

Vol. 26, No. 10

March 7, 1983

*Congratulatory Messages
To Beijing Review*

BEIJING REVIEW

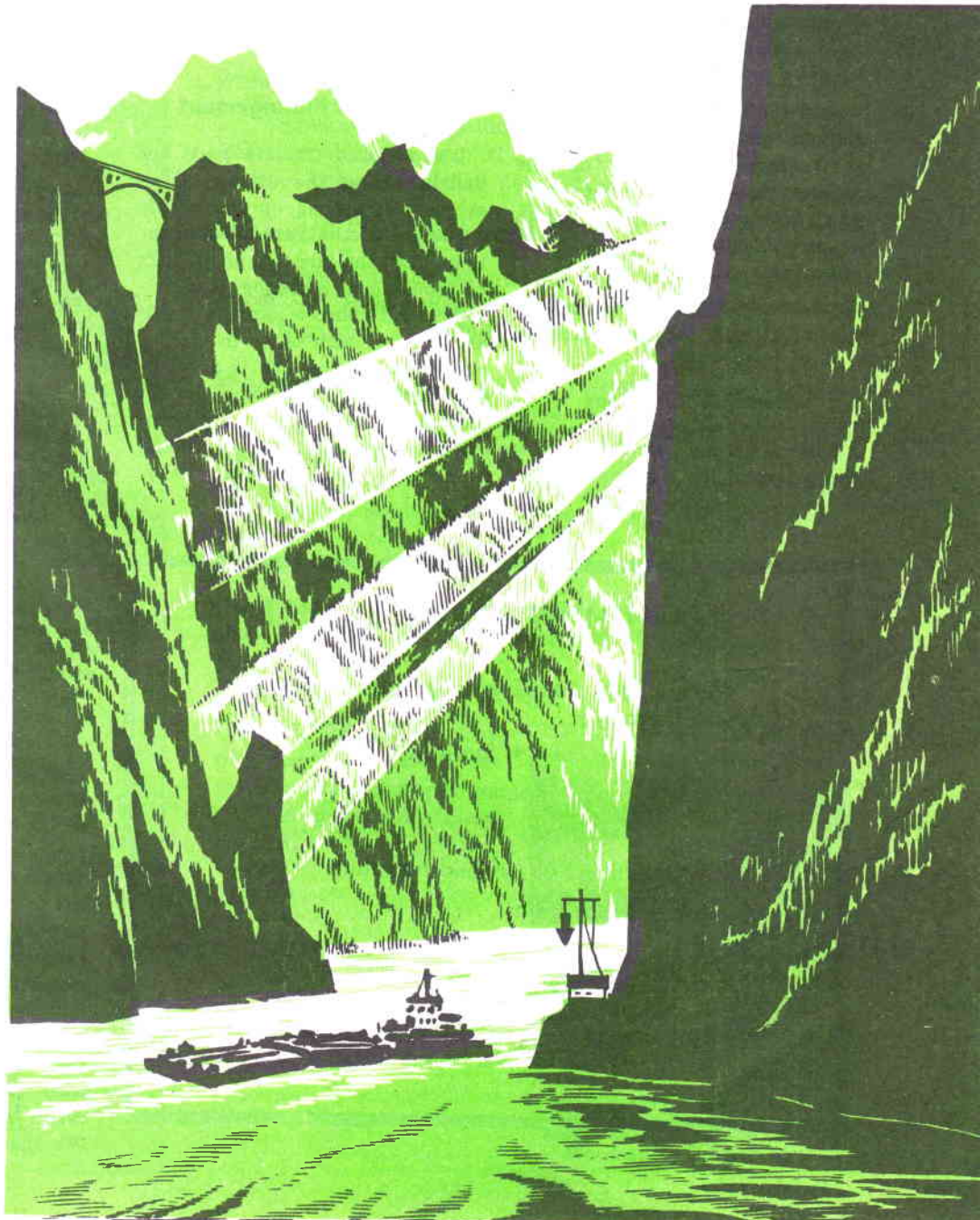
北京周报

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

China's Proposal
On Kampuchean
Issue

Changjiang — A
Major Inland
Navigation
Artery

Women's Role
In the
Countryside



LETTERS

25th Anniversary

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of *Beijing Review* please accept my congratulations and best wishes for the future of your magazine.

I have been a reader of *Beijing Review* for 10 years. As a member of the Denmark-China Friendship Association I have been to China twice. Regular information from China is much needed to keep up with new developments.

Over the last couple of years the content has been improved and the informative level of the articles raised. I do hope that you'll continue publishing indepth articles about domestic and international affairs.

Erik Simonsen
Odense, Denmark

Readers' Opinions

I like *Beijing Review's* new cover, especially the typeface of

the title. I once criticized the Chinese seal on the cover of your last year's issues and now I am delighted to see that you have reacted to my suggestion. I would like to say that your respect for the readers' opinions is really praiseworthy.

Of course, the contents are most important. As a reader of 10 years, I agree with you that the weaknesses of the magazine are being overcome and it is now more understandable and informative. I hope this will continue.

Gerhard H. Pilzer
Köln, FRG

Personnel Management

We overseas Chinese here are delighted that the Chinese Government is calling on the people to work for the four modernizations. But the question of the lack of professional personnel is worrisome. All countries in the world are chasing each other in science and technology, which is developing rapidly. Those who do not catch up will be left out. Modernization needs a lot of professional personnel, whose training takes

more than two decades. That is why talented and hard-working people are precious. We all thought it was unfortunate that, according to *Renmin Ribao*, the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry underutilizes its scientific workers.

Why does this ministry waste so many technical personnel? The main reasons are as follows: First, the managers' wages are fixed, so the way they deal with their work does not affect their own income. Second, the system of personnel management is poor. In China, administration is decided by individual persons instead of being controlled by rules and regulations. Therefore, contradictions and differences between people of the upper and lower levels exist. This shows that the personnel management is not suitable to an advanced society.

Japanese enterprises do it differently. First, they assign professional personnel to important positions with heavy work loads and clear tasks; second, there is a checking-up system. Those who have not done a good job and are often absent give up their positions and their wages and bonuses will be reduced accordingly. This is acceptable to all and there is no need for the leading people to talk to them, saving the time for more work. Such a system produces few arguments between employees and the management. It is the system that promotes people's initiative and enthusiasm. So, I would like to suggest that China adopt an effective system to administer personnel and check up on work.

Pan Baoji, President of the Shizuoka Overseas Chinese Society
Shizuoka, Japan

Read CHINESE LITERATURE

for the best of classical and contemporary Chinese literature

- Stories
- Poems
- Plays
- Articles on art and literature
- Art reproductions

Read CHINESE LITERATURE every month.

Order CHINESE LITERATURE through
China Publications Centre (GUOJI SHUDIAN)
P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

In recent years, China has started reforms in various fields including the personnel system, management and utilization of professional personnel. Initial results have already been obtained in some respects. The Chinese Party and Government pay much attention to absorbing foreign experience useful to China's socialist modernization. You may have read in our magazine reports in this field. We shall carry more. — Ed.

BEIJING REVIEW

Published every Monday by
BEIJING REVIEW
24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing
The People's Republic of China

Vol. 26, No. 10 March 7, 1983

CONTENTS

LETTERS

| | |
|--|------|
| TO OUR READERS | 4 |
| GREETINGS TO 'BEIJING REVIEW' | 5 |
| BRINGING OUR MAGAZINE TO YOU | 6-7 |
| EVENTS & TRENDS | 8-11 |
| Enterprises are liberated from 'big pot' | |
| Another offshore well strikes oil | |
| Tianjin water project nears completion | |
| Food hygiene law to take effect | |
| Strengthen rural technical work | |
| Government aids the rural poor | |

| | |
|---|-------|
| INTERNATIONAL | 12-14 |
| Palestine: Fruitful national council session | |
| Viet Nam: Another troop withdrawal hoax | |
| Japan: Nakasone acknowledges history | |
| United States: Reagan takes grave step backward | |

| | |
|--|----|
| ARTICLES & DOCUMENTS | |
| Foreign Ministry statement (March 1, 1983) | 15 |
| Relationship between economic and political independence | 16 |
| Rural women and the new economic policies | 18 |

| | |
|--|----|
| SPECIAL FEATURE | |
| The mighty Changjiang River | |
| A vital water thoroughfare | 21 |
| Changjiang — a brief introduction | 24 |
| Comprehensive plans for the river's future | 25 |

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| CULTURE & SCIENCE | 28 |
|-------------------|----|

| | |
|-------|-------|
| BOOKS | 29-30 |
|-------|-------|

| | |
|----------|----|
| ART PAGE | 31 |
|----------|----|

Distributed by China Publications
Centre (GUOJI SHUDIAN),

P. O. Box 399, Beijing, China

Subscription prices (1 year):

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Australia A. \$12.00 | USA US\$13.00 |
| New Zealand NZ. \$14.00 | UK £6.80 |
| Canada Can. \$15.00 | |

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

China's Position on the Kampuchean Issue

While revealing the true intention behind Viet Nam's latest "offer" on conditional troop withdrawals from Kampuchea, a Foreign Ministry statement details China's proposal for the solution of the Kampuchean question (p. 15).

Major Step in Economic Reform

The new tax structure for state industrial and commercial enterprises improves their management, benefits the enterprises and their workers and boosts their contributions to state revenues (p. 8).

Palestine National Council Congress

Showing strong national unity, the 16th session of the Palestine National Council rejects Reagan's plan as it fails to meet basic Palestinian demands (p. 12).

Grave US Step Backward

Reagan's statement on US arms sales to Taiwan to the weekly *Human Events* shows a grave step backward in the US position on Sino-US relations (p. 14).

Women's Role in the Countryside

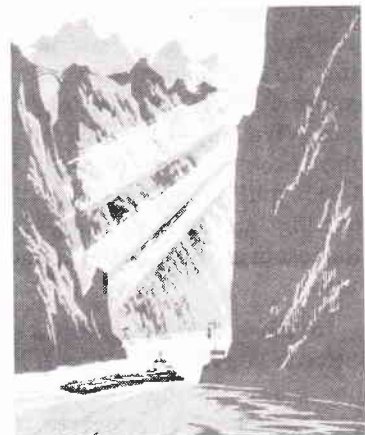
With the adoption of the responsibility system, rural women are taking up sideline occupations and making more money. This has enhanced their interest in taking advantage of public services to learn new skills (p. 18).

Economics and Politics

Third world countries strive for economic independence after they win political independence (p. 16).

The Mighty Changjiang River

Special feature on China's plan to transform the world's third longest river into an important inland navigation artery (p. 21).



Along the Changjiang River.
Woodcut by Zheng Shufang

To Our Readers

CHINA, a land of ancient civilization and youthful vitality, is attracting the attention of increasing numbers of people around the world.

The Chinese people won their liberation in 1949. Since then, they have worked with a determination to turn the world's most populous nation into one free from exploitation of man by man where all labouring people live in happiness, the people's wisdom is given full play and the natural resources are fully tapped.

Our progress has certainly not been smooth sailing and there are many difficulties and problems to be tackled. Our pioneering efforts in all fields of endeavour sometimes do not yield the desired results. But such efforts are by no means futile: Tremendous, profound changes have taken place throughout our vast territories, both urban and rural.

Old China left us poverty and backwardness. Yet, starting on this basis, we have established socialist public ownership of the principal means of production and an independent, relatively comprehensive industrial system. We have basically solved the problem of feeding our 1,000 million population, thus putting an end to starvation, the scourge of China's bygone days.

In the last three decades our citizens' average life expectancy has nearly doubled. The Chinese people, who were scorned as "sickmen of East Asia" in

the dark past, have won hundreds of gold medals in international sports competitions.

Gone for good are the days when imperialists could impose unequal treaties upon us with the sheer force of gunboats. Today, upholding its own ideals and principles, socialist China follows an independent foreign policy and will never be subservient to any big power. Together with third world countries and all other peace-loving, justice-upholding nations, it is fighting against hegemonism and for world peace.

This explains why more and more people in the world take a keen interest in what is happening in our country.

Beijing Review is precisely designed to meet the needs of those who seek more knowledge of China's developments in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, its efforts and progress in the socialist modernization drive as well as its viewpoints on major world events.

The English edition of *Beijing Review* (then called *Peking Review*) first appeared on March 4, 1958. Beginning from March 1963, the French, Spanish, Japanese and German editions were successively added. Today, the five editions are airmailed weekly to 150-odd countries and regions.

To satisfy our readers' desire for knowledge of China, *Beijing Review* also publishes the *China Today* and *China and the World* series and other pamphlets.

In the last quarter century *Beijing Review* has done its share in enhancing the understanding of China throughout the rest of the world, in furthering the friendship between the people of China and other countries and in safeguarding world peace and promoting the progressive causes of mankind. In this process we have made many friends from other countries. Our editorial department receives a constant stream of letters from all over the world, which we see as tremendous encouragement from our readers and friends. Some of these letters are published in our "Letters" column.

As the old Chinese saying goes, "Although we are separated by mountains and oceans, so long as we seek mutual understanding, we are close friends." It is with this belief that we will redouble our efforts to promote friendship and mutual understanding among the people of all countries. To achieve that end we hope to hear more criticisms and suggestions from you, our readers.

— Editor



Greetings to 'Beijing Review'

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the English edition of "Beijing Review," several Party and state leaders and renowned social figures have sent greetings. Four are reproduced here. Our next issue will carry others and will cover the celebration activities. — Ed.

庆祝北京周报创刊廿五周年

为增进各国人民的了解，
为发展各国人民的友谊，
不断的努力！

邓颖超 1982.8 于北京

May your unceasing efforts yield greater understanding and friendship among the people of all countries.

Deng Yingchao

Member of the Political Bureau of the
CPC Central Committee, Vice-Chairman
of the NPC Standing Committee

“北京周报”多年来，对于报导中国
事情，传达中国对于国际事务的观点，
沟通中国人与外国人之间的看法，
思想，起着极大的作用。随着中国改革
重大作用的，盼望今后百尺竿头更进一步，
不断总结经验，改进工作，以便
发挥更大、更好的作用。


一九八二年八月

BEIJING REVIEW has played — and continues
to play — an important role in presenting China
to the outside world, conveying its views on
international affairs and bringing the people of
China and other countries closer together by
giving expression to their opinions and feelings.
May you sum up your experience and make
further progress.

Huan Xiang

Adviser to the Chinese Academy of
Social Sciences

二十五年來北京週報
 對於報導中國事情
 傳達中國對於國際
 事務的看法，溝通
 中國人與外國人之
 間的思想，起着極
 大的作用。隨着中
 國改革重大作用的
 開展，盼望今後百
 尺竿頭進一步，不
 斷總結經驗，改進
 工作，以便發揮更
 大、更好的作用。
 一九八二年八月
 李一氓

BEIJING REVIEW has done well in a quarter
of a century. It should continue its good work
to keep readers abroad informed of China's
political, economic and social reforms and its
policy of opening to the outside world.

Li Yimang

President of the Association for In-
ternational Understanding of China

《北京周报》在中国人民和世界各国
人民之间架起了一座相互了解的桥梁，
祝愿你们的工作不断发展！

薛暮桥

一九八二年十一月十日

Best wishes to BEIJING REVIEW which ser-
ves as a bridge promoting understanding be-
tween the people of China and other countries.

Xue Muqiao

General Secretary of the Economic
Research Centre under the State
Council

Bringing Our Magazine to You



English, French, Japanese, Spanish and German editions of "Beijing Review."



Wang Xi (middle), director and editor-in-chief, and two other leading editors discuss ways to improve the magazine.



A reporter and photographer cover a story at the Shoudu Iron and Steel Company.



Interviewing a Shahe commune member in Changqing County.



English edition personnel at work.





Editors of the international department discuss the week's news.



Printing the magazine at the Foreign Languages Printing House.



Typesetting the Spanish edition at the Foreign Languages Printing House.

Mail room workers prepare the magazine for international delivery by air.



Preparing and checking copy.

Enterprises are liberated from 'big pot'

Enterprises will pay more taxes but will have greater control over profits. This is a major aspect of the current economic reform. According to a recent decision by the Ministry of Finance, this will gradually be brought about in all state-owned enterprises within this year.

Before 1979, under the so-called "big pot" system, state industrial and commercial enterprises turned all profits plus a small tax over to the state. The state covered the losses of troubled state enterprises.

Under this system, it was irrelevant to enterprises and workers whether the enterprise management was good or poor. The "pot" system greatly hampered workers' enthusiasm and the development of productive forces.

Under the current system, enterprises no longer hand in profits to the state but instead pay more in taxes such as income tax, industrial and commercial tax and fixed assets tax. Thus, the income of the state is guaranteed, while the enterprises control the use of their profits after taxes and have greater power of self-determination.

The new system was first tried out in 1979 in Hubei Province and gradually adopted in many other places.

It has already increased state revenues, enterprise profits and workers' incomes. A survey of 456 industrial enterprises in 18 provinces and municipalities shows that one year after the new system was instituted, the total output value increased by 2.5 per cent, sales rose 8.9 per cent, profits jumped 18 per cent

and the state collected 13.6 per cent more in taxes.

In Sichuan Province, 99 commercial establishments paid a total of 112.6 million yuan in taxes over three years, nearly twice the amount of money in profits handed to the state in the three years before the new system was instituted.

Today enterprises themselves can determine how their profits will be utilized. Previously, leading authorities had to approve allocations whenever enterprises needed funds to replace equipment or improve workers' benefits.

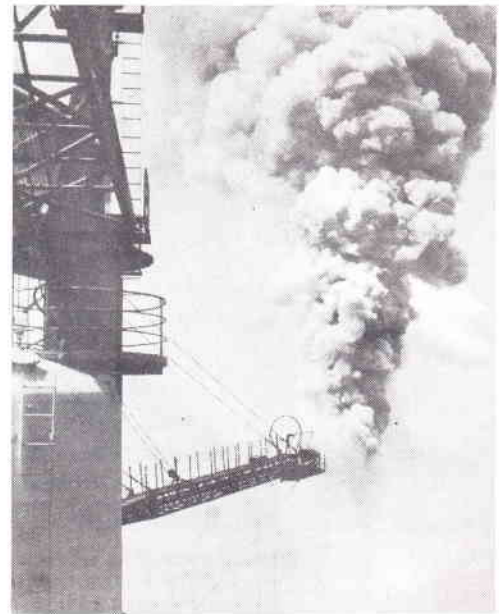
Under the new system, eight industrial enterprises in Guangdong Province doubled their profits in two years. After taxes, they used their retained profits to purchase 750 pieces or sets of equipment, complete 204 major technical reform projects and raise the wages of 60 per cent of the work force.

The close links between the enterprises' benefits and workers' welfare and the effectiveness of enterprise management have provided strong incentives for increased productivity.

Another offshore well strikes oil

A new exploration well in the Sino-Japanese joint exploration area in the southern part of the Bohai Sea has reported an oil flow of commercial value.

Tests show that the well will produce an average of 250 tons of crude oil and 8,900 cubic metres of natural gas a day. The



An exploratory well in the Sino-Japanese joint exploration area in the Bohai Sea.

crude oil has a specific gravity of 0.89 and contains no water.

Drilling of the well started on September 7, 1982 and was completed on December 29. The 4,095-metre well began showing oil at 3,000 metres. The oil-bearing structure where the well is located is the fourth of its kind verified since Sino-Japanese joint exploration started in 1980.

The drilling was done by the Bohai No. 4 rig of the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) which was set up in February 1982 to take charge of China's offshore oil exploration in co-operation with foreign firms.

Chen Binqian, spokesman for CNOOC, said that the success of this exploration well is further evidence of the future prospects for Sino-Japanese joint exploration in the southern part of the Bohai Sea. The two sides have agreed to extend the period of joint exploration in the designated area of the Bohai Sea

from the original five years to seven years, terminating in May 1987. The exploration investment has been increased to US\$600 million from the original sum of US\$210 million.

China has abundant oil resources. Oil and gas fields have been discovered in 19 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. The offshore areas of the Bohai Sea, the South China Sea and the southern part of the Yellow Sea also have rich oil reserves.

China had already conducted fairly systematic geophysical prospecting and a limited number of drilling tests on the coast-

al continental shelf in 1957. Since 1979, it has signed agreements with dozens of foreign oil companies which provided the funds and techniques for the seismographic general survey of 420,000 square kilometres of the South China Sea and southern part of the Yellow Sea. China has also signed contracts with French and Japanese oil companies for joint prospecting and exploitation of offshore oil in the Bohai Sea and part of the Beibu Gulf waters in the South China Sea.

Promising oil and gas reserves have been verified in these offshore areas.

finished in two months, even though the original plan allowed four months.

The project includes more than 130 kilometres of canal, 11 kilometres of tunnels, five pumping stations, over 100 bridges, reservoirs and waterworks.

The whole project is arduous and complicated. Take the tunnels for example. According to existing technical conditions, it would take 15 years at least. But, the two units of the People's Liberation Army, which were assigned the task of digging, worked hard day and night. They dealt with difficulties in a scientific manner and rationally arranged the times for digging. In one year and a half, they have finished 76 per cent of the tunnelling.

Under the original plan, the project was scheduled for completion in 1984. However, because of the smooth progress, it will be completed before October 1 this year.

With a population of 7.6 million, Tianjin is one of China's largest industrial cities, second only to Shanghai. Water consumption for the people's daily life increased eight fold between 1950 and 1980, and that for industrial production, 71 fold. At present, some factories have stopped production or operated at half capacity because of the water shortage.

The 880-kilometre-long Luanhe River originates in Zhangjiakou Prefecture. It runs across Tangshan Prefecture and empties into the Bohai Sea near Leting County. The river has an average annual flow of 4,600 million cubic metres with a maximum of 7,400 million cubic metres. When completed, the project will supply Tianjin with 1,000 million cubic metres of water annually.

Tianjin water project nears completion

Rapid progress has been made in the 223-kilometre-long project to divert water from the Luanhe River to Tianjin since it began in May 1981. This project to alleviate the water shortage in the port city is expected to

finish a year ahead of schedule.

About 100,000 workers, peasants and office workers voluntarily took part in digging the 64-kilometre section from Baodi County to the northern outskirts of Tianjin. The earthwork was



A worksite of the project to lead the Luanhe River waters to Tianjin.

Food hygiene law to take effect

The recently promulgated Food Hygiene Law of the People's Republic of China will come into force on a trial basis as of October 1, 1983, to replace the 1979 regulations concerning food hygiene.

Of the 45 articles of the new law, eight set hygiene standards for food, food production and food additives and two list the kinds of food whose production is banned.

Special care has been shown for the health of babies with the fifth article ruling on staple and nonstaple food for babies.

Food containers and food packaging materials such as paper, plastics and rubber, according to the law, will be manufactured by specially designated factories. Pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals affecting the quality of food must be examined and approved by the State Council health department.

The Food Hygiene Law also stipulates that offenders will be punished according to the merits of their cases, with punishments ranging from fines, closure and license suspension to criminal liability in the event of death or disability.

Foreigners residing in China are also protected by the Food Hygiene Law. Food producing or processing enterprises jointly run with Chinese and foreign investment as well as foreign businesses operating in China also come under the law. A stricter inspecting system will be instituted for imported food, and China will refuse entrance

to any foods that do not meet the hygiene standards set by the government.

China has enacted several food hygiene regulations. The draft of the new Food Hygiene Law was revised five times drawing on experiences from

China and foreign countries and on the more than 1,000 opinions and suggestions from the departments concerned. The promulgation of this law will help strengthen China's supervision of food hygiene and ensure the people's health.

Strengthen rural technical work

To transform the present organization and system of scientific and technical work in China's countryside is an urgent task.

This work has long catered only to the needs of farming and fisheries, and cannot meet the all-round needs of rural development. Scientific research departments are not promptly informed of the urgent and knotty problems in agricultural production, nor are scientific and technical achievements popularized among the peasants on time. What is more, there are only a small number of agronomists and agro-technicians compared with the large rural population. Due to low pay and poor working conditions, 500,000 of the 860,000 agro-technicians trained since the founding of New China have left the villages to work elsewhere.

"A flexible policy should be adopted to encourage technical personnel to work in the countryside." This remark was made by Zhao Shouyi, Minister of Labour and Personnel, at a meeting on scientific and technical problems in the rural areas.

He suggested that measures be taken to allow personnel with professional knowledge to transfer to other departments

where they may develop their talents, and that a contract system of recruiting them be adopted gradually.

He said that awards should be given to those who have made inventions and discoveries.

Measures should be taken to encourage scientific and technical personnel to work in remote regions, plateaus, cold areas and in national minority regions. They should get higher incomes and better welfare facilities, he said.

He went on to say that a system of technical contracts should be adopted. The rewards earned by scientists and technicians in fulfilling technical duties under contract in their spare-time are entirely their own and are protected by law.

He Kang, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery, said that a network for popularizing agrotechniques should be set up with centres in every county. Their main task is to organize technical forces to make experiments, popularize techniques, train local technicians and provide technical services to the peasants.

Fang Yi, Chairman of the State Science and Technology Commission, reiterated at the

close of the meeting that it was necessary to speed up the technical transformation of agriculture and enormously raise the output of farmland giving medium or low yields. He said that scientists and technicians should work to open new branches of production in the rural areas, take more energetic measures to maintain the ecological balance, protect and make rational use of resources and protect the environment. He said that all this work has to be done by mainly relying on the masses and the society as a whole.

Government aids the rural poor

While encouraging a section of the peasants to become well-off in the course of readjusting its agricultural policy, the Chinese Government is also taking measures to assist the rural poor.

Last December, nine central government departments issued a joint circular calling on local governments and cadres to help poor families in rural areas.

Remarkable changes have taken place in the last few years thanks to the implementation of a series of rural economic policies and the production responsibility system. In 1982, the average income of Chinese peasants was 60 per cent higher than in 1979.

The circular said that in the past few years aid in both labour and money has been extended to 2.73 million poor families in the villages, of which one million now have enormously improved their economic conditions. But the rest still experience difficulties in both production and daily life due to inadequate labour, money or production techniques.



The Shi family which had difficulties in its livelihood has prospered with the responsibility system and their son now uses the family tractor to reap wheat for others.

The circular urges government departments and cadres at various levels to make continued efforts to help the poor.

Dezhou in Shandong Province is one of the poorest prefectures in China. In 1978, the annual average income per capita in 42 poorest communes was only 35 yuan (a basic subsistence level was 116 yuan). The local government therefore assigned a number of cadres to investigate the peasants' production and life in order to find out the reasons for poverty. Active measures were soon taken. In the cotton growing areas, for instance, their agricultural tax was either exempted or reduced. The government issued more loans and allocated additional chemical fertilizer and tractors to these places. Agronomists were sent to help train local technicians.

Production of both grain and cotton in these communes soon went up and the average income

per capita in 1981 shot up to 130 yuan, topping the prefecture average.

Laian County in Anhui Province was among the first counties where the production responsibility system was instituted after 1978. In spite of bumper harvests for several years running, the county leadership still kept in mind the poor families. Some 1,600 groups were organized to help them. Within one year, the majority of the households increased their grain output by 77.4 per cent, and oil-bearing crops by 150 per cent. Since then they have not only solved the problem of food and clothing, but have gained a new view of life.

The nine government departments issuing the circular included the State Economic Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery and the Agricultural Bank of China.

*Palestine***Fruitful national council session**

THE nine-day 16th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) ended on February 22 in Algiers, capital of Algeria.

A political statement was adopted and a new 14-member executive committee formed. Yasser Arafat was re-elected its chairman.

Stress on Unity

The statement stressed the need to strengthen the unity of all revolutionary groups within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to step up armed struggle against Zionism and unify all revolutionary forces within the national-liberation army.

The statement emphasized that the resolution of the Arab Fez Summit constituted the minimum programme of political activities for the Arab countries, and it must be complemented by military actions. It rejected US President Reagan's plan as an effective basis for seeking a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The statement said that Reagan's plan fails to satisfy, in form or content, the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people because it ignores their rights to return to their homeland, to self-determination, and to the creation of an independent Palestinian state, and because it rejects the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The congress took place at a crucial moment in the Palestinian revolution. The success of

the congress has demonstrated that the Palestinian people have not been intimidated by barbarous aggression and massacre. The PLO, sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has become even more united and determined to continue the struggle for recovering the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Delegations from more than 80 countries attended the congress, an indication of the PLO's growing international prestige.

Important Milestone

The unity of the Palestinian people is the mainspring of their strength and the guarantee of victory for their national-liberation struggle. The congress's resolve to hold high the banner of "national solidarity, mobilization and liberation," fully shows the determination of the Palestinian fighters and their confidence in victory. The PLO is a vital formidable force in Middle East politics. Any attempt to solve the Middle East issue without the participation of the PLO is doomed to failure.

The Chinese people expressed their admiration for the heroic spirit of sacrifice and perseverance of the Palestinian people. The Chinese Government and people will, as always, firmly support the just struggle of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, to achieve self-determination and to establish an independent state.

— Liu Hua

*Viet Nam***Another troop withdrawal hoax**

A STATEMENT issued at the end of a two-day (Feb. 22-23) summit meeting of Viet Nam, Laos and the Heng Samrin clique of Kampuchea in Vientiane announced that Viet Nam would make partial troop withdrawals from Kampuchea on a yearly basis beginning this year if three preconditions are met.

The Vietnamese troop pull-out offer is not new, but simply a refurbished version of an old trick designed to reduce international pressure on Hanoi.

Previous Offers

Viet Nam has made partial troop withdrawal offers on at least three occasions since it invaded Kampuchea in 1978. The timing of each announcement was carefully chosen.

The first offer was made at the 35th UN General Assembly Session with the intention of obstructing the adoption of the UN resolution calling for a complete Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Kampuchea.

The second, announced after Hanoi encountered strong opposition from the five ASEAN countries following its armed intrusion into Thailand, sought to lure Thailand and other ASEAN states into "contact" and "dialogue" with Hanoi.

The third offer, made in the wake of the signing of the declaration on the establishment of the Kampuchean tripartite coalition government and on the eve of the 37th UN General Assembly Session, was intended to offset the impact of the thus

strengthened Kampuchean resistance and avoid further UN condemnation.

This time Viet Nam has chosen the eve of the 7th Non-Aligned Summit to make its fourth offer. By so doing, Hanoi apparently hopes to influence the discussion of the Kampuchean question at the non-aligned summit, to escape further condemnations by the non-aligned countries and convince them to renounce their stand for an immediate, unconditional and complete Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Kampuchea.

Absurd Preconditions

Although the statement suggested that Viet Nam would pull out its invading troops from Kampuchea, the three preconditions it put forward reveal no sincere desire at all to do so.

The first precondition is removal of the so-called "threat from China." But it is not China who "threatens" Viet Nam, but rather Viet Nam, in collaboration with a superpower, which is threatening China in an attempt to deflect world attention from its actions in Kampuchea.

The Vietnamese use of the spectre of a non-existent "threat from China" as a means to reject the international call for its troop withdrawal from Kampuchea is a futile deception.

The second precondition requires a halt of all support to the Kampuchean patriotic forces, and the third, a guarantee for tranquillity on the Thai-Kampuchean border. Both are as absurd as the first, for they imply a reversed cause-effect relationship. If there had been no Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea, there would be no question of supporting the Kampuchean patriotic

forces. And if the Vietnamese aggressor troops had not engaged in military actions along the Thai-Kampuchean border, there would have been no problem of border tranquillity.

These preconditions indicate that the Vietnamese authorities are attempting to justify to the world their occupation of Kampuchea through spurious and strained excuses.

Moreover, the statement kept silent on the size, timetable and inspection of the Vietnamese annual partial troop withdrawals. The failure to mention these questions demonstrates Hanoi's intention to disguise its troop rotations or redeployments as troop withdrawals.

Japan

Nakasone acknowledges history

ANSWERING an inquiry before the Lower House Budget Committee on February 18, Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone stated that he accepted the international judgment that Japan's war against China was a war of aggression and should be seen as a lesson. This, the first official admission by a Japanese Prime Minister of Japan's aggression, is significant for the future development of Japan's friendly relations with China, and with Asian and Pacific countries.

The aggression of Japan's militarists not only inflicted disaster on the people of China and other Asian and Pacific countries, but also brought much suffering to the Japanese people. Japan's admission of its past aggression is not just a question of respecting the historical facts. It is also a question of whether Japan can learn from its defeat and stem the revival of militarism. This is the issue that

All in all, the latest Viet Nam troop withdrawal offer is simply a fraud designed to deceive world opinion.

Developments in both Kampuchea and the international community have shown more and more clearly that Viet Nam can never annex Kampuchea. Settlement of the Kampuchean question will be possible only if Hanoi is prepared to respect the relevant UN resolutions, withdraws all its troops from Kampuchea without delay, and restores peace, independence, neutrality and non-alignment to Kampuchea and peace and security to Southeast Asia.

— Liu He

most concerns peace-loving people all over the world.

Although some previous postwar Japanese governments admitted that Japanese actions in China, Asia and Pacific were shameful, it is regrettable that none admitted explicitly that Japan had conducted a war of aggression. This evasive attitude of successive Japanese governments has made possible the continued activities of the remnant Japanese militarists and has given rise to international fears that Japan might again embark on the road of militarist aggression. Given the present complicated international situation, continued obscurity on the nature of the Sino-Japanese war would inevitably hurt Japan itself and jeopardize its relations with other Asian and Pacific countries.

Prime Minister Nakasone's admission of Japan's past aggression against China is a positive step in continuing the de-

velopment of friendship and cooperation in Sino-Japanese relations. This, of course, is likely to meet with opposition from some in Japan, but furthering

Sino-Japanese friendship is the trend of history and expresses the desires of both peoples.

—“*Renmin Ribao*” commentary

United States

Reagan takes grave step backward

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan's statement on US arms sales to Taiwan made in a recent interview with the weekly *Human Events* departed from the fundamental principles contained in the Sino-US joint communique issued on August 17 last year. This indicates a grave step backward in the US position.

This development is unfortunate and contrary to our hope that the August communique would help lift the dark cloud over Sino-US relations and lead to a smooth development of these relations.

In summing up the August communique, Reagan said in the interview: "If the day ever comes that those two (China and Taiwan) find that they can get together and become one China, in a peaceful manner, then there wouldn't be any need for arms sales to Taiwan. And that's all that was meant in the communique. Nothing was meant beyond that." With these remarks, he discarded all the nine points of the communique, including the most essential ones on the US recognition of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China, on the mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs as the fundamental principles guid-

ing US-China relations, and on the reaffirmation of the Taiwan question being China's internal affair. The communique explicitly states that these fundamental principles "continue to govern all aspects of their relations," which naturally includes US arms sales to Taiwan, an issue left over from history.

Because he had departed from the basic principles of the August communique, Reagan stressed more outspokenly than ever that the United States "linked" the question of US arms sales to Taiwan to China's peaceful solution of the Taiwan issue. "All the reference to reducing arms is tied to progress in that," he asserted. These statements are obviously an interference in China's internal affairs. Throughout the year-long talks, the Chinese side maintained that peaceful solution of the Taiwan issue is entirely China's internal affair and must not be made a condition for the cessation of US arms sales to Taiwan. But in his recent interview, Reagan simply disregarded the commitment made by the US Government in the August communique that it "has no intention of . . . interfering in China's internal affairs." This represents a grave step backward.

Even more surprising is that in the interview Reagan did not

recognize the following obligations undertaken by his government in the August communique: "It does not seek to carry out a long-term policy of arms sales to Taiwan," "it intends gradually to reduce the sale of arms to Taiwan, leading, over a period of time, to a final resolution" and it "acknowledges China's consistent position regarding the thorough settlement of the issue." Instead, he scoffed at the idea that "just as time goes by, we're going to reduce the arms to them (Taiwan)." This is, again, a grave step backward.

It can be seen from Reagan's interview that he takes the "Taiwan relations act" as a document guiding Sino-US relations and totally disregards the basic principles of the Sino-US joint communique issued on August 17, 1982. That is why he did not say a single word about the communique but kept talking about "abiding by" and "carrying out" the terms of the "Taiwan relations act." In international relations, no one can tolerate such practice of trampling on solemn agreements with other countries and imposing one's own law on others.

It is true that there is also a sentence in his remarks which reads: "It would be foolish of us not to go forward with trying to keep good relations with the People's Republic of China." But what is required in order to maintain "good relations" with China is to abide by the communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States and last August's joint communique and do something in earnest to promote and not to damage Sino-US relations.

— *Xinhua correspondent*

Foreign Ministry Statement

March 1, 1983

ON February 23, 1983, the Vietnamese authorities issued a statement through the so-called "summit conference of the three Indo-chinese nations," announcing the "offer" of conditional, annual and partial troop withdrawals from Kampuchea and repeating their three unreasonable preconditions for a total troop withdrawal. This is another hoax produced by the Vietnamese authorities in order to divert public attention, cover up their criminal acts of aggression, deceive world opinion and extricate themselves from the internal and external difficulties which engulf them as their war of aggression against Kampuchea has gone on for four years.

As is known to all, the Kampuchean question is the result of Viet Nam's armed invasion and occupation of Kampuchea. The key to a settlement of the question lies in Viet Nam's unconditional withdrawal of all its aggressor troops from Kampuchea so that the Kampuchean people may decide their own destiny by themselves. The relevant resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly since its 34th session and the resolution and declaration of the International Conference on Kampuchea have all given expression to this correct and reasonable position. The Vietnamese authorities have refused to implement these resolutions and, after the failure of their past political manoeuvres, have resorted to new tricks and hit upon the idea of fixing a tag of "volunteers" to their aggressor troops in Kampuchea. These are indeed cheap tricks which make a laughingstock of themselves. At the same time, they again put forward three so-called preconditions for the total withdrawal of their troops, slandering the just action of China and the ASEAN countries supporting the Kampuchean people's resistance to Vietnamese aggression as a threat to their security. All this has been done in order to invent excuses for their continued execution of a policy of aggression and expansion and their refusal to withdraw all their troops from Kampuchea.

As for the so-called "annual partial withdrawals" of troops, it is nothing new either. It is just a reproduction of the deceitful "partial withdrawal" offer the Vietnamese authorities put forward last July. Although the withdrawals are now called "annual and partial," no time limit or numbers are specified, and the withdrawals are made dependent on "security conditions." How can such an announced "offer" of withdrawal be of any practical significance?

All justice-upholding and peace-loving countries and peoples wish to see a settlement of the Kampuchean question at the earliest possible date. The Chinese Government has repeatedly explained its basic position, views and proposals for a settlement of the Kampuchean question, which can be summed up as follows:

Viet Nam must first declare an unconditional withdrawal of all its troops from Kampuchea.

The Soviet Union should cease supporting Viet Nam's aggression against Kampuchea, and act in the spirit of the UN Charter and in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly by urging Viet Nam to withdraw all its troops from Kampuchea.

If the Vietnamese Government should decide to announce a withdrawal of all its troops from Kampuchea, the Chinese side would be willing, after the withdrawal of the first batch of Vietnamese troops, to resume negotiations with Viet Nam for the normalization of relations between the two countries. And along with the withdrawal of more Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea, the Chinese side would take practical steps to improve its relations with Viet Nam.

After the withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea, it should be up to the Kampuchean people themselves to settle all their internal issues, including the kind of so-

cial system and form of government to be set up in Kampuchea. The Chinese Government respects the Kampuchean people's right to self-determination. Taking the same position as that of most other countries of the world, China wishes to see an independent, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea.

China seeks no self interest on the question of Kampuchea. China is willing to make a joint commitment with other countries to refrain from any form of interference in the internal affairs of Kampuchea, to respect the independence, neutrality and non-aligned status of Kampuchea, and to respect the result of the Kampuchean people's choice made through a

genuinely free election to be held under UN supervision.

There is a profound traditional friendship between the Chinese and the Vietnamese peoples. The Chinese people are willing to make joint efforts with the Vietnamese people to overcome the obstacles so that this friendship can be resumed and developed. The Chinese Government is ready to take effective action together with the other peace-loving and justice-upholding countries and peoples to urge the Vietnamese Government to implement the UN General Assembly resolutions on Kampuchea so that a just and reasonable settlement of the Kampuchean issue may be realized at an early date. □

Relationship Between Economic And Political Independence

by Xing Anhuang

THE major common task facing the third world countries today is the need to safeguard their political independence and develop their national economies. With economic independence, the third world countries will be able to consolidate their hard won political independence.

Since World War II, many Asian, African and Latin American countries have thrown off the yoke of colonialism and achieved independence. This is a historical event of epoch-making significance.

In reality, however, this represents only the first step. Political independence needs to be ensured by economic independence.

Importance of Economic Independence

The importance of economic independence is based on the fact that, although the struggles of the oppressed peoples have forced the imperialists and colonialists to give up their colonial domination and make political concessions, they still try as hard as possible to preserve the old economic order in the third world through the practice of neo-colonialism. Consequently, