

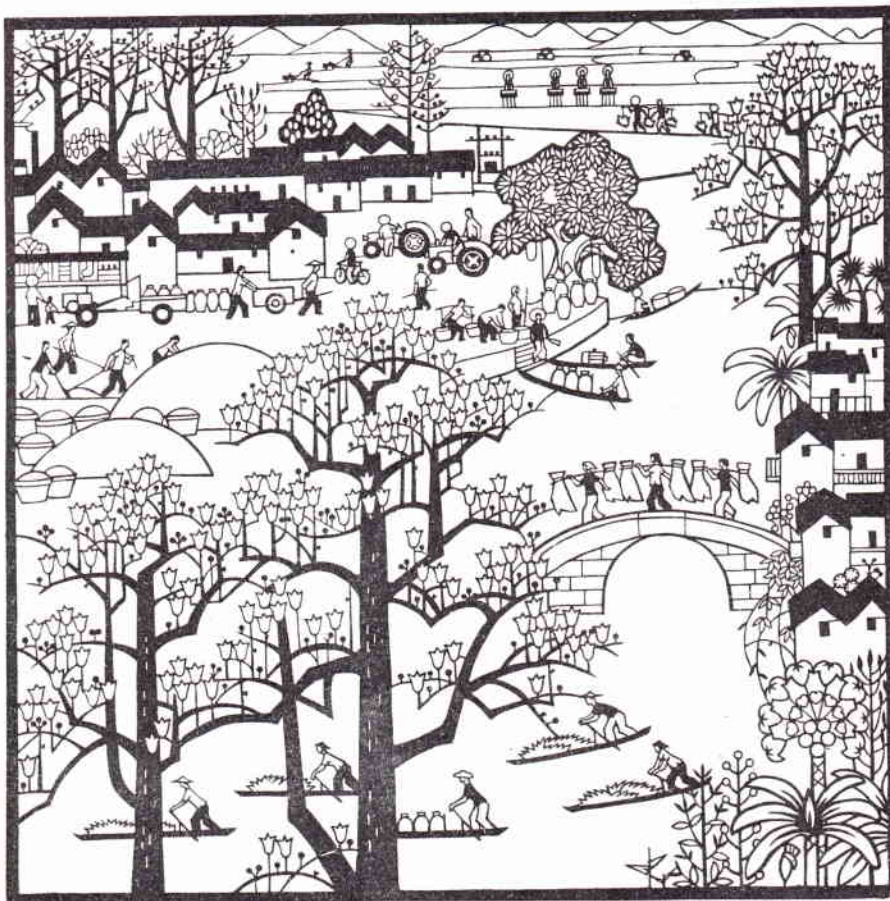
BEIJING REVIEW



A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

Chen Yun on Planned
Economy

●
Be a Sober-Minded
Marxist



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Be a Sober-Minded Marxist

Underscoring the significance of punishing criminals in the economic field, *Renmin Ribao* Commentator stresses the need for leading cadres to guard against decadent bourgeois ideas, uphold the Party spirit and discipline, and remain clear-headed in face of the new situation today (p. 15).

Planned Economy

In a discussion with leading members of the State Planning Commission, Vice-Chairman of the Party Central Committee Chen Yun emphasized that the planned economy should continue to play the major role and market regulation the supplementary role in our socialist economy (p. 16).

In agriculture, how should we implement the principle of upholding the planned economy while giving play to the supplementary, regulating role of the

market? The first secretary of the Anhui provincial Party committee gives his views on this and related questions (p. 18).

National Afforestation Drive

People all over China, including Party and government leaders, turned out to plant trees as part of the national effort to expand the area of afforested land (p. 5).

Accent on Economic Results

Premier Zhao Ziyang called for a genuine and practicable economic growth rate instead of pursuing an overly high rate of growth in total disregard of economic results (p. 6).

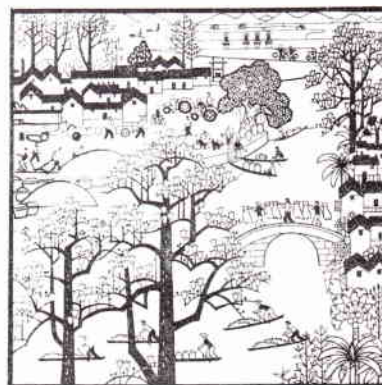
New Minister on Foreign Trade

The newly appointed head of the Ministry of Foreign Trade

and Economic Relations explains the policies and tasks of China's trade and economic exchanges with foreign countries (p. 6).

Sea Law Conference

China supports the stand of the developing countries that deep seabed resources are the common heritage of mankind and therefore should not be exploited by only a few countries (p. 10).



A bustling scene in the countryside after gathering in a rich harvest.

Papercut by Xin Hua

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Socialist Ethics and Courtesy Month

Millions upon millions of Chinese have turned out to sweep the streets during the socialist ethics and courtesy month. Isn't this making a big fuss over a trifling matter?

We must not look down upon the significance of environmental sanitation. It has an important bearing on changing the prevailing habits and customs and improving the people's mental outlook.

We have three major tasks during the socialist ethics and courtesy month this year, which is being launched in China's big and medium-sized cities. Improving environmental sanitation and getting rid of the "dirtiness" is one of them. The other two are improving public order to put an end to "disorder" and improving service which is "poor" at present.

Hygiene in public places, orderliness in riding buses, courtesy in sports, well-mannered and efficient service on the part of shop attendants, bus drivers, doctors, nurses and the police seem to be personal, ordinary and insignificant matters. But, taken as a whole, they reflect the general mood of society and the image of the country. They are not trifling matters at all.

However, these are not our ultimate goal for this campaign; we seek to achieve a higher level of socialist ethics and morality. This is a long-term task that may well require the efforts of several generations. While tackling such problems as littering and spitting in the

streets during the socialist ethics and courtesy month, we keep the general goal in sight. Success in these tasks will mean a big step forward in the building of a socialist code of ethics.

In February last year, we launched the campaign "five stresses and four points of beauty" (stress on decorum, manners, hygiene, discipline and morals, and beautification of mind, language, behaviour and environment). The movement has improved to a certain extent the mental outlook of the Chinese people and social trends in general. The socialist ethics and courtesy month, which will be held every year in the future, institutionalizes the "five stresses and four points of beauty."

By "socialist ethics and morality" we mean raising the society's level of political, ideological and ethical development, to supplement the development in the scope and level of education, science, culture, literature and art. The Chinese people cherish lofty ideals and foster the fine quality of serving others. They respect, unite with and help each other and uphold patriotism and internationalism. Collectivism is at the core of all these characteristics of socialist ethics and morality. China has abolished the system of exploitation of man by man and has established a socialist economy dominated by public ownership. The fundamental interests of China's 1,000 million people are identical. Only in these circumstances is it possible

to build and foster socialist ethics and morality.

In fact, the Chinese people's spirit of collectivism, their lofty ethical principles and their values, as well as the remarkable public order in Chinese society in the early post-liberation years won praise from foreign visitors. Although the gang of four cannot be blamed for every bad social trend of the last few years, it is true that because they incited the anti-social practices of beating, smashing and looting by promising promotions, they had a corrupting influence on the people, on the Party's style of work and on social values. These evil influences cannot be eliminated in only a few years.

However, we are aware that the exploiting classes' idea of "seeking personal gain" does not disappear when the system of exploitation is abolished. The decadent bourgeois ideology and way of life are bound to creep into our society, especially because China has adopted an open-door policy. In recent years, some weak-willed people have been hit by the sugar-coated bullets of the bourgeoisie and have degenerated into smugglers, embezzlers and other categories of economic criminals. Therefore, it is a long-term task to fight decadent bourgeois ideology and eliminate its bad influences. If we do not make unremitting efforts to win this struggle, the building of socialist ethics and morality will be out of the question.

We are building a socialist country that will have a high level of material accomplishment, and that will show big improvements in people's live-

LETTERS

Spiritual Civilization

I was very much interested in the article "Spiritual Civilization," which appeared in the issue 4, 1982 of *Beijing Review*. The accompanying photograph of third-grade pupils from a primary school in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, helping a paralytic pupil to school aptly illustrates a true measure of highly developed spiritual civilization. A nation which shows genuine interest in its elderly, its less fortunate and its handicapped is a nation with highly developed spiritual consciousness. Although China, as the said article indicated, has a way to go in order to develop a completely spiritual civilization, it most assuredly is on the right track.

Paul Nedwell
New York, USA

China has recently issued a call for the building of socialist material civilization and socialist spiritual civilization. Here are my views on developing spiritual civilization.

1. While implementing the slogan "Serve the People," leading cadres of the Party and government should set an example for the masses;

2. As masters of the country, the people not only can enjoy all rights and benefits but should fulfil their duties and obligations as such.

As to the above two points, conceptualization is easier than implementation. In the final analysis, the exemplary and vanguard role of the leading cadres will be decisive. Drawing a clear line of demarcation be-

lihood in the near future. At the same time, we are striving for a higher level of socialist ethics and morality. Only when the people have improved their material well-being and mental outlook can they achieve true happiness.

— Political Editor
An Zhiguo

tween public and private interests is of primary importance.

Since yours is a socialist country, your government institutions which are owned by the whole people are no doubt for the public interests, therefore it can be said that it is easier for China to clearly distinguish between public and private than for Japan. But whether this is or isn't done depends on the consciousness and determination of the leading cadres.

In short, it is much harder to foster spiritual civilization than to build material civilization. This is why the leading cadres are required to display exemplary behaviour. I am convinced that your leading cadres and the masses of people will splendidly fulfil the task of developing spiritual civilization by displaying the indomitable spirit unique to the Chinese nation.

Tomizo Saito
Yukosuka, Japan

The article of "A Letter Asking to Adopt a Daughter" in issue 4, 1982 of *Beijing Review* is an excellent example of the love and care the Chinese have for the elderly. If there were only a uniform method for the United States to instill this idea into every young person, our elderly people would not dread growing old believing "no one cares for old people."

Darlene A. Classen
Denver, Co., USA

I was impressed by the article "The Lost and Found Office" in issue No. 4, 1982. It shows that the people of China are very honest.

Bateganya Mbulu Latifu
Jinja, Uganda

Employment in China

"Notes From the Editors" in issue 2, 1982 of *Beijing Review* suggests that China's employment prospect is good.

When I was still a child, China had a population of 400 to 500 million. Now the number exceeds 1,000 million, an increase of 500 million in 40 years. China obviously has many young people. It is true that after liberation

many job opportunities were provided for a certain percentage of the labour force. Nonetheless, I do not fully believe what Wang Dacheng said in the article. Maybe the question he referred to has been settled in some localities of China but it cannot be said that all the young people fully contribute to construction.

I think that China's youth should be directed into inland afforestation, navigation, water conservancy and port building projects. These four fields of work, which form the basis of national construction, will directly affect China's future development.

Yukiko Maekawa
Kagawa, Japan

On Reports About the Soviet Union

Beijing Review is of great value to me. Many members of Spain's working class find it hard to understand the nature of the Soviet Union. Your journal provides me with reports on the Soviet Union's adventurist actions in the world and facilitates my understanding of what the "Leftists" in Spain as those in China represent. I like *Beijing Review*.

E. del Jesus y Teresa Gallissa
Barcelona, Spain

On "Books" Column

I particularly like the article "New China's First on Demography" in *Beijing Review*, issue No. 44, 1981, because it introduced *China's Population: Problems and Prospects* (in English), a book written by Liu Zheng, Song Jian and others.

The article deals with production, the foundation of the existence and development of society, as well as material production that concerns the growth of population.

Ameho T.K. Raphael
Akuse, Ghana

My only objection to "Books" is that prices of books are rarely listed in anything but Chinese currency. If you list prices in US dollars, this will help readers' attempts to make correct conversions to their own currency to buy the books.

Peter Hunter
Ont., Canada

ECONOMIC

The Greening of China

The voluntary national afforestation drive got under way on March 12 as millions of people lifted spades and shovels for the third annual "national tree-planting day."

Chairman Hu Yaobang, Vice-Chairmen Deng Xiaoping and Li Xiannian, Premier Zhao Ziyang as well as other Party and state leaders joined 30,000 army men and civilians in planting trees on the outskirts of the Chinese capital. Responsible members of the Party, government and army units in various places also took part in voluntary tree planting.

Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang told Xinhua correspondents that the nation should regard tree planting as an important task for the next 20 to 30 years. The work should be done with care and efforts to see that the trees grow up well.

On the eve of the designated day for planting, 10,000 people in Beijing attended a rally at the Great Hall of the People, where leaders called on city residents to work together to make the capital green. Vice-Premier Wan Li told the rally that tree-planting is one of the most important activities of the country's current socialist ethics and courtesy month, and that he hoped Beijing would lead the country in improving the environment.

The Vice-Premier heads the Central Afforestation Committee which was named on February 28 and has been working to organize local afforestation committees. These groups will administer areas no

smaller than counties and will be directed by important leaders, in order to ensure rational planting. The Beijing municipal afforestation committee (Beijing municipality is administratively equivalent to a province) was established on January 18, with Mayor Jiao Ruoyu as its director.

The national campaign for voluntary tree-planting arose from a resolution passed last year by the National People's Congress which stipulated that all citizens above the age of 11, except the elderly, disabled or ill, should volunteer to plant three to five trees each year. It supplemented a forest conservation law passed in 1979, which first designated the "national tree-planting day."

Although March 12 is the official day to begin planting, warmer climates in the south allow earlier planting. By mid-January this year, the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region had dug holes for trees on 14,700 hectares of land and had 310 million saplings of different varieties ready for transplanting. Leading cadres of the autonomous region joined in the planting in Nanning, the region's capital, and its suburbs.

By the end of February, PLA soldiers in six military command areas in south China had planted 3 million trees and afforested 320 hectares.

In order to speed up tree-planting, forces of all sectors have been mobilized. In January alone, the Guangzhou branch of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China sent planes to seed an area of 26,000 hectares in Guangdong Province from the air.



Peasants in Guanxian County, Shandong Province, planting trees.

Compared to other countries, China has a relatively small area covered by trees, and the distribution of forests is uneven. Although trees have been planted since the founding of the People's Republic, not much progress has been made because of incorrect policies and improper planning.

A more serious problem was that some places indiscriminately felled trees and devastated the original forests, which resulted in serious soil erosion and damage to the ecological equilibrium. This situation aroused great concern from the government and led to the 1979 forest conservation law.

In the countryside, the peasants have been encouraged to plant trees and they have been guaranteed ownership of the trees they plant on their own small plots and mountain

slopes for personal use as well as of trees planted on wasteland designated to them.

According to the Ministry of Forestry, nationwide tree-planting efforts will stress planting the vast stretches of plains and hilly lands. To keep off the encroaching sands, the planting of a shelter belt, stretching from northwest to northeast China is being stepped up.

Industry to Increase Economic Results

China will search for new methods to improve industry's economic results this year, said Premier Zhao Ziyang at the National Conference on Industry and Communications which closed recently in the north China port city of Tianjin.

To achieve this, he said, we must focus production on supplying a greater quantity of popular consumer goods while minimizing the cost of labour and material. The mistake of pursuing an unrealistically high production growth rate in total disregard of economic results must not be repeated. Inflated production figures, the Premier added, are harmful. What we need is a genuine and practicable

economic growth rate. This policy is applicable to all fields of the national economy — industry, capital construction and commerce.

As a socialist country, China must study its own needs and try to meet the growing demand for goods, Premier Zhao said. Economic plans must truly reflect and conform to the needs of society.

Zhao Ziyang declared that whether or not we can increase economic results hinges on the successful readjustment of the economic structure and improvement of the management system now under way. However, he said, we must not wait for the completion of the overall restructuring. At present, we must ensure the role of planned guidance and administrative intervention and solve the existing problems step by step.

He reaffirmed the correct policies adopted after the Third Session of the 11th Party Central Committee held in December 1978, policies that call for expanding China's economic relations with foreign countries and for enlivening and boosting the domestic economy. He stressed the importance of ensuring the stability and continuity of the policies now in force.

The conference, which lasted 13 days beginning February 20, also planned the production and economizing of energy, coal transportation and restructuring the enterprises by stages.

Chen Muhua on Foreign Trade

China's trade and other economic exchanges with foreign countries will not be affected following the merger of the State Administrative Commission for Import and Export Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Economic Relations With Foreign Countries and the State Foreign Investment Commission into a single authority, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations. This was said by Chen Muhua, 61, the recently appointed head of the new ministry, at the news conference she gave to Chinese and foreign correspondents in Beijing on March 16.

"Agreements already signed between China and the governments of other countries will remain valid, and current negotiations with foreign governments and international organizations on trade and economic co-operation will continue," she said. The new ministry will take over the work of the original four units.

In the future, she said, it can be expected that the volume of foreign trade will grow faster than the growth rate of the national economy and there will be broad prospects for the use of foreign funds and the import of suitable advanced technology.

The trimming of the administrative structure is aimed at raising efficiency and quality of work. It is conducive to strengthening the administra-

Production of Terylene-Cotton Fabrics Reduced

After an investigation of the domestic market, the Ministry of Textile Industry has decided to reduce this year's production quota of terylene-cotton fabrics from 3,200 million to 2,600 million metres in an effort to boost economic results.

Because of their high output value and profitability, output of these products has greatly exceeded market demands. Cutting output by 600 million metres will help achieve a basic balance between supply and demand this year. This will of course reduce the total output value of the textile industry by 3 per cent and state revenue by about 800 million yuan, but it is worthwhile as far as actual economic results are concerned, as the cut will save 2,400 million yuan of state funds and the commercial departments will save 160 million yuan in storage fees. This will also make it possible to increase the production of white cloth and other products that are needed and sell well.

Monetary Statistics for Fourth Quarter of 1981

China's foreign exchange reserves at the end of the fourth quarter of 1981 were 4,773 million US dollars, and gold reserves were 12.67 million troy ounces.

Total deposits amounted to 203,297 million yuan at the end of the fourth quarter, 37,433 million yuan more than at the end of 1980. Total loans came to 276,467 million yuan, 35,037 million yuan more than at the end of 1980.

The money in circulation at the end of 1981 was 39,634 million yuan, 5,014 million yuan more than a year ago.

tive work and promoting the development of China's foreign trade and economic relations with other countries, Chen Muhua said.

According to her, the new ministry will better implement relevant state policies and conduct various forms of economic activities with foreign countries. While vigorously developing foreign trade, it will ensure economic and technical aid to and co-operation with third world countries. It will oversee the use of foreign capital and import suitable advanced technology while organizing exports of Chinese technology. It will contract and provide labour for construction projects abroad.

Leading members of the new ministry are socialist-minded, younger, better educated and professionally more competent. The average age of the minister and four vice-ministers is 58. Three ministerial representatives have been appointed to deal

with foreign relations. The total number of leaders at the ministry level is now only one-third that of the original four units.

POLITICAL

Technical and Management Training

China is providing advanced technical and management training to large numbers of people in order to facilitate the nation's effort to modernize as quickly as possible.

During the past three years, 1.6 out of 7 million leading cadres, managers and technicians in industrial and communications departments have received such training.

Primary emphasis is being placed on training factory directors and managers. By the end of 1981, 340,000 leading members of state-run enterprises at and above the county level, or 64 per cent of the total number

of such cadres, had undergone the necessary training. At least 24 of the 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions will have provided training for enterprise managers at or above the county level before the end of the year.

Many senior cadres engaged in economic management are also receiving training. Between March 1979 and December 1981, a special management seminar was conducted in Beijing by the State Economic Commission and the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. The seminar had given training to 1,400 people in 12 batches from 96 major industrial cities.

In order to provide seminar participants with a comprehensive understanding of the industrial success achieved by Shanghai and other seaboard cities, the State Economic Commission and the Shanghai municipality jointly conducted the "Shanghai enterprise management study class." It was attended by 280 senior cadres



Zhou Zhicheng (right), professor of the Industrial Management and Engineering Department of Jiaotong University in Shanghai, giving a lecture to factory managers.

from various provinces, municipalities and factories.

Particular attention is being devoted to training middle-aged and young cadres with distinguished employment records. In 1981, industrial and communications departments sent 7,000 such people to study in institutes of higher learning for one to three years.

Considerable attention is also being devoted to foreign management techniques. An industrial, scientific and technical training centre jointly inaugurated in 1980 by China and the United States in Dalian, northeast China, is exemplary. The centre has trained 350 factory directors, managers, scientific and technical cadres and college professors.

The curriculum includes units on the Party's economic policies, basic economic theories and fundamental techniques of business management. Some of those who study at the centre are also taught foreign languages. Those who study at the centre receive their regular salaries while there. Programmes such as the one operated by the centre are vital to the nation's goals of achieving socialist modernization.

The level of science and technology in China is still relatively low and management is an acute problem in many enterprises. Compared with similar businesses abroad, many of China's industrial concerns have comparable equipment and conditions. Nonetheless their efficiency is lower because of poor management. And it is poor management which has prevented enterprises with imported modern equipment from playing their full role in boosting production.

The training programmes which the government has

sponsored during recent years will help improve management techniques and raise the rates of production. This will provide a major impetus to the nation's modernization effort.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Foreign Minister of Upper Volta Visits China

Felix Tiemtaraboum, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Upper Volta, paid a visit to China in the middle of March.

During the visit, Premier Zhao Ziyang, Vice-Premier and Minister of National Defence Geng Biao and Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Huang Hua exchanged views with him on the current African and international situation and the development of bilateral relations. They reached agreement on most of the issues discussed. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the development of friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries and pledged to make continued efforts to strengthen and consolidate these relations.

During his meeting with Minister Felix Tiemtaraboum, Premier Zhao Ziyang said: "The present struggle of the third world countries to strengthen unity and strive for a new international economic order is a continuation of the struggles waged by various countries to win political independence since the 1950s." He said that to change the unreasonable international economic order, unity and co-operation among the developing countries should be strengthened.

The Premier added: "Although the third world coun-

tries are poorer, we have rich resources and experience. We must learn from each other's strong points to overcome our weaknesses and we should support each other." He noted that greater attention should be paid to develop South-South co-operation, for this will promote the North-South dialogue and help bring about a new international economic order.

Tiemtaraboum said: "The friendship between Upper Volta and China has withstood all tests. Our two countries have won successes in all fields since the establishment of diplomatic relations and we are satisfied with the good relations between us."

A trade agreement between China and Upper Volta was signed in Beijing on March 13. It is the first trade agreement between the two governments.

The agreement stipulates that both countries will accord each other most favoured-nation treatment in the spirit of co-operation and mutual benefit. A commission comprising representatives from both sides will be formed to promote trade relations between the two countries.

At the same time, a protocol on sending a Chinese medical team to Upper Volta was also signed.

China-Britain

A British parliamentary delegation led by Edward Du Cann, Chairman of the Conservatives' 1922 Committee, and Arthur Bottomley, Labour Member of the House of Commons, recently visited China.

It was the first delegation to visit China on behalf of the two houses of the British Parliament since the establishment of

diplomatic relations between China and Britain.

At the banquet he gave on March 11 in honour of the delegation, Vice-Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee Peng Chong said: "Since the 1970s, Sino-British relations have further developed. China and Britain share identical or similar views on many of the major international questions." He expressed the hope that "the good relations between the Chinese National People's Congress and the British Parliament will help promote the relations between the two countries and will also be conducive to the cause of opposing hegemonism and safeguarding world peace." He added that China hopes to develop economic co-operation with Britain on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

In his speech Edward Du Cann said that there are "dangers facing us in this troubled world" and that "our two nations, two governments and two peoples have much to strive for, much to defend, and much yet to achieve." He said that both sides should do their best to achieve together the aspirations of the two peoples.

Vice-Premier Yao Yilin also met with the British guests. They exchanged views on the development of Sino-British economic co-operation and trade relations.

Political Scheme Through Softball Championship Denounced

The Chinese Softball Association in its March 16 message to Don Porter, Secretary-General of the International Softball Federation (ISF), strongly pro-

tested against calling Taiwan "the republic of China" by the Chinese Taipei Softball Association in its "invitation telex" for the 5th World Women's Softball Championship sent from Los Angeles on March 13. The message drew attention to the fact that the cable invitation was sent after consultations for a long time between the ISF and the Taipei Softball Association. This, the message declared, is a flagrant act of creating "two Chinas." It is by no means an "inadvertence," as Porter would have others believe, but a premeditated plot. The message firmly requested the ISF to declare null and void the March 13 cable invitation sent by the Taipei Softball Association of China.

On March 14 the Softball Association of the People's Republic of China sent a reply to the March 8 telex message of Don Porter, demanding that he abide by the assurance he had made and act strictly in accordance with the ISF resolution on the Taipei Softball Association of China. The reply pointed out that it is wrong and with ulterior motives to call this local body a "national body."

It is known to all that in November 1979, when the ISF executive committee decided to accept the Chinese Softball Association as its member, the resolution it adopted stipulates that the softball organization in Taiwan should be called "the Taipei Softball Association of China" and that it should not use its original flag or anthem.

The official publication of the ISF *World Softball* stated clearly in its November issue of 1979 that Taiwan will not be allowed to display its flag or use the

anthem depicting the "republic of China." This stipulation is consistent with a recent International Olympic Committee ruling and with the decisions of other international sport federations. In May 1981, the ISF congress meeting in Hawaii approved the ISF executive committee's resolution mentioned above.

The reply message pointed out that the Taipei Softball Association of China is a local body of the People's Republic of China, not a "national governing body" as Porter said. The reason is simple. Taiwan is only a part of the People's Republic of China and not another "country."

Repudiating Porter who mentioned in his telex that the "ISF is not concerned from a softball standpoint whether there is one or two Chinas, that is a political assumption," the message declared that the problem now is precisely because "you are attempting to create the ignominious political plot of 'two Chinas' by making use of the World Women's Softball Championship." Therefore it is useless to cover this fact with the words "not concerned." Moreover, it is not the correct attitude to solving this problem.

An article by Xinhua Commentator on March 13 pointed out that at present some people in the United States are actively trying to create "two Chinas." On the question of US arms sales to Taiwan, they are attempting to push Sino-US relations into a predicament. Under these circumstances, one should watch more closely what the American leading members in the ISF are really up to.

Deep Seabed Resources Belong To All

THE Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea opened its final decision-making session recently with third world countries pressing hard for the adoption of an international convention.

A draft treaty worked out by 150 delegations has been presented to the conference. Some sections, particularly the one dealing with deep seabed mining, are responsible for a continuing dispute. Several important deposits of strategic minerals, including manganese, nickel, cobalt, lead, molybdenum, vanadium and zinc constitute the source of the dispute. For example, parts of the Pacific Ocean's floor contain enough of these minerals to meet global needs for several centuries.

The United States and several other industrialized nations want to exploit the mineral deposits without restrictions, while most developing nations want restrictions.

The United States, which decided to rejoin the conference one year after withdrawing over proposed restrictions on deep seabed mining, insists on a free hand for exploiting international seabed minerals and more power in the decision-making process of the International Seabed Authority. But the Group of 77 insists that the issues which have been already agreed to in the text should not be opened to renegotiation.

Addressing a recent meeting, the group's chairman Inam Ul

Haque, declared that the group is determined to adopt the draft convention during the present session and is not prepared to countenance any questioning of the fundamental elements of the package negotiated in the summer of 1980.

No Unilateral Exploitation

In reference to efforts by some industrialized countries for concluding a mini-convention among themselves for unilateral exploitation of the resources of the international seabed area, he said the Group of 77 is determined to contest any arrangements for deep seabed mining outside the draft convention negotiated at this conference.

President of the conference Tommy T.B. Koh reiterated his appeal to France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States not to proceed with their plan to conclude a "mini treaty" among them, with regard to unilateral exploitation of the international seabed minerals.

Common Heritage

Chinese representative Liang Yufan said the United States' decision to return to the conference was correct, but its approach to the current session is unchanged, because it is demanding significant revisions in part 11 of the draft convention. He said the principle of the common heritage of mankind and the basic provisions of seabed exploitation should not be subject to fundamental changes. He also said he hopes that the United States will adopt a realistic position in the negotiations.

Earlier, some industrialized countries had expressed reservations about drawing up a "mini treaty." Japan warned that it could "lead to a direct confrontation between the West and the third world."

The declaration of principle passed by the conference had affirmed that the seabed and its resources were the heritage of mankind, and these resources must not be exploited by a few countries nor by their multinationals. This principle must be upheld.

— Ren Yan

Mitterrand's Visit to Israel

FRENCH President Francois Mitterrand's recent visit to Israel attracted major attention in Arab countries.

France is a prominent member of the European Economic Community and its Middle East policy will certainly affect

Western Europe's stance towards the Middle East crisis. During recent years, France has consistently improved its relations with Arab countries. It has also advocated a just settlement of the Palestinian issue. As a result, France has enjoyed relatively good rela-

tions with Arab countries. However, some Arabs say they are concerned about Mitterrand's recent visit to Israel because it may indicate that France intends to change its policy towards the region.

Purpose. The French Socialist Government apparently desires to promote reconciliation between the Arab countries and Israel in order to stabilize the situation in the Middle East and augment France's interests. When Mitterrand visited Saudi Arabia last September, he expressed support for the eight-point peace plan put forward by Crown Prince Fahd. He had also long promised to visit Israel. However, his visit was postponed twice due to Israel's attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and its annexation of the Golan Heights.

Mitterrand's 3-day visit was highlighted by his March 4 speech in the Knesset (Parliament), where he presented France's position on the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian question. He appealed to Israel and Palestine to establish a dialogue based on "mutual recognition." He also emphasized Israel's right to exist, called for the creation of an independent Palestinian state and suggested that the PLO should be permitted conditional participation in negotiations.

Israel's Stubborn Stand. Immediately after Mitterrand's speech, Israeli Prime Minister Begin rejected his proposal for the establishment of a "Palestinian state." Begin also criticized French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson's recent suggestion — made in Iraq and Abu Dhabi — that a Palestinian state should be set up on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in Gaza Strip, both of which are occupied by Israel.

Cheysson noted that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinians in these areas.

Begin's hasty rejection of Mitterrand and Cheysson's recommendations indicates that Israel's leaders were essentially attempting to use the French President's visit as a means of alleviating Israel's international isolation.

Reaction. Arab spokesmen have provided a range of opinions about Mitterrand's trip. Some say Mitterrand's comments prove that his Middle East policy is balanced between the Arab countries and Israel.

The Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali has expressed Egyptian approval of Mitterrand's speech to the Knesset. He said Mitterrand's suggestion that the Palestinians have the right to form a state will promote the peace process of the Middle East.

However, Syrian President Assad and PLO Chairman Arafat were critical. Chedli Klibi, Secretary-General of the Arab League, said Mitterrand

was not sufficiently explicit about recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians.

PLO leader Abou Iyad says Mitterrand only offered "weak, obscure phrases that are of little importance." A Lebanese newspaper described the visit as "a dialogue between the deaf."

Some Western countries have praised Mitterrand's visit. They believe that the friendly relationship established between France and Israel does not necessarily mean the deterioration of relations between France and Arab countries. They seem to feel that France can influence Israel's policy and promote peace.

People generally agreed that Mitterrand's visit was bound to be difficult. In Paris, many people fear that Mitterrand's visit — instead of contributing to a peaceful Middle East settlement — has only provoked the dissatisfaction of both Israel and the Arab world.

— *Zhong Tai*

West Germany's Efforts to Patch Relations With the United States

ALTHOUGH tension between the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States has been increasing, some recent adjustments in their diplomatic and security policies are noteworthy.

First, West Germany announced on February 17 that it will restrict its relations with the Soviet Union and Poland. This was followed by an an-

nouncement on March 3 that West Germany will support the European economic council's proposed trade sanctions against the Soviet Union. These actions were designed to send a clear "political signal" to the Soviet Union.

Second, a spokesman from the Defence Ministry of West Germany announced on February 23 that his government

will sign a military agreement with the United States under which US military forces in West Germany will be doubled during emergencies. The proposed agreement was immediately denounced by the Soviet Union.

Third, it has been reported that West Germany has suggested that the June meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit be convened in Bonn.

This is a sign of West Germany's support for the Western military alliance. Moreover, these policy announcements are clear indications of West Germany's efforts to improve relations with the United States.

Significant Differences

Nonetheless, significant differences have developed between West Germany and the United States since Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev's third visit to Bonn late last year. US officials do not believe that West Germany has made satisfactory increases in its military budget and peace marches opposed to additional US missile deployments in West Germany have been increasing. West Germany has signed a gas pipeline agreement with the Soviet Union in defiance of the United States and vehemently criticized the high interest rate policy of the United States. West German officials have also been indifferent towards US sponsored sanctions against the Soviet Union because of the situation in Poland.

These actions have generated US criticism. It is rumoured that US President Ronald

Reagan will only visit Rome, Paris and London during his June tour of Europe.

West Germany's leaders obviously recognize the potential gravity of their differences with the United States. The West Germany's press has reported a recent foreign ministry report which recommends increased emphasis on stabilizing relations with the United States and the Western alliance.

The report also criticizes Chancellor Helmut Schmidt for calling himself an "interpreter" between the United States and the Soviet Union, because it has given the impression that West Germany is trying to act as a neutral entity between the two superpowers. Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has reportedly instructed his staff to avoid contradicting the United States whenever possible.

Controversial Moves

However, some observers believe West Germany has pro-Soviet tendencies. Herbert Wehner, chairman of the parliamentary group of the Social Democratic Party to which Schmidt belongs, recently paid a four-day visit to Poland, the first by a prominent politician from the West since the December 13 military takeover. At a time when most Western countries are following the United States in imposing sanctions against the Soviet Union and Poland, the visit could easily arouse controversy.

West Germany has also claimed that trade sanctions against the Soviet Union should not breach contracts signed be-

fore the sanctions commenced. Moreover, Bonn apparently hopes to prevent cold war advocates from gaining an upper hand at the NATO summit meeting in June.

Although such moves run counter to West Germany's effort to mend relations with Washington, they are consistent with its foreign policy. While trying to maintain good relations with the US, West Germany has interests and considerations different from those of the United States. This is also the case for most other West European countries.

Western Europe and the US

The tensions between Western Europe and the United States, which are manifested by Western Europe's refusal to provide unqualified support for all US policies, are contributing to the development of isolationist tendencies in the United States. The primary source of the problem is the US attempt to get the West European countries to fully support its efforts to counter Soviet power. Western Europe, however, wants to maintain some independence in order to promote its own foreign policy priorities, some of which differ from those of the United States.

As long as US-Soviet affairs remain tense and the Western economies continue to be hampered by "stagflation," relations between Western Europe and the United States will continue to be strained.

If the Soviet Union does not change its aggressive expansionist policy, these strains will not jeopardize the Western alliance. Since January, lead-

ers from West European countries have visited the United States to discuss potential solutions to the problems facing the alliance and more visits are planned for the future. Reagan's upcoming visit to Western Europe should help ease tensions.

The June summit meeting of the seven industrialized countries of the West and the NATO

summit conference should prove particularly important. These meetings will offer Reagan good opportunities to meet many Western leaders and to co-ordinate policies. They will also provide the Western alliance with opportunities to develop a common strategy for opposing the Soviet Union.

— Xin Ping

Southeast Asia

Soviet Union Intensifies Espionage

THE Soviet KGB has intensified espionage activities in Southeast Asia since the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea and the Soviet presence in Viet Nam's Cam Ranh Bay constitutes an additional military threat to Southeast Asia.

Collecting Information About Sea Lanes

Following the expulsion of Soviet secret agents from Malaysia last autumn, new Soviet spies have been caught in Indonesia and Singapore, where they were collecting information about Southeast Asian sea lanes.

A high-ranking Indonesian official disclosed that Soviet KGB agents in his country surreptitiously collected maps and information about Indonesia's Natuna Islands and Tandjung Priok port and data about the temperature and salt content of the water in the Makassar Strait. The Philippine Foreign Ministry has disclosed that Soviet "freighters" surveyed the depth of Philippine waters.

The reasons why the Soviet Union is showing such great interest in the waterways of Southeast Asia are easy to

understand. The five ASEAN countries are located on the strategically important sea lanes linking the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The waters in Southeast Asia spread over the Strait of Malacca, Selat Sunda, Makassar, Selat Lombok, Molucca and Selat Sumba. The Soviet hegemonists are striving for control over these strategic sea-lanes because the shallow water in the Strait of Malacca is not deep enough to provide suf-



ficient cover for Soviet submarines.

Military Menace

The Soviet Pacific Fleet has extended its scope of activity thousands of miles southward to the waters of Southeast Asia and Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang of Viet Nam have been turned into Russian military bases.

During his visit to Hanoi last month, chief of general staff of the Soviet armed forces N.V. Ogarkov reportedly sought

extra facilities for Soviet navy and air forces in Da Nang and Cam Ranh and an extra airbase. Hundreds of Soviet military experts and technicians recently arrived in Con Dao to set up a third Soviet naval base in Viet Nam.

The Soviet Pacific Fleet with its 319 warships is the biggest in the world.

The Soviet Union constitutes a grave military threat to the ASEAN countries. During Ogarkov's "goodwill visit" to three Indochinese countries, Viet Nam intensified its military activity in Kampuchea and prepared to extend the war to the Thai-Kampuchean border area. Soviet heavy reconnaissance bombers based in Cam Ranh have made frequent flights over the territories of ASEAN countries.

Meanwhile, Moscow has deployed a flotilla of its Pacific Fleet in the South China sea. Every month about six Soviet warships pass through the Strait of Malacca and its E-class

nuclear submarines — equipped with cruise missiles — ply constantly in the South China Sea. The Soviet aircraft carrier *Minsk* has entered the Gulf of Siam, only 90 nautical miles from Thailand.

Many observers familiar with ASEAN countries are concerned about Soviet-Vietnamese attempts to expand into Southeast Asia with warships and spies. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew pointed out last January that Soviet naval reinforcements in Southeast Asia

have created a "totally new condition." The Soviet objective in the region, as is the case in other strategic places in the world, is to initially make friends, then to become an ally and eventually become the master.

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew says that the Strait of Malacca, the gateway to the Indian Ocean, and other strategic bottlenecks must never fall into Soviet hands. Indonesian Navy

Admiral Sudomo, Commander in Charge of Operations for Restoring Security and Order, said last year that the Soviet Union and Viet Nam constitute big threats to regional security.

The southward advance of Soviet armed forces and the activities of its espionage agents in Southeast Asia have heightened public awareness of Moscow's expansionist objectives.

— Xie Wenqing and Zhang Junli

Greenland and the EEC

GREENLAND'S recent referendum on EEC membership indicated that 52 per cent of its people want to pull out. Although 42 per cent of those who voted on the referendum favour continued EEC membership, there is a distinct possibility that Greenland will become the first to actually withdraw.

Reasons for Leaving

Greenland joined the EEC in January 1973 as a province of Denmark. After the island continent was granted internal autonomy in May 1979, the Siumut Party of Greenland spearheaded a drive for greater autonomy and proposed withdrawal from the EEC for three reasons. The majority of Greenland's residents were against joining at the start; Greenland is losing a substantial quantity of its fish to other EEC members who were allowed to fish in its waters (fishing provides Greenland with 55 per cent of its total exports); and, most of the island's half a million inhabitants are Eskimos or descendants of Eskimo-European parents who fear losing their identity and becoming

Europeanized. They want closer ties with Eskimos in northern Canada and Alaska.

Reasons for Staying

The Progressive United Party of Greenland favours remaining in the EEC. It claims that



Greenland will lose a great deal if it leaves the EEC.

Opponents of withdrawal say that since Greenland joined the

EEC it has received various forms of aid totalling 600 million kroner and an additional 400 million kroner in low-interest loans. They also point out that Greenland is scheduled to receive a further 100 million kroner of aid. Opponents of withdrawal say that if Greenland pulls out, each man, woman and child on the island will lose 10 kroner each day. Moreover, Greenland will have problems disposing of bigger catches. Approximately 40 per cent of tax-free fish are presently sent to the EEC countries each year. Import taxes on fish exports from Greenland would substantially lower profits and competitiveness.

The ruling Social Democratic Party of Denmark would like to see the island stay in the economic community, but has said it will respect the wishes of the islanders.

Impact on Europe

Greenland is particularly important to the strategic confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States. The United States has a mutual defence agreement with Denmark for Greenland. The United States also has a strategic air base and a missile warning station in Greenland. The Soviet Union has a number of submarines and spy ships operating in waters near the island. The Soviets have also offered to "help" Greenland develop its fishing and fish-processing industry. If Greenland pulls out from the EEC, there will be political and economic repercussions in Western Europe.

— Wu Quanda and Liu Xumin

Be a Sober-Minded Marxist

The following is a slightly abridged translation of an article carried in "Renmin Ribao" by its commentator on March 15. Subheads are ours. — Ed.

SMUGGLING, selling smuggled articles, embezzlement, bribery, speculation, swindling, and other illegal and criminal activities that shift huge amounts of state and collective property into private possession have become rampant in the economic field in the last two or three years. What deserves particular attention is the fact that some Party members, cadres and even some leading cadres have taken part in such illegal and criminal activities. Although they make up only a very small part of the vast contingents of Party members and cadres, they have greatly harmed the Party's prestige. If their activities remain unchecked, this would surely mean the destruction of the socialist cause and the revolutionary fruits achieved by the Party and the people through decades of arduous struggle. We should have a thorough understanding of this great danger and be highly vigilant against it.

Danger of "Peaceful Evolution"

There is no denying that through the untiring efforts of all Party members since the downfall of the gang of four more than five years ago, and especially since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee, the Party and the nation have averted a grave crisis resulting from the 10 years of domestic turmoil and have returned to the road towards prosperity. This is an undeniable fundamental historic fact which our descendants will never forget. But does this mean that there will not be any significant dangers other than war for our Party, our nation and our socialist cause? Certainly not. Even in times of peace, there is still the danger that could weaken our Party and lead it towards "peaceful evolution." In the economic field, criminal offences are far more serious than during the "san fan" and "wu fan" movements* 30 years ago. In the ideological and cultural arenas and in social morality, the influence of decadent

bourgeois ideas and feudal remnants and the phenomena of worshipping foreign things have grown on a scale rarely seen since the birth of New China.

What is the major source of the danger? We are right in our frequent assertions that we should guard against any attempt to invade and subvert China from abroad and against any actions taken by the remnants of the overthrown Lin Biao and Jiang Qing counter-revolutionary cliques. But at the same time we should clearly bear in mind that our Party, the vanguard of the working class, is the force that is leading this big country of China. So long as our Party remains sound and healthy, effectively wards off erosion by unhealthy tendencies, does not become rotten itself and always stays in close touch with the people, then no enemy force in the world can have its way in destroying us. In this sense, the main danger is from no source other than the degeneration of certain weak-willed members inside our Party.

The Focus of the Problem

For the Party itself, the focus of the problem lies with the middle- and high-ranking leaders within the Party. If our leading cadres at the middle and high levels are staunch, sober-minded and active Marxists, they can set a good example for the whole Party and the Party will be strong enough to overcome all things that are mistaken. In 1938, Comrade Mao Zedong said in his article "The Role of the Chinese Communist Party in the National War": "So far as shouldering the main responsibility of leadership is concerned, our Party's fighting capacity will be much greater and our task of defeating Japanese imperialism will be more quickly accomplished if there are one or two hundred

* This refers to the movement against three evils (corruption, waste and bureaucracy) launched among state functionaries at the end of 1951, and the movement against five evils (bribery of government workers, tax evasion, theft of state property, cheating on government contracts, and stealing economic information for private speculation) launched among capitalist industrialists and businessmen at the beginning of 1952.

comrades with a grasp of Marxism-Leninism which is systematic and not fragmentary, genuine and not hollow."

This point of view of Comrade Mao Zedong's is very profound and important. He put the figure at 100 or 200 at that time. Now, the historical conditions have changed and we need 10,000 or 20,000 today. Our Party's fighting capacity will greatly increase if 10,000 to 20,000 of our cadres can really become staunch, sober-minded and active Marxists. So long as our Party is strong and healthy, we are sure to accomplish our socialist modernization programme, no matter how arduous it is. On the contrary, it would be very dangerous if some of our middle- and high-ranking cadres become corrupt and degenerate in peace time and if this tendency is not checked soon enough but is allowed to spread instead.

From the analysis above, we can see that it is completely correct and necessary for the Party Central Committee to decide to deal resolute blows at illegal and criminal activities in the economic field and to stress meting out severe punishments for Party members and cadres, especially leading cadres, who commit illegal and criminal offences. This struggle is indeed connected with the life and death of our Party as well as the prosperity of our state. It is a severe test for all Party members and cadres as to what attitude they should adopt towards the struggle. It is neces-

sary for us to strengthen communist ideological education within the Party, and among the Party cadres, especially among those middle- and high-ranking cadres.

Cadres of the Party, especially leading cadres at the middle and high levels, must re-view and really grasp Comrade Mao Zedong's theory and tactics of both unity and struggle in the united front work. They should follow his teachings of fighting against both Left-deviationist closed-doorism and Right-deviationist capitulationism; of both taking into consideration the interests of our allies and maintaining the ideological, political and organizational independence of the proletarian Party; of both adopting different social policies under different conditions and seriously and resolutely maintaining the communist purity of Party members under whatever conditions. They must also creatively apply these theories and tactics under the new historical conditions when China has adopted an open policy towards the outside world and flexible domestic policies to enliven the economy.

The cadres of the Party, especially the middle- and high-ranking cadres, must strengthen their Party spirit, abide by Party discipline and keep their heads clear in the new situation and in face of new tasks. Our Party will be able to weather all storms so long as these cadres play their role as the mainstay of the nation. □

Chen Yun on Planned Economy

by Zhu Minzhi and Zou Aiguo

JANUARY 25 was the first day of the traditional Chinese Spring Festival of 1982. Beijing's atmosphere was lively. Having three days off, most people donned new clothes and visited relatives and friends. But leading comrades of the Party Central Committee and the State Council continued working.

Chen Yun, Vice-Chairman of the Party Central Committee, invited Yao Yilin, Song Ping, Chai Shufan, Li Renjun and Fang Wei-

zhong from the State Planning Commission to his office to discuss the question of ensuring planned economy to play the major role and market regulation the supplementary role.

Planning Is Also Necessary in Agriculture

"Ours is a socialist planned economy," said Chen Yun. "Industry must mainly practise planned economy and agriculture is no excep-



of planned economy is not clearly understood by some comrades."

Living Standards and Construction

Chen Yun continued: "The state has only this sum of money and there should be plans in using it. The people's livelihood should be earnestly improved. Our principle should be: first, the people must have sufficient food; second, socialist construction must be carried out. If a country consumes all that it produces, there is no future for it. A country will have a bright future only when it has accumulations for construction after the people have eaten their fill."

Song Ping made the following comment: "We must have a correct understanding of the relationship between the improvement of people's livelihood and construction. Some enterprises didn't handle this relationship properly and, as a result, they stopped some construction projects that should not have been stopped."

Chen Yun said: "We must have a clear understanding of this problem. We must let the people have sufficient and nice food, not that of poor quality. But the food cannot be of the highest standard. The idea is that after ensuring the people enough to eat, the state still has surplus resources for construction."

At this juncture, the topic of conversation changed to how to spread the responsibility system in enterprises and how to carry out readjustment and restructuring and increase economic returns. Chen Yun said: "We must have plans in running enterprises. In running socialist enterprises, we should take into consideration the following factors: whether there is a market for the products, where the raw materials come from and how enterprises are managed. Now, some places in our country do not pay attention to this. In my opinion, we need some people to give an overall consideration to this question. Our departments in charge of economic affairs should have a group of such strategists."

Key and Non-Key Projects

While stressing the importance of planned economy, Chen Yun also said: "The construction of the whole country must be carried out in a sequence and in the order of importance and urgency. Which should be key projects and which are not, which should be carried out first and which later — this must be done according

tion. Even after the responsibility system for production has been introduced, planned economy should still prevail and the regulation by the market can only be supplementary. We must not think that planning can be discarded after the introduction of various forms of responsibility system for production in agriculture."

The responsibility system for production is a new form of management adopted within a collective economy after flexible economic policies were put in force in the rural areas. It has won peasant support because of its flexible forms of labour management and its remuneration principle of more pay for more work. It has been adopted by over 90 per cent of the production teams.

Then, Chen Yun listed some examples: "For instance, vegetables must be planted well on the outskirts of cities; targets must be fixed for pig raising, so does the number of pigs sold to the state; the acreage under tobacco should not be enlarged and the grain growing area should not be reduced.... All this falls in the field of planning."

He said: "There has been an old problem: Increasing the area under cash crops would diminish the area growing grain crops. This problem should be solved appropriately. Only when agriculture is placed within the planned economy can the peasants reap long-term benefits and the country be built well."

Here, Yao Yilin interposed a remark: "Yes, this problem is very important. Now, the idea



Chen Yun (right) greeting leading members of the State Planning Commission whom he invited to discuss economic problems.

to a plan. It will not do if construction is undertaken here and there without co-ordination."

Then, Yao Yilin took up the talk: "The present management system built up on the principle of combining planned economy with regulation by the market is different from either our past practice of rigid control or the market economy of capitalism. It is because of this, we can gradually control the economy but the control is not rigid, activate the economy without leading to confusion, raise economic results and organize and develop production according to socialist needs."

"It seems that some places are too anxious

and they want to change their backward conditions as quickly as possible," Chai Shufan said.

Having heard the other comrades' opinions, Chen Yun said: "Our economy will develop quickly so long as we work in a down-to-earth and systematic manner. If we are too anxious for quick success, the economic development would be slowed down."

The last statement which carries much weight is a summary of our basic experiences during the past 30 years of economic work.

This discussion on China's important economic policies lasted an hour and a half. □

Upholding Planned Economy In Agriculture

by Zhang Jinfu

THE Party's line and general and specific policies adopted after the Third Session of the 11th Party Central Committee held in December 1978 have brought positive results in various economic fields, particularly in agriculture. In Anhui Province, for example, farm

The author is first secretary of the Anhui provincial Party committee.

production has steadily improved in the last four years (drought in 1978 and flood in 1980, but rich harvests in 1979 and 1981). The production of grain crops and other economic undertakings grew apace in 1981; forestry, animal husbandry, sideline occupations and fishery also saw considerable growth. Compared with the previous year, output of grain rose more than 20 per cent; cotton, 17 per cent; oil-

bearing crops, 95 per cent; tea, over 10 per cent; and cured tobacco, 3.4-fold. Total agricultural output value grew 24.6 per cent and commune members' average per-capita income registered an increase of 50 yuan. All this shows that farm production in Anhui has entered a progressive spiral.

Indications of this situation are:

Peasants' zest for socialism has been given full play. Increased state purchasing prices for farm produce, various forms of production responsibility system and revitalized rural fairs have, among other things, made everyone in the rural areas care about production. In times of natural adversities they worked with a will to minimize losses, and in disaster-free years, they tremendously increased farm output. In the wake of steady growth of production, the commune members have gradually increased their incomes and improved their livelihood.

Work now proceeds from local conditions and gives full scope to local strong points. The agricultural economy's structure and the geographical distribution of farm production have been readjusted in a rational way so that areas unsuitable for growing grain can switch back to afforestation, tea-planting, fishery or other diversified undertakings. This has considerably improved the economic results in agriculture. As a result, new integrated economic units have multiplied in Anhui, where commune- and brigade-run industries were relatively underdeveloped compared with other provinces. In the Luan Prefecture alone, 136,200 rural families joined in 22,400 such units last year. They pooled 8.26 million yuan for investments and netted more than 15 million yuan.

Industry and agriculture are mutually supportive. Invigorated farm production has steadily replenished the supply of industrial raw materials. At the same time, the rural area's growing need for the means of production and articles for daily use provides a constant spur to industry, commerce and finance. Given more industrial supports to agricul-

ture, China's national economy is expected to pick up more quickly.

This new situation gives rise to a number of new problems, the most conspicuous one being how to handle the relationship between planned economy and regulation by the market. Now that the peasants have enough to eat, agricultural production is able to increase the marketable portion of its products. In Anhui, the marketable rate of grain has grown from 22 to 25 per cent and that for rapeseed has exceeded 80 per cent. The bulk, or all in some cases, of other cash crops, farm and sideline products are sold to the market.

Three kinds of prices have appeared in the market, after the state raised its purchasing prices of farm produce, namely, planned state purchasing prices, prices for the amount of products delivered to the state in excess of quotas and the prices agreed upon between buyers and sellers. The planned state purchasing price for grain was increased 20 per cent as of July 1, 1979 and the price for the grain delivered to the state in excess of quotas was 50 per cent higher than that. For 100 kilogrammes of unhusked rice, the planned state purchasing price averages 23.8 yuan; if it is sold in excess of state quotas, the price is 35.7 yuan; and when its price is agreed upon between buyers and sellers, it is slightly higher than the floating price in the market.



Getting ready to deliver grain to the state. The Xiaolan production brigade in Jiangxi Province's Nanchang County fulfilled its grain delivering quotas 20 days ahead of schedule last year.



A Lingyi County commune in Shandong Province gathering a bountiful cotton harvest.

Such new seller-buyer relationship gives rise to the question of whether the planting of crops should proceed according to plan or according to prices on the market. One related question is whether the industrial departments sell the means of production and articles for daily use to the rural areas in a planned way and at stabilized prices, or at the floating prices on the market.

The Party Central Committee's answer to both questions is that, because ours is a socialist country based primarily on a planned economy, we must stress the planned economy and give play to the supplementary, regulating role of the market on the basis of public ownership. An important component of the national economy, agriculture not only provides the people with food and clothing but also has an important bearing on the production of light industry and a number of heavy industries. For this reason, the rural areas should ensure that the state production targets and planned purchasing quotas are fulfilled. Only thus can the market be stabilized, the people set at ease and the national economy as a whole be promoted.

In this regard, two one-sided views should be examined. One opinion holds that agriculture does not need state planning now that the production responsibility system has been instituted. Those holding this opinion worry that emphasis on state plans will again put the newly

activated agriculture under too tight control. Obviously they do not understand that emphasizing planned economy does not mean totally eliminating the market's regulating role. When the planned economy plays the dominant role, the market's regulating role not only breathes new life into the economy but also focuses the peasants' attention on improving management and developing production so that they can provide more commodities.

When the planned economy is upheld, it is more possible to give due consideration to the interests of the state, the collective and the individual, to both the nation's immediate and long-range interests and to the overall situation; only thus can the national economy be guided with a socialist orientation.

Others worry that with "liberalization," some places will tend to ignore the state plan. This problem, since it occurs under excellent conditions, can also be solved by adhering to the policy of ensuring the dominant role of planned economy, strengthening leadership and improving management.

In agricultural production, how can we implement the principle of emphasizing the planned economy while giving play to the market's supplementary, regulating role?

First, control planting acreage in accordance with the state plan. Correctly handling the relationship between grain production and a diversified economy is key to strengthening the state plan's guiding role. To ensure steady increase in grain output, it is imperative to stabilize the grain-growing area and put a stop to its reduction. As to cash crops, only the acreage sown to cotton and sugar beets in the north can be expanded according to state plan; for the others, especially rapeseed and tobacco, the acreage should be strictly controlled according to state plan and efforts should be made to increase their per-unit yield and quality.

Outskirts of big cities and industrial and mining centres should devote their efforts mainly

to growing vegetables in accordance with the state plan so as to ensure market supply. Big and medium-sized cities and industrial and mining areas should become self-sufficient in poultry, eggs and milk as soon as possible. To fulfil the state purchasing plan for pigs, it is necessary to implement the related policies and actively expand pig-breeding. In developing a diversified economy, stress should be laid on utilizing previously uncultivated hillside lands, grasslands and water surfaces.

In Anhui, we intend to devote 6 million hectares of land to grain production and steadily increase per-unit yield, 330,000 hectares (concentrated in certain areas) to cotton, and 66,000 hectares to tobacco with equal emphasis on per-unit output and quality. The fact that the yields of major farm crops in Anhui are below the national averages indicates that we have great potential for improvement. Moreover, cash crops can be developed by utilizing barren hills and other wasteland. Land sown to the major crops should be rationally distributed according to the state's need, and their targets should be allotted to each county.

However, inappropriate intervention in the work of production teams and individual peasants should be avoided. In this way, the state plan will be brought in line with necessary decision-making power given to production teams and individual peasants. The commune members are willing to abide by the state plan so long as the policies remain stable and there are good prospects for them to increase production. The presence of a state plan will ensure the supply of the means of production and an outlet for farm produce.

Secondly, dovetail the state plan with the market's regulating role. Take the supply of vegetable and non-staple food in the cities for example. For a period of time there were shortages and price increases of vegetables in the eight cities of Anhui Province. The people complained about this situation. After careful investigation and study, we found out this was due to several factors. First, the peasants on the outskirts were not as diligent in vegetable-growing as in the thriving industrial and sideline occupations, because they could make more money from the latter. Furthermore, the increase in state purchase prices of farm produce changed the price ratio between grain and vegetables. They were reluctant to grow vegetables because formerly they could exchange 50 kilogrammes of vegetables for 20

kilogrammes of rice but with the new prices, they got 2 kilogrammes less.

Another factor was that too many vegetable gardens were designated for capital construction and new ones were nowhere to be found. In Hefei, the provincial capital, it was stipulated that the acreage of vegetable gardens should average 0.035 *mu* per city dweller, but it had never been implemented. As a result, the vegetable supply from state-run vegetable companies declined and the gap had to be filled by local fairs. Middlemen who engaged in speculations and wilfully raised prices further aggravated the situation.

Therefore, rural areas must now first ensure vegetable and non-staple food supplies for city dwellers before they can engage in industry and sideline occupations. To meet this requirement, it is necessary to emphasize the planned economy and supplement it with the market's regulating role, fix production quotas on the basis of demand, and make up for the vegetable-growing acreage lost to other purposes. It is imperative for the state vegetable companies to control 70 per cent of the supply of vegetables and market them according to planned prices. The remainder can then be supplied by the local fairs.



A brigade-run afforestation farm in Shangzhi County, Heilongjiang Province.

Non-staple food consists mainly of meat, poultry and eggs. During one period in Anhui, fewer pigs were sold to the state than before, because the collective neglected to supply the peasants with animal feed after the responsibility system for production was introduced. When contracts were concluded between the production teams and the individual peasants, too much attention was paid to grain, cotton and oil-bearing crops at the expense of the production of pigs, poultry and eggs. The problem was compounded by the fact that on the one hand the peasants now consume more of these and on the other they prefer to sell it at higher prices at local fairs. Clearly, the non-staple food must also be brought into the orbit of a planned economy.

Thirdly, improve the contract system. After the responsibility system was introduced in farm production, economic contracts, which were seen formerly only in industrial and commercial dealings, were also popularized in the rural areas. These contracts between the state purchasing departments and the production teams covered the sales of farm and sideline products and the supply of major means of production.

Contracts as such are an important means to fulfilling the state plan; they also enable the producer and the purchaser to exchange information, co-ordinate their interests and work out mutually-agreed-upon ways to implement the state plan. Another kind of contract is signed between the production team and individual peasant to fix production quotas.

The contract system has become popular with Anhui peasants and it is expected to be

improved in practice and further popularized. To institute this system, it is imperative to take into consideration the interests of the state, the collective and the individual. The peasants are committed to fulfil state purchasing quotas, while the state is committed to supply them with the means of production according to plan and, in good faith, to give the announced awards. According to the Law Concerning Economic Contracts adopted by the Fourth Session of the Fifth National People's Congress, both moral and material awards will be given to those who fulfil the contracts well and in some cases penalties will be meted out to those who fail. In this way the contracts have been given legal power.

Fourthly, think of the country as a whole. Ideological education should be combined with specific measures. After fulfilling the state purchasing plan of industrial raw materials, the localities should be allowed to process their surplus portions. But they should not use the raw materials allotted to big enterprises or build an excessive number of factories producing the same goods. Their best role is to co-operate with areas that are technically advanced in production; this is beneficial to the state and both partners. In this spirit, Anhui and Shanghai are working together to set up a Shanghai-Anhui joint development corporation of textile industry.

Moreover, we will strengthen the ideological and political education among grass-roots cadres and peasants so that they will bear the overall situation in mind and foster long-term ideals. It is impossible to modernize socialist agriculture if people care only about their immediate interests. □

Let the Facts Speak

by Yang Fangzhi

John Zeidman, a young American who was studying in China, died of viral encephalitis last January after intensive medical care failed to carry him through the ordeal. Cashing in on his unfortunate death, David Finkelstein, an American and a so-called China-hand, made many charges against China in his article "The Lessons of an American's Death," which appeared in "Washington Post" on January 24. The truth

of the whole matter came out a week later, when the same paper carried an article entitled "The Lesson of an American's Life" written by the bereaved father Philip F. Zeidman. Here, Yang Fangzhi, who is an adviser to the State Council's Foreign Experts Administrative Bureau, shares his thoughts on reading Philip Zeidman's article. Yang's article was published

in "Renmin Ribao" on March 6. Excerpts from Zeidman's article are also published in this issue. — Ed.

ADMIRATION welled up in my heart as I pondered Philip F. Zeidman's soul-touching article "The Lesson of an American's Life," which was reprinted in translation in *Renmin Ribao* on February 13. I have never met him, but all the same I was struck by his honesty and far-sightedness.

Every father shares Mr. Zeidman's sorrow that saturates every line of his article. When he was barely 20, John Zeidman came to pursue his studies in China, far away from his parents and homeland. He came down with viral encephalitis and was sent back to the United States. Despite every effort made to rescue him, he died.

In deep grief, the bereaved father somehow picked himself up and wrote this article. In it, he countered the anti-China lies centring on his beloved son's death with solid facts. At the funeral he announced that he would set up a scholarship to encourage more American young people to "study Chinese language, history, politics and culture." He did this in the fundamental interests of the American people.

What Mr. Zeidman challenged was the article entitled "The Lessons of an American's Death." He pointed out: The thesis of the article is that John's death was the "product of a woefully inadequate Chinese medical system; that the Chinese authorities sought to prevent the entry of American medical specialists and made evacuation more difficult." This was not true. Citing what he witnessed during his stay of less than a month in the Beijing Hospital for Communicable Diseases, Mr. Zeidman testifies that China never delayed the arrival of a number of noted American specialists who came to treat his son, and that the Chinese doctors welcomed these Americans' new ideas and more advanced methods and equipment. "The formidable logistical task of staging an evacuation was not obstructed by 'obdurate authorities,'" he writes. "To the contrary, visas were issued, red tape was cut and bureaucratic processes were accelerated to an apparently unprecedented degree." He hit the nail on the head when he wrote that the author of "The Lessons of an American's Death" sought to fit a prejudiced argument into a preconceived theory that simply didn't tally with the truth.

Zeidman was fair when he said that his son's death was caused by the lack of protection from viral encephalitis. Had every foreign student received inoculation against this disease before he or she came to China, this tragedy might have been avoided. I think this should be drawn to the attention of both the Chinese and American medical authorities.

Mr. Zeidman's explanation of the medical treatment his son received in China sounds reasonable. In the absence of any effective treatment for the disease, "the Chinese doctors and nurses were as well able to provide supportive care as in any hospital in the world," he says. "Within the limits of their capacities they ministered to our son's needs with skill, and with dedication and love which compare favourably to any we have seen in an American hospital."

Anyone would be likely to regard the place that caused the death of his son with repugnance or, to say the least, callousness. But, taking his sorrow in stride, Zeidman presented things as he saw them.

As to what lesson one should draw from John's death, the two Americans' conclusions are poles apart. While the author of "The Lessons of an American's Death" chose to say that "despite much blather to the contrary, relations between China and America are far from 'normalized,'" Mr. Zeidman declared that he would seek to "perpetuate the values for which John's life stood."

What values, then, does the American youngster's short life represent? As the bereaved father sees it, John came to China to study the Chinese language and other subjects in order to promote the mutual understanding between the Chinese and American peoples. Because he died so young, he failed to fully materialize the values his life represented. But his is a noble and great cause. Though John is gone, the father, in his characteristic sincerity, hopes to see more American young people take John's road and undertake to fulfil the cause he left behind. In other words, he wants more American youths to come to study in China so that they can pass on their knowledge about China to the American people.

To "encourage other enterprising young Americans to study Chinese language, history, politics and culture," he announced at his son's funeral that he would set up the John Zeidman

memorial fund. "When we go back to China, as we surely will, we hope some day to find John Zeidman Memorial Scholars who have pursued their interest, to the benefit of both nations, and have become doctors, teachers, diplomats . . ." he says.

Philip F. Zeidman's article symbolizes the great American people's ever-lasting spirit of seeking truth from facts and their upright and dauntless qualities. Not long ago, the Chinese people affectionately commemorated the 10th anniversary of Edgar Snow's death. Since this world-famous journalist and writer found his way into the revolutionary base area in north-west China after overcoming all sorts of hardships decades ago, many justice-upholding Americans have followed his lead in many different ways. They have all worked for the interests of both nations and have promoted the mutual understanding between the two great peoples. Their ranks are constantly being expanded by people who respect the facts. Their hearts are linked. There is an adverse anti-China current going on now in America, but the trend of history is irreversible. Philip F. Zeidman's article has borne this out. The Chinese people need sincere friends. With open arms we welcome them, whether from America or other parts of the world.

The Lesson of an American's Life

by Philip F. Zeidman (USA)

MY son John, while spending a year as a student in China, fell ill on September 26, his 20th birthday. On January 3 at Johns Hopkins Hospital, he died.

It is still too soon — perhaps it will always be too soon — to write those words, "he died," without experiencing a numbing sense of sorrow. And it is surely a strange sensation to write of his death for publication. For even though hundreds of people were engaged in the struggle to save John, and thousands more knew of the ordeal, the death of a child remains an intensely private matter.

I was thus startled to find it the subject of an article ("The Lessons of an American's Death," January 24), by David Finkelstein in the *Washington Post*. I have never met or spoken with the author, who is described as "a New York writer" who "was the Ford Foundation's China specialist" until five years ago.

While I do not challenge his right to write of my son's death, or the *Post's* right to publish his article, one would think that a concern for either privacy or accuracy dictates that a writer would make some contact with the family, or that a newspaper would at least be curious as to whether he had done so. Nor do I write to dispute his version of the facts, although there is ample basis to do so.

Instead I reluctantly reopen a painful chapter of our lives because the writer has insisted on drawing from the episode a "deeper significance," a "lesson" which seems to me to be fundamentally at odds with the message of John Zeidman's death — and, more important, of his life.

The author's own predisposition is clear enough. His long article in *The New Yorker* ("A Reporter at Large: When the Snow Thaws," September 10, 1979) is in large part a catalogue of the complaints of some Chinese about their government and a warning that the visitor to China remains isolated from its people and thus can make no informed judgment about what he sees.

His article in this newspaper is wholly consistent with those views; there are even identical phrases, suggesting the haste with which the author seized upon the opportunity to advance his views again.

"The Lessons of an American's Death" seeks to fit our son's illness and death into that preconceived theory. In my view, the facts simply won't fit the theory.

The author's thesis is that John Zeidman's death was the product of a woefully inadequate Chinese medical system; that the Chinese authorities sought to prevent the entry of American medical specialists and made evacuation more difficult, and that the problems associated with treatment were due to the fact that, as the author concludes, "despite much blather to the contrary, relations between China and America are far from 'normalized.'"

But John did not die of inadequate care or unsanitary medical facilities. He died of viral encephalitis.

And specialists from all over the world have now confirmed that, once the disease was contracted, no treatment exists which could have saved our son; even if he had somehow been whisked to Johns Hopkins within minutes, the result would have been no different.

He died because he had not been protected against the disease at the outset. That protection would have been available if pharmaceutical companies were to produce a vaccine against the disease — a quite feasible undertaking — and if our government were to recommend such inoculation. They do not produce it today because, as an "orphan vaccine," it would simply not have an adequate market to produce profits commensurate with the industry's other products.

If Finkelstein has identified the wrong villains in the story, he has also failed to note its heroes. Since there is no known treatment for encephalitis, the Chinese doctors and nurses were as well able

to provide supportive care as in any hospital in the world.

Within the limits of their capacities they ministered to our son's needs with skill, and with dedication and love which compare favourably to any we have seen in an American hospital.

Our daughters received a letter written by one of John's classmates in Beijing, telling of an extraordinary moment when the chief doctor at the hospital "told your folks that he is caring for John as though John were his own son. And he spoke with all his soul, and he cried in your father's arms."

The Chinese doctors were well aware of their own deficiencies in the sort of intensive care we take for granted in America; indeed, it would be surprising if a country in China's economic posture could (and perhaps even should) allocate scarce resources in that fashion.

When they had reached their limits, far from "balking" at the assistance of American specialists, they welcomed new ideas and more advanced methods and equipment.

Our son was seen in Beijing by the chief of the Infectious Diseases Branch at the National Institutes of Health from Washington; by the heads of the departments of neurology at both Columbia University and the University of Chicago, and, ultimately, by a remarkably gifted and dedicated man, Dr. David Jackson, director of the Centre for the Critically Ill at Case Western Reserve University Hospital.

Dr. Jackson, whom we had never met, came to Beijing, as later did his wife, a highly trained nurse, and together they provided the kind of specialized care for which the Chinese are not equipped.

As the chief doctor in Beijing wrote us: "It was a very good idea to bring Dr. Jackson here; he is a fine doctor. And it was the right thing to do to take your son home to try to save him."

The arrival of these doctors—and the formidable logistical task of staging an evacuation—was not obstructed by "obdurate authorities."

To the contrary, visas were issued, red tape was cut and bureaucratic processes were accelerated to an apparently unprecedented degree.

In short, it was not only John's fellow students, the Air Force, the American Embassy and a host of officials and unofficial sponsors, prodders and wellwishers in the United States, China and Japan who were feverishly at work to try to save John's life—it was the Chinese themselves, extending to the highest levels of the Chinese Government.

Thus, far from serving as "just one poignant illustration of the degree of misinformation and mistrust that continue to haunt both sides," it seems to me that "the episode of John Zeidman's sad, untimely death" may illustrate a quite different proposition.

Indeed, John might well have read and been thinking of Finkelstein's *New Yorker* article when he wrote: "It's interesting to see the things that the reporters say you can't do. They say—'you can't go to eat in a Chinese restaurant unless you are fluent in Chinese,' 'you can't rent a bicycle' and 'you can't ride the subway without permission.' I think it would be helpful if some of these reporters left their apartments occasionally."

Just as John's life in China epitomized how an open, concerned young man can evoke similar responses from the Chinese with whom he came into contact, so did John's illness elicit emotions and actions which transcended differences between people and nations.

Ironically, one of the Chinese quoted in Finkelstein's 1979 article provides not only an appropriate balance to the author's generally jaundiced view, but also a summary of what John was doing in China as a youth, and what he might have done as an adult had he lived: "China's salvation lies with the younger generation. If their minds can be opened—and to that end interaction with the West is important—our society, too, might become a more open one."

John's funeral was attended by 800 people (as Finkelstein describes it, "mourned only by his family and friends"). We took the occasion to announce that we would seek to perpetuate the values for which John's life stood by establishing a memorial fund to encourage other enterprising young Americans to study Chinese language, history, politics and culture.

The Sidwell Friends School in Washington has agreed to initiate such a programme with the funds we will raise.

When we go back to China, as we surely will, we hope some day to find John Zeidman Memorial Scholars who have pursued their interest, to the benefit of both nations, and have become doctors, teachers, diplomats . . . perhaps even a China specialist for the Ford Foundation.

The true lesson of John's life and death is that we continue to believe that that is an effort worthy of his memory.

— From "Washington Post"



OPINION

Fei Xiaotong on Small Production Mentality

IN a talk about the relationship between science and social development, Professor Fei Xiaotong (Fei Hsiao Tung) said: China's small production has a history of thousands of years. Today, although small production mentality does not occupy a dominant position, it is still widespread and remains a social influence that is incompatible with modernization. Conditions should be created to eliminate it.

Small production mentality exists not only among the peasants but also in the intellectual circles. People of different specialities in a university have no common language, just like the Chinese proverb that says: "Different trades are like to be separated by mountains." This narrow outlook naturally limits the development of academic ideas. Even those in the same speciality seldom have mutual exchanges for fear that their own achievements will be taken by others. What is this but the social psychology of small production?

Only by having a wide range of knowledge is it possible to provide a solid basis for expanding academic study to a higher and deeper level. Nowadays, our students are tightly bound to a speciality as soon as they enter the university. They focus on just a very few subjects. Their schedules are always full and they have no spare time. They always find themselves at a loss when asked

about things that require only a slight departure from their own speciality.

The present college curriculum seems to be leading the students to a blind alley that now should be opened up. Science and engineering colleges should establish social science courses, while liberal arts colleges should add natural science courses. More

elective courses should be offered by the universities. Students who are interested in them can participate and those who find it difficult to follow or lose their interest can quit if they want to give up the credit. I prefer open education, for science itself is open. This kind of education not only can enrich knowledge but can also do away with the narrow mentality of small production and reform the social psychology it fosters.

— *Science of Sciences and Scientific Technical Management*

LIFE

A Village in Anhui Province

Three Japanese journalists from *Japan and China*, the organ of the Japan-China Friendship Association, visited Fengyang County in Anhui Province at the end of last year. This east China county is one of those that have undergone great changes after instituting the

system of responsibility in farm production.

The journalists arrived at Houyang village at noon, just as a wedding was taking place. They asked if they could observe the ceremony.

They followed the guests as they poured into the courtyard



Wang Zhilin (centre), member of Wangwei commune, Anhui Province, selling surplus grain to the state.

decorated with lanterns and coloured streamers. They asked how the couple had met and then congratulated Zhang Lin, the bridegroom, and Lu Xue-rong, the bride. Then they were taken to see some rooms, one of which was stuffed with nearly five tons of grain.

Mr. Arai, one of the visitors, had never before witnessed a wedding in a foreign country. He was quite surprised to find so much grain stored in a peasant household. Yang Jingxian, the production team accountant, figured out what was in the guest's mind and described the changes in the village over the past few years.

There are 23 households with 101 people in the team. The average cultivated land per capita is 0.3 hectare. Prior to the founding of the People's Republic of China, more than half of the area's residents fled from famine and begged for food in other places. Because of its poverty, young women were unwilling to marry men in this village. So it became an "unmarried man" village. Until the end of 1979, bachelors accounted for 50 per cent of all the adults in the team.

Since 1980, Fengyang has carried out the system of responsibility in production and guaranteed more pay for more work. Commune members' vigour redoubled and grain output increased year by year. Before 1977, total grain output was below 50 tons, but, 85, 100 and 182.5 tons were produced in 1979, 1980 and 1981 respectively. Nearly 90 per cent of the peasant households produce 5 tons of grain each, and annual per-capita income has reached more than 800 yuan. In 1980 and at the end of 1981, six households of this production team celebrated marriages. Now

the peasants of Houyang village are full of joy.

Leaving the newlyweds' home, the Japanese visitors passed through the house of commune member Yang Jingli. A cadre explained that this household earns five yuan a day from poultry alone. The family breeds 20 ducks and 38 hens and collects 48 eggs every day (in China a kilo of eggs costs 2-2.4 yuan).

Arai and his colleagues later visited a brigade-run tailoring training class which helped them understand that the countryside

is a vast market for commercial products — the county needs 50,000 sewing machines, but the state can only provide 5,000, including the 1,800 produced by the Shanghai No. 1 Sewing Machine Factory.

After his visit, Arai said that China's social aim is to improve people's livelihood. This was his first close observation of the problems of such a big country. He was confused at the beginning, but felt he had a more objective view as a result of his visit. He had seen a part of China's transformation.

— "Anhui Ribao"

COMMENT

An Admirable Spirit

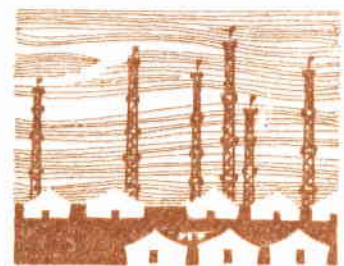
Not long ago, Yu Shuzhen, a solo performer of the Tianjin Opera and Ballet Theatre, proposed that at the theatre's Shanghai concert, the final piece, which she usually performs, be presented instead by young singer Guan Mucun. Yu Shuzhen has long been famous for her singing and is well liked by audiences. She regards Guan Mucun as her younger sister. However, the leadership advised her to perform as planned. She refused, saying, "The healthy growth of the young people should by no means be blocked by a veteran. Guan sings well and easily wins audience approval. I should give way to her."

On all fronts in our country, there are a great many "veterans," like Yu Shuzhen, both well-known and unknown. In consideration of the long-term interests of the Party and people, they are yielding their places in order to witness the early maturing of a new generation. This com-

mendable spirit can be attributed to their foresight and sagacity.

When Guan Mucun expressed her misgivings to Yu Shuzhen that she was as yet incapable of performing the final piece, Yu Shuzhen replied, "Don't be too modest. Twenty years ago, I was asked to take the place of the veteran, and my giving way to you today, 20 years after, is a natural law. I am confident that you will do the same in yielding your place to the young in the future. This is the only practical way for our art to flourish."

— "Anhui Ribao"



ARCHAEOLOGY

2,300-Year-Old Silks

Fifty well-preserved pieces of silk fabric, clothing and 50 other antiquities were recently excavated from the tomb of a woman who lived 2,300 years ago in the state of Chu of the Warring States Period.

The tomb is 20 kilometres northwest of Jiangling County, Hubei Province, an area known for its ancient culture. The state of Chu lasted for about 800 years and Jiangling was its capital for 410 years.

Archaeologists say that the tomb is a rare treasure house of silk fabrics. Discovered on the grounds of the Mashan Brick and Tile Factory, the tomb is called the No. 1 Mashan Chu Tomb. It is 200 years older than the No. 1 Han Tomb at Mawangdui on the outskirts of Changsha where a well-pre-

served female corpse was found in 1972.

The tomb is in a deposit of white clay and consists of a burial chamber, 2.9 metres by 1.5 metres, and a coffin. A female skeleton was found in the coffin with her two thumbs and two big toes tied together with red silk ribbons. The five fingers of the right hand remained intact; the hair was black and the teeth were in place.

Archaeologists estimate that the woman died at the age of about 50. Judging by the abundant burial accessories, they infer that she was a wealthy woman, possibly the wife of an official.

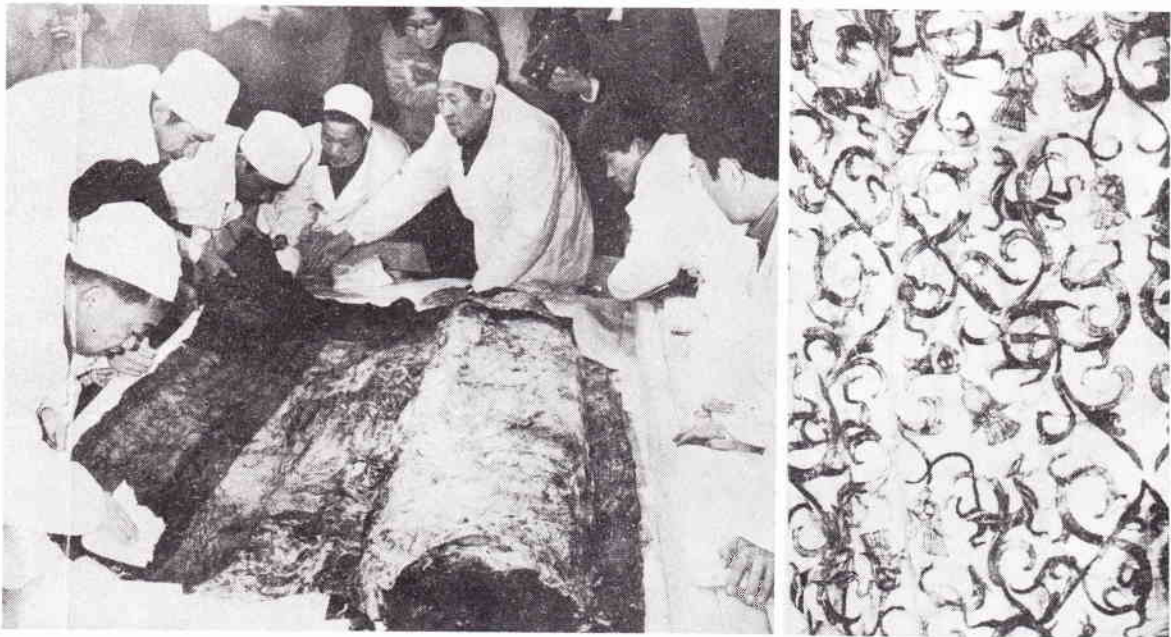
The coffin was draped in a piece of silk which was decorated with lace. On top of this was a 30-square-centimetre painting of a dragon and phoenix design in reddish brown on white silk.

Two embroidered quilt covers, two brocade covers, 12 pieces of clothing and one pair of brocade trousers are among the 50 silk artifacts. With the exception of two silk floss padded quilts all the silk fabric was wrapped around the corpse.

One brocade quilt measures 349 by 194 centimetres. It is lined with four pieces of plain white silk. The quilt cover is brown, decorated with embossed patterns of dragons, phoenixes, good-luck animals and dancing figures in golden yellow.

Another quilt is made of a plain weave silk embroidered in the *panchi* motif, a hornless dragon of ancient legends.

A very thin garment of silk gauze is embroidered with dragon, tiger and phoenix motifs which looked almost the same on both sides.



Left: Archaeologists carefully unwrapping silk fabric from the corpse.
Right: Brocade garment with embossed pattern of tigers and dragons.

The finds included bronzes, lacquered, wood and bamboo ware, pottery vessels and other utensils. Among the burial accessories were four wooden figurines with wigs and red lips who are dressed in embroidered garments.

Bronze Weaponry of Antiquity

Part of the over 10,000 weapons discovered near the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang (the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty) are now on permanent display in the museum of terracotta warriors and horses in Xian, Shaanxi Province.

The weapons include dagger-axes, spears, battle-axes, cross-bow triggers, swords, curved knives and long-handled triangular awl-shaped *shu*. With the exception of five iron weapons, all are bronze.

Bronze swords, arrowheads and other weapons, unearthed from their burial place five to six metres underground after 2,100 years are still polished, sharp. The bronze swords can cut through 19 pieces of newsprint at one stroke. Some arrowheads, comprising most of the 10,000 pieces, are without any trace of corrosion.

The state of Qin had abundant resources of copper ore. Some of the swords were cast in bronze with a rather low percentage of tin for strength and then overlaid in bronze with a fairly high percentage of tin so that the blade could be honed sharp. Qin swords were long, thin and narrow. Swords, spears and axes were carefully proportioned and skilfully crafted.

Li He, a poet of Tang Dynasty (618-907), wrote:

On tigerback, the Qin Emperor tours the land;

With radiance, his sword makes the sky bluer.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

A Flourishing Discipline

In recent years, Chinese scholars have stepped up their studies of comparative literature. Many articles have been published, such as *A Brief Outline of Comparative Literature* by Zhou Weimin, *European and American Literature in China* by Yuan Kejia, *the History of Comparative Literature* by Ji Xianlin, *Lu Xun's Works and Their Relations With Foreign Literature* by Wang Yao as well as many special works such as Qian Zhongshu's *Four Old Essays* and *Studies in Letters and Ideas*.

Two major areas of study can be roughly delineated—the study of influences and the study of parallels. The former examines causal relations between writings, the source and direction of particular literary elements. For instance, in his article *Foreign Dramas in China* written in 1980, Mao Dun systematically described how Japanese plays of the new school influenced the emergence of China's modern drama in 1907 and its development. By studying common trends, scholars of this discipline search for evidence of influences among different literature. For instance, the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) masterpiece of poetic drama *Orphan of the House of Zhao* aroused great interests among European scholars in the 18th century after it had been translated by the Jesuit missionary father Prémairé,

and adapted by Voltaire (1694-1778) into *L'Orphelin de la Chine* and by Metastasio (1698-1782) into *L'Eroe Cinese*. The 18th-century critic Richard Hurd and the Chinese scholar Wang Guowei (1877-1927) considered the poetic drama of the piece comparable to the great Greek tragedies.

Qian Zhongshu makes remarkably thorough efforts in the study of parallels. Basing himself on different cultural genealogies, he tries to seek the common laws of literary creations, i.e., "a common literary mind." His *Studies in Letters and Ideas* represents his contributions in this field. In this work he presents his views on reading *Authorized Annotated Edition of the Book of Songs* and nine other classics. He quotes more than 10,000 sample sentences from both Chinese and foreign literary works or literary theoretical works, to support his theory that Chinese and foreign literatures are surprisingly harmonious and compatible. A character in *Strange Tales of Liao Zhai* written by Pu Songling (1640-1715), a young girl named Qing Mei, is described as "apt at serving others, able to listen with her eyes and speak with her eyebrows," whereas in *Troilus and Cressida* by William Shakespeare (1564-1616), the heroine is referred to with the words, "There's language in her eye, her cheek, her lip; Nay her foot speaks."

In the *History of the Later Han Dynasty*, General Ma Wu (?-61) was quoted as saying: "It is hard to collect the water spilt," whereas the *Old Testament* said: "As water spilt upon the ground which cannot be gathered up again."

The 2,000-year-old *Book of Songs* described love affairs

as "It is hard to go upwards to meet the girl standing on the other bank, for the road is long and full of obstacles," whereas Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) said in *The Divine Comedy*: "She smiled from the river's right bank: three steps away made it seem so distant."

The story *The Emperor's New Clothes* by Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875) is very popular in China, in which the emperor has nothing on but is tricked by a tailor into believing he is wearing new clothes. A similar description is to be found in the sixth-century book *Lives of Eminent Buddhist Monks* by Hui Jiao. The tale goes like this: When a madman asked a spinner to spin, "and the more finely spun the better," the spinner says, pointing to the air, "that is a finely spun thread." The madman asks, "why is it not to be seen?" The spinner replies, "The thread is extremely fine. It shows how skilful I am. Even I cannot see it, how can others?"

Zhuang Zhou (c. 369-286 B.C.) said in his *Zhuangzi* that the soul flew to the sky like a butterfly, whereas Dante said: "Don't you see that we are worms born in order to become angelic butterflies." They lived far apart and at different times. It is impossible that they could have plagiarized each other. Qian believes that the study of anthropology has suggested that the similarity of life patterns in early human society inevitably left similar imprints on the spirit of every nationality.

Chinese scholars also conduct their studies from the angle of psychological characteristics common to all nationalities. Wang Bao (c. 513-576) said in his *Prose Poem on the Bamboo Flute*: "Those who are well versed in melody know its

sorrow," whereas Persy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) said in his *A Defence of Poetry*: "The melancholy. . . is inseparable from the sweetest melody."

In 1930, the Chinese translator Fu Donghua rendered the French scholar Frédéric Loliee's book *Histoire des Littératures Comparées des Origines au XX^e Siècle* into Chinese. Earlier, many scholars used similar methods to guide their studies. Liang Qichao, for one, equalled Huang Zunxian's (1848-1905) poem to the Western epic, saying that Homer was "an ancient literary giant," and that poems of Shakespeare and John Milton (1608-1672) were "full of power and grandeur." He said that Chinese literature seemed to be "comparable to that of the West." He also said that Huang's poem was "two thousand words long and structurally without parallel."

Basing his views on the rise and fall of some other countries, in 1907 Lu Xun wrote *On the Demoniac Poets*, one of the greatest works of early comparative literature, in which he expounded the common laws governing literary development and urged China "to seek new voices from other countries."

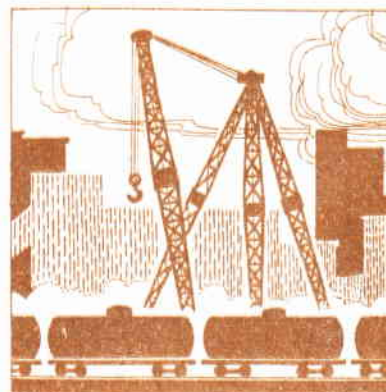
During the May 4th Movement in 1919, China absorbed a great deal of the West's advanced scholarship, thus pushing its study of comparative literature to a new height. For instance, Guo Moruo published *On Chinese and German Literature* in 1923 and Xu Dishan *Sanskrit Plays in China* in 1925, which were followed by the publication of a series of valuable articles and works dealing with the influences of Chinese literature on that of Europe, such as *Chinese Dramas in Britain in the 17th and 18th Centuries* by Fan Cunzhong and *Study on Chinese*

and German Literature by Chen Quan, both in the 30s.

In the 40s, Zhu Guangqian published *On Poetry*, in which he applied Western aesthetics and literary psychology to the study of Chinese poetry. Yang Xianyi published *Miscellaneous Jottings on Literature*, in which he made a comprehensive study on and comparison between Eastern and Western literature. In his *On the Art of Poetry* written in 1942, Qian Zhongshu made a comparative study on East-West literature and arts and other areas of the humanities. The study in this field continued till early 50s. After that, however, differences appeared in the academic circles. Some continued their studies while others considered the study bourgeois.

Today, the study of comparative literature in China is being conducted in an organized way rather than by individuals working alone as in the past. In February last year, a comparative literature research society was set up in Beijing University which publishes two magazines, the *Bulletin of the Society* and *Series of the Society*. One of its series, *Translation of Works of Comparative Literature* has just come off the press.

— Guan Jian



ART PAGE

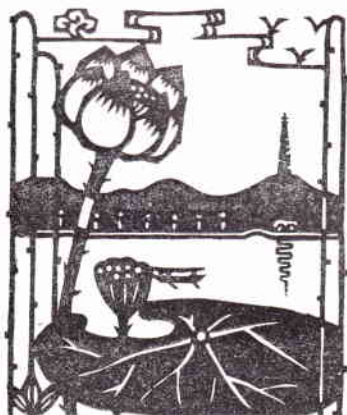
Charm of the West Lake

— Papercuts by Song Shenglin



"Whilst there is paradise in the heaven, on the earth we have Suzhou and Hangzhou." This is a Chinese proverb in praise of the picturesque scenery of Hangzhou on the shore of the West Lake. All year round throngs of tourists fill this city. Artists never lose a chance to recapture its beauty. These papercuts here give a glimpse of Hangzhou's legendary lake-side landscape.

Song Shenglin is a local primary school teacher. He does papercutting as a hobby.



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