**Street of Popular Science.** Photographs are exhibited in display cases on a street near the Xidan Department Store in downtown Beijing. They acquaint passers-by and shoppers with scientific knowledge such as "making food by fermentation" and "how to survey the stars." Stores on the street also have special windows disseminating knowledge

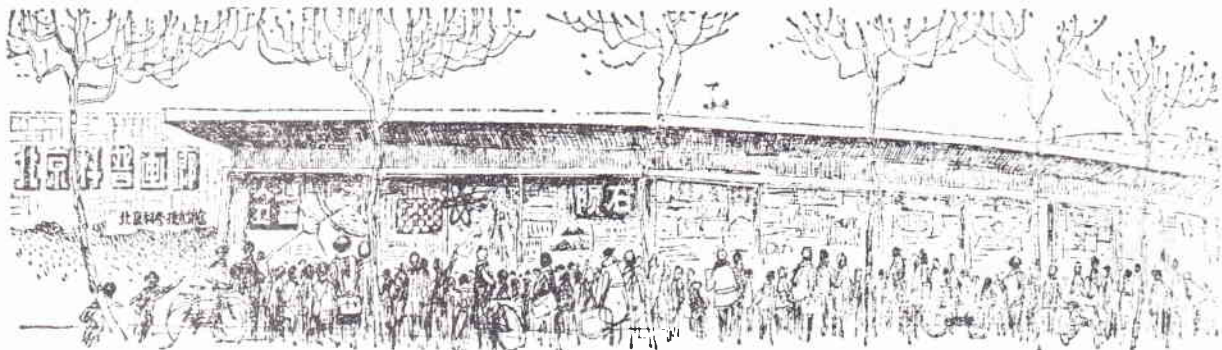


Photo exhibition of popular sciences in glass display cases along a Beijing street.

related to their commodities. Hence, the name "Street of Popular Science." The cases containing the photographs were set up by the Beijing municipal scientific and technical association and the displays are provided by local scientific societies.

Popular scientific knowledge is given similar publicity in Wangfujing, Qianmen and other major commercial areas in Beijing. "Streets of Popular Science" have also been established in many other big cities including Tianjin, Shenyang and Harbin.

**Exhibitions.** Thousands of young people attended a recent national exhibition of scientific and technical works by the youngsters. The exhibition exposed young people, many of whom were denied learning opportunities during the "cultural revolution," to the mysteries of science and emphasized its importance.

Many of the art theoreticians and critics who visited the first national popular-science art exhibition in 1980 were surprised to find pieces with scientific themes.

duroy produced by the city's mills enjoys a brisk market at home and abroad. Eighty per cent of the 202 new products Changzhou designed and put into production last year were light and textile industrial goods.

The key to its textile industry success lies in the municipal government's sustained efforts to transform low-productive equipment purchased abroad before liberation. All the spindles have been replaced with high speed ones and a number of poor producing looms have been discarded. In addition, new woollen textiles, knitweaves and velveteens have been developed.

New technological processes have generated higher vitality

## In a Medium-Sized City

**T**HE work of popularizing science transforms science and technology into productive forces," said Yue Sifei, a leading member of the scientific and technical association of Changzhou, a medium-sized city with a population of 380,000 in east China's Jiangsu Province.

Popularization of science is one of the major factors that have enabled Changzhou to rapidly develop its industry during recent years. The city's 1981 industrial output value totalled 4,140 million yuan, more than 50 times the early post-liberation figure.

### Popularizing New Technology

Light and textile industries account for over 50 per cent of

Changzhou's total industrial output value. High-quality cor-



A Changzhou textile worker passing on her experience.

at the 60-year-old No. 2 Cotton Mill, which employs 3,000 people.

The mill's operators of electronically controlled doffing and donning devices deftly replace loaded bobbins with empty ones. An automatic line transports cones, each weighing over 1 kilogramme, to the next production procedure. Electronic slub catchers automatically reconnect the cotton yarn after eliminating unevenly knit sections. Workers now use battery-powered carts to transport raw materials and finished products.

According to Zhou Liqun, the cotton mill's director, 95 per cent of the new techniques popularized by the Ministry of Textile Industry have been adopted. This has lightened labour intensity, reduced dust and lowered temperature.

The Changzhou No. 1 Cotton Mill, which has 3,000 workers, has imported advanced open-ended spinning technology. This new technology enables the mill to turn low-quality cotton into better products, saving 460 yuan for producing each bale of cotton yarn. Cotton cloth produced with this method is 10-13 per cent more durable than that produced with ordinary methods.

The city's woollen garment factory, which has 600 workers, has devised an electronic-circuit jacquard weaving machine. It was developed with assistance from the Nanjing Engineering Institute. The workers previously had to memorize designs while hand-making jacquard woollen sweaters. Therefore, they often found it difficult to produce complicated designs. The new machine enables them to choose what-

ever designs they want and produce sweaters with complicated jacquard designs within a single step. Productivity has increased fivefold as a result. The mill sells its products in the United States, Canada, Xiang-gang (Hongkong) and Japan.

Changzhou's appropriations for popularizing new technology and technical processes amount to more than 30 per cent of its total expenditure for scientific research. It has proven to be a profitable investment. Between 1973 and 1980, the city collected approximately 22.7 million yuan in tax and profit, 4.9 times the appropriations in the same period.

### Technical Exchange

The 28 societies affiliated with the Changzhou scientific and technical association con-

stitute primary resources for popularizing science.

The electroplating society is exemplary. Its members are the technical backbone of Changzhou's factories. Its president is Yan Huaiyou, a technician of the Changzhou general bicycle plant. According to him, many of the society's members were seriously injured in the past while doing their jobs. The society, which was founded in 1977, has responded to the problem by popularizing new techniques and conducting technical exchange meetings. These have resulted in increased quality, reduced costs, better working conditions and less poisonous gas.

The municipal trade union council's technical exchange station, which is located at the city's cultural palace, has also



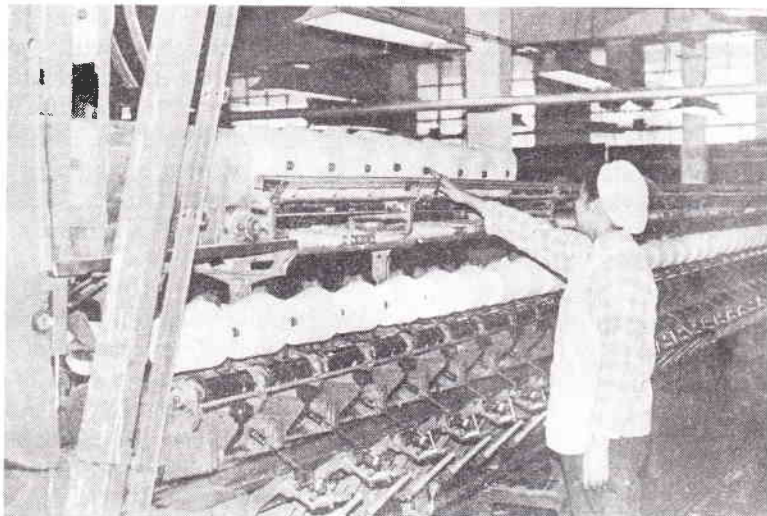
Swapping technical expertise, sponsored by the Changzhou trade union council.

done a great deal to popularize scientific knowledge. The walls of the station are covered with citations praising the station's good performance. Deputy leader Zhang Hongcheng said that the station's major task is to carry out technical exchanges on a city-wide scale and to introduce new techniques for grass-roots units.

The station held nine big technical exchange meetings last year. Many new techniques demonstrated at the meetings impressed the workers who saw them. Yu Zhifu, a senior worker at the textile machinery factory, adopted a new cutting tool after attending a metal-cutting demonstration conducted by the station. His efficiency has increased more than tenfold.

The electroplating and other societies and the station also devote considerable attention to training workers. "Our station serves not only as a place for the city's technical exchange, but also as a school attracting workers who want to study technical processes," said Zhang.

When Changzhou obtained new digital-programming-linear cutting machine from Shanghai, they were not fully utilized because of inadequate programming. The municipal technical exchange team responded by sponsoring a short-term class in programming to train 61 workers from 38 factories. They were taught by Xue Qinan, a worker from the traction electric machine plant. He says the workers quickly mastered programming techniques after taking the course. One worker increased her efficiency fivefold.



An automatic conveyer at the Changzhou No. 2 Cotton Mill.

### Spreading to All Parts Of the City

In addition to combining scientific popularization with production, Changzhou also devotes attention to raising the people's technical levels in as many fields as possible.

During the past three years, 1,168 scientific popularization lectures were conducted in electronic technology, energy, medical care, flower cultivation and other subjects.

The municipal scientific and technical association, trade union council, educational bureau and the municipal Youth League committee devote considerable attention to popularizing science among young people. In 1980, they held a "scientific and technical month" for youngsters which featured 48 lectures. They also conducted model airplane races, exhibitions of scientific and technical works and summer camps. A scientific and technical instrument service centre provided young people with complete parts of more than 3,100 radios and televisions and encouraged them to practise assembling techniques.

The medical and nursery societies, which are co-ordinated by the municipal scientific and technical association, often help medical workers raise their professional skills. For example, when the municipal hospital recruited a group of new nurses, the medical society conducted a class wherein veteran nurses trained the new ones.

Beautiful roses abound in Changzhou's courtyards, factories and along the streets. Zou Changsong, president of the municipal rose society, said that in 1979 the municipal Party committee suggested transforming Changzhou into a rose city. This inspired some of the city's flower lovers to organize the rose society. They used lectures and training classes to teach municipal residents how to plant flowers and trees in and around the city and their homes. Between December 1980 and March 1981, more than 29,000 rose plants were placed at factories. During the same periods, *Questions and Answers of Rose Cultivation Technique*, *Rose Cultivation* and other popular science publications were printed and widely distributed.



## Commune Association to Popularize Science

SINCE the new rural economic policies successfully mobilized the peasants' enthusiasm for production, they have been seeking additional information about science and technology. To meet their needs, more than 3,800 people's communes have established science popularization associations and scientific and technical associations. These organizations help the peasants practise scientific farming. The successful work of the science popularization association of the Zhangmu People's Commune, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, south China, is representative of the progress being made.

### Urgent Needs

The commune fair once displayed pictures which introduced high-speed pig-raising. Three pig-raisers stood beside the photographs and explained the method to those with questions. They had several of their own pigs with them to demonstrate its effectiveness.

The pig exhibit was provided by the commune's scientific association on 18 market days. Pigs raised by the new method grow to more than 100 kilogrammes within six months. Those raised by traditional methods take 12-15 months to reach the same weight. Many people eagerly purchased the pamphlet about the method.

The Zhangmu People's Commune has approximately 50,000 people and 3,300 hectares of arable land. The average commune member has a primary school level of education. Although people's living standards have been improved since liberation—and many schools built—few people have finished senior middle school. This has greatly hindered the area's development.

An insect pest kept per-hectare rice output at 6.8 tons for several years running before 1979. Many commune members believed the problem resulted from "calamity from heaven or devils." Moreover,

the production team's leaders did not know how to prevent or solve the problem, though some have knowledge of science. In 1979, the commune sent some of its technicians to study new technologies in other provinces. Upon their return, they developed the new technique of high-speed pig-raising and successfully completed a series of rice-growing experiments. Using rational close-planting, nitrogenous fertilizer placed deep under the surface soil, scientific irrigation and insect prevention technique, one of the commune's production teams increased its rice yield by 22.4 per cent. Excited people eagerly sought to learn the production team's new methods.

The commune set up its science popularization association in 1979 in order to better serve the peasants' needs for scientific and technological information. The association has 233 members, including agro-technicians, veterinarians, doctors and other skilful crafts persons.

### Rely on Science Rather Than Heaven

The association has placed primary emphasis on scientific farming. Its study of the commune's soil composition indicated that it is seriously short of phosphorus and potassium. Therefore, phosphate and potash fertilizers were applied to the soil. As a result, the land applied with phosphate fertilizer produced 570 kilogrammes more grain per hectare. The land supplied with potash fertilizer produced 550 kilogrammes more grain per hectare. Such measures are responsible for major increases in the commune's grain output during the past two years.



The Daxing County science popularization association publicizing scientific knowledge at a rural fair.



A commune scientific and technical service centre in Sichuan Province.

After early rice was struck by the disease of withering last year, the commune's association organized a short-term training class to spread knowledge on dealing with the disease. One trainee used the method of draining off water to lower humidity and timely application of pesticides to increase his team's rice production by 4.7 per cent over the previous year.

Diversified economic development is encouraged in the countryside because it increases peasant income. However, since many of the peasants have little knowledge of scientific farming, their incomes are low.

With the help of the supply-and-marketing co-operative, the food processing station, the veterinary station, the agro-technical popularization station and the commune hospital, the science popularization association held 157 classes in livestock, pig and chicken raising, agricultural technology, traditional Chinese medicine,

medical care and the cultivation of tea, tobacco, mushroom, jute and orange. More than 6,000 people attended the classes.

To encourage the peasants to study and use science, the county that the Zhangmu People's Commune is located in held a scientific emulation meeting at which the commune received two top awards for producing 5.1 tons of peanuts in a hectare of land and raising pigs each weighing at

least 155 kilogrammes in six months.

### Technical Contract

After various forms of job responsibility were adopted in the countryside, the peasants became increasingly enthusiastic about scientific farming. They regularly ask the commune's technical advice.

In order to popularize knowledge of science and technology, the commune's association has established technical contracts with the production teams.

The Xishijiu Production Team's contract with the association stipulates that the latter is responsible for establishing a rice-growing programme and teaching the team techniques. The production quota is fixed on the basis of the previous year's output. If the quota is exceeded by 10 per cent, the excess goes to the production team. If the quota is exceeded by more than 10 per cent, the amount above 110 per cent of the quota will be distributed

according to following formula: 50 per cent to the production team, 10 per cent to the production team's cadres and technicians as awards, and the remaining 40 per cent to the association's accumulation fund and awards for its technicians. If the technicians make mistakes which result in a shortfall, the association will pay the loss. If a shortfall is caused by natural calamities, the association would not recoup.

The commune members strictly observed to the technical measures stipulated in the contract. They used 0.15 instead of 0.375 ton of seeds for every hectare of rice seedling, applied potash fertilizer in the rice-seedling fields and prevented and cured diseases and insects by scientific irrigation. As a result, per-hectare output of rice rose 39 per cent higher than last year.

The technical contract system not only guarantees scientific farming, but also enables technicians to acquire increased benefits. Therefore, technicians are eager to improve their professional skills.

In 1981, the association signed technical contracts with one production team on rice planting, with 12 production teams on rice strains breeding and peanut cultivation. This year it will sign contracts with every production team in the commune. □



## CINEMA

### Film Attendance Exceeds 10,000 Million

China's film industry has prospered over the past few years. In 1981, it had a film attendance of well over 10,000 million and some 2,000 cinemas were built in rural areas, owing to the improved financial situation.

During the years between 1977 and 1981, China produced 300 feature films, twice the number turned out in the 17 years before the "cultural revolution." In 1981 alone, 90 new films were released, nearly as many as were produced in the whole decade of the "cultural revolution."

The country has 13 feature film studios. In addition, it has specialized national studios for scientific and educational films, documentaries, newsreels, animation, agricultural films and foreign film dubbing. At present, 400,000 people work in the film industry, including production and distribution. Among

them are veteran artists who dedicated themselves to the modern Chinese cinema decades ago as well as young award winners who came into the industry in recent years.

The government also stresses the development of film education. In the state-run Beijing Film Institute, there are five departments, including acting, directing, cinematographing, recording and graphic arts. The institute also runs short-term training courses for producers. In all, 2,100 students have graduated since 1950.

Since 1978, China has sent film delegations to 26 countries and regions and received some 60 film delegations from 35 countries and regions. It has exported 400 Chinese films, and 150 foreign films have been introduced to China. Eight countries have held film festivals in China and Chinese film festivals were held in 15 countries including Canada, France, Mexico, Tunisia and the United States.

China is also co-producing films with other countries. The

China Film Co-production Corporation has reached 20 agreements with foreign film producers since it was established in 1979.

The Chinese cinema is making great efforts to re-establish realism. The trend in Chinese film during the "cultural revolution" was to make up stories and to present characters according to certain formulas. Now the film workers have recognized these problems and found that their influence still creeps into some of the new products. Nevertheless, film makers are determined to overcome the shortcomings and do their utmost to raise their artistic level. By going to the masses, the Chinese film workers are getting new "nutrition" from practical life.

## BOOK SALE

### Peasants Buy Books

Sales of books in China totalled 1,700 million yuan in 1981, four times the figure for 1976, and peasants constitute a significant proportion of the buyers.

Left: Peasants of a Jiangsu Province brigade can now enjoy films in the newly built "Peasants' Cultural Palace."

Right: Wei Jiajiu, a commune member of Anhui Province, holding a cinema reception in his village to celebrate the good harvest.



In Shanxi Province, 36.5 million copies of 20,000 titles were purchased in rural areas last year, about half of Shanxi's total book sales and 10 million more than in 1980. Wang Genqing, a commune member in the suburbs of Taiyuan, spent about 20 yuan in one day to buy and order 17 books. Formerly slow sellers in rural areas such as literary and art books are steadily increasing their sales, while books on livestock raising are in great demand.

This interest of peasants in buying books is unprecedented. In the Huxian County in Sichuan 1.2 million peasants bought 2.66 million books in 1980 and 3.56 million in the first 11 months of 1981. These include Chinese literary classics, translated novels and volumes on agricultural science and technology. In a book fair in the county's Shidong commune, more than 2,000 books were sold.

Bookstores and book-selling counters have been set up in many communes, fairs and towns to serve the peasants. As one young peasant explained: "Income has increased in the last two years and we have more money than before. When I'm free I like to browse through the bookstore. This year I have bought many literary classics." His wife added: "I like to read too, especially illustrated storybooks."

Last July, a peasant in the Fangdong commune was responsible for raising more than 20,000 silkworms. Inexperienced, he was nervous, so he bought *Mulberry Tree Planting and Silkworm Breeding*. He adopted the methods recommended in the book and obtained a net income of 80 yuan. With this money he bought a "Shancheng" wrist watch. Peasants are learning

that all crops can be grown better with scientific knowledge.

In January this year, Beijing opened an agriculture bookstore with a mail-order department and a reading-room. It sells books and periodicals on farming and New Year pictures. *China's Agriculture Yearbook*, the first of its kind in China, is one of its best sellers.

## MEDICINE

### *Survey of Occupational Diseases*

The prevention and treatment of occupational diseases has been of great concern to the Chinese Government in recent years. A national investigation of health conditions in enterprises using lead, benzene, mercury and other substances was carried out from 1977 to 1981. This is the largest survey on occupational diseases ever carried out in China since 1949. Its aim was to determine the incidences of occupational diseases caused by these substances in different areas, departments and trades, in order to provide scientific data for determining preventive measures.

More than 20,000 medical personnel participated in this survey. They recorded the density of toxic substances in 180,000 air samples taken from 100,000 locations and checked the health of one million workers in 52,000 enterprises.

In addition to gathering information, treatment was provided to workers who suffered from occupational diseases. Transfers were arranged for those workers who were unfit to continue working in areas with toxic substances. Enterprises which were deemed to be polluters and not up to the standards stipulated by the state

were warned. These and other enterprises are now improving their labour-protection measures, work conditions and technology. A number of enterprises and factories in Liaoning, Jiangsu, Guangdong and Tianjin have set up systems to monitor the density of toxic substances and to regularly check the health of their workers. They are compiling records of work conditions and workers' health.

The survey group proposed that a national centre be established to study labour hygiene and to give technical guidance to the treatment and prevention of occupational diseases. They further suggested, if possible, that some scientific research institutions and university departments should undertake some more studies on the basic theories related to labour hygiene and occupational diseases.

Since the founding of New China, the government has issued many rules and instructions on labour protection, improvement of industrial hygiene, and standards to be observed as to the level of dust, toxic substances, etc. Local surveys of occupational diseases had previously been carried out, but this investigation carried out by the Ministry of Public Health, the State Labour Bureau, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and the State Pharmaceutical Administration was the first nationwide one.

In China today, more than 3,000 health centres and epidemic prevention stations and 126 research institutes are conducting work in this field. If any worker suffers from an occupational disease the state guarantees he will be given free medical treatment and his full pay.

## **Correct Way to Study Modern Chinese History**

**From Opium War to May 4th  
Movement** (in Chinese)

《从鸦片战争到五四运动》

Written by Hu Sheng,

Published by People's Publishing House,

Price: 3.15 yuan RMB.

Distributed at home by Xinhua Bookstore, distributed abroad by Guoji Shudian (China Publications Centre), P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China.

This new book of Hu Sheng in two volumes covers nearly one century of modern Chinese history (1840-1919). Centring on the Chinese people's struggle against imperialism and feudalism, the author divides the subject into three revolutionary upsurges, which are presented in five parts. The first part, "Opium Wars\* and the Peasant Revolution of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom (1850-64)," describes the rise and fall of the first revolutionary upsurge; the second part, "The Formation of the Semi-Colonial, Semi-Feudal Rule Order," portrays the fermentation of the second revolutionary upsurge during the 30 years from the failure of the Taipings in 1864 to the end of the Sino-Japanese War in 1894; the third part, "The Reform Movement of 1898 and the Yihetuan Movement (1900)," covers the struggles of the second revolutionary upsurge; the fourth part, "The Bourgeoisie-Led 1911 Revolution," depicts the third revolutionary upsurge; the last part, "Transition to the New-Dem-

ocratic Revolution," presents the turn of China from darkness to dawn.

During recent years, disputes have emerged in Chinese historical circles over the most appropriate manner of interpreting modern Chinese history. The disputes centre on the question of who should be portrayed as the primary sources of progress in modern China.

Some historians recommend that class struggle should serve as the basis of analysis, which is characterized by peasant war, bourgeois reform movement and proletarian revolution. Others contend that the prototype of "Westernization Movement — Reform Movement—revolution" provides a clue for interpreting modern Chinese history. In the latter view, no peasant revolutions like the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom or the Yihetuan (Boxers' Movement) should be included in the mainstream of modern Chinese history.

Hu Sheng, who prefers to use a class analysis, presents his reasons in the book's preface: "I don't think it is good to elaborate the progressive tide of modern Chinese history in the light of the 'Westernization Movement — the Reform Movement of 1898 — the 1911 Revolution.'"

"Learning from the West" should be viewed from the vantage point of classes. In modern Chinese history, the peasantry, the bourgeois reformists and the bourgeois revolutionaries all stood for learning from the West. Mao Zedong once said: "From the time of China's defeat in the Opium War of 1840, Chinese progressives went through untold hardships in their quest for truth from the Western countries.

Hong Xiuquan, Kang Youwei, Yan Fu and Sun Yat-sen were representatives of those who had looked to the West for truth before the Communist Party of China was born." (*On the People's Democratic Dictatorship*.)

The four men listed above were representatives of the Chinese peasantry and the national bourgeoisie (including reformists and revolutionaries) during the old democratic revolution. They were committed to saving China and were, therefore, representatives of progress. Mao Zedong did not mention Yi Xin, Li Hongzhang and Zhang Zhidong — representatives of the "Westernization Movement" of the feudal nobles, warlords and bureaucrats — because he believed they were opposed to progress.

The Westernization Movement and its proponents, too, should be viewed within the concept of classes. We should not glorify them because we are now introducing foreign technology and equipment for the sake of the four modernizations. The Westernization Movement took place after the Second Opium War. To strengthen the hand of the Qing government in suppressing progressive armed forces, foreign imperialists supplied the Qing troops with "foreign rifles" and "foreign cannons." Hu Sheng's summation of the situation is instructive: "The advocates of the Westernization Movement were products of the period when the feudal landlord class was playing an increasingly integral role as a mainstay in the imperialist rule over China."

Regarding imperialist aggression, proponents of the Westernization Movement claimed to "pit foreigners against foreigners." Hu Sheng points out that their concept of "pitting foreign-

\* The first Opium War took place in 1840-42 while the second one in 1857-60.

ers against foreigners" did not necessarily result in exploitation of contradictions among the imperialist powers. Paradoxically, they submitted their existence to the contradictions among the imperialist powers. This was a kind of capitulation. Proponents of the Westernization Movement initially engaged in "troop training" and then in "weaponry making," which gave birth to a number of troops wielding new weapons and a small number of industries updated by foreign machines. Though the proponents of the Westernization Movement brought some new things to China, they used them to oppose the people's revolution. Therefore, they were not progressive.

In old China, very few books addressed history from a Marxist-Leninist viewpoint. Most of them addressed Chinese history since the Opium War in two ways. One purportedly presented the "history of jungle law." This approach tended to be favoured by imperialist apologists. The other approach tended to emphasize the "history of civil strife and foreign aggression." Scholars of the landlord class and the bourgeoisie favoured this approach.

Both approaches tended to reject the revolution of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom, the Reform Movement of 1898, the Yihetuan Movement and the 1911 Revolution, as well as the people's revolution under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. Hu Sheng's class analysis presents the history since the Opium War and the objective law governing it in a scientific way.

Hu Sheng's conclusions are consistent with historical records. For instance, people differed on the question of whether the Taiping Heavenly King Hong Xiuquan secretly ordered

Wei Changhui to kill Yang Xiuqing, both of whom were Taiping leaders. After consulting the record available, Hu Sheng wrote the following: "Some records suggest that he killed Yang Xiuqing as an execution of Hong Xiuquan's order. This may be true. But it is impossible to ascertain whether he used Hong Xiuquan's name to extend the murdering of Yang Xiuqing to a big slaughter." The author's approach is serious enough. To him, respecting the abundant sources of historical records is the prerequisite to drawing a correct historical conclusion.

Hu Sheng suggests that historical records must not replace historical study. He contends, however, that it is necessary to produce class analyses from historical records.

— Qi Longwei

## Study of Feudal Systems

**World Medieval History**  
(in Chinese).

《世界中古史》

Written by Zhu Huan, Guo Shoutian and Qi Guogan,  
Pages: 650,  
Price: 2.34 yuan RMB,  
Distributed abroad by Guoji Shudian, Beijing, China.

*World Medieval History* recounts in a systematic way the emergence, development and decline of feudal systems the world over (China excepted).

The book reflects a change in approach to history writing in China. Over a long period, China adopted Soviet materials and viewpoints as its method of history scholarship, both in teaching and researching world medieval history.

This book uses many new materials provided by historians

of various countries and tries to reflect the actual historical situation it describes.

Based on a wide study of various countries' histories, the authors stress the particular developments in Britain, Russia, Iran, Korea and Japan and present those countries' histories in the greatest depth. In the Russia section, the authors cite reliable material suggesting that modern Russia originated from the Moscow Dukedom.

Historical photos and tables of rulers' genealogy and chronicles are provided for the readers' convenience.

— Yu Ciyun

## A Handy New Book

**The Administrative Divisions of the People's Republic of China**  
(in English)

Published by the Cartographic Publishing House in 1981,

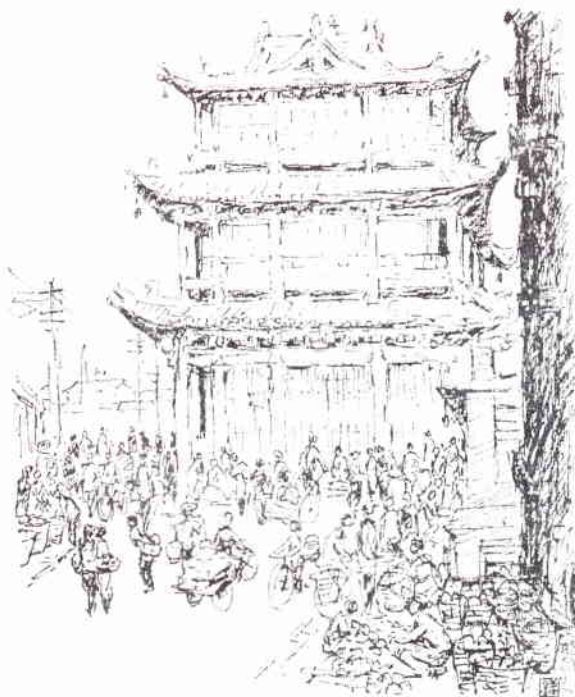
Pages: 168,

Price: 1.05 yuan RMB,

Distributed abroad by Guoji Shudian, Beijing, China.

The book consists of five parts: 1) Statistical tables of the administrative divisions of the PRC which were ratified by the State Council up to the end of 1980; 2) Tables of administrative divisions at and above the county-level in provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities arranged in the order widely used today; sketch maps of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities with area and population; 3) Keys to the first Chinese characters in the index of the administrative divisions of the PRC; 4) An index of the administrative divisions of the PRC; and 5) Pronunciation keys for the Chinese phonetic alphabet, including international phonetic symbols.

## Yu Ren's Pen-and-Ink Drawings



The peasants' market  
under the bell tower  
of Datong.

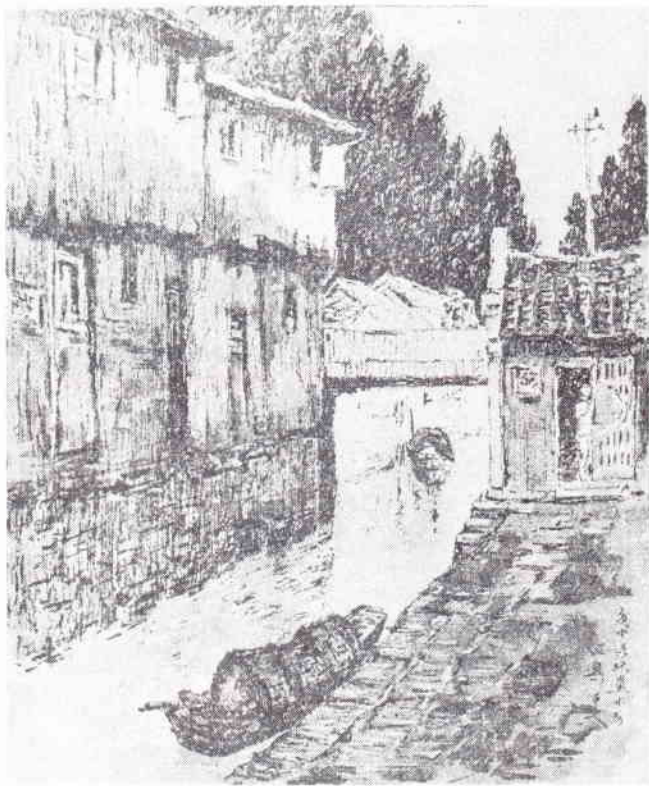


A Buddha of the  
Yungang Grottoes.



Boats on a canal  
in Shaoxing.

Yu Ren, born in Tieling, Liaoning Province, in 1931, is a graduate of the Lu Xun Academy of Art and Literature in north-east China. Now an art editor of *Gongren Ribao* (the Workers' Daily) and member of the Association of Chinese Artists, the Society of Beijing Flower and Bird Painters and the Society of Beijing Water Colour Painters, he is noted for his water colours and pen-and-ink drawings. Reproduced here are his pen-and-ink drawings which have absorbed the methods of traditional Chinese paintings and woodcuts.



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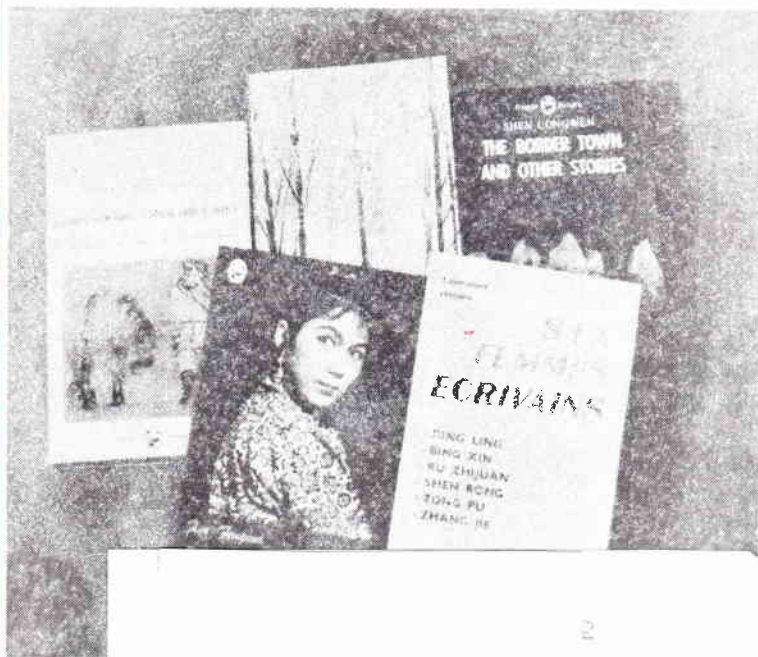
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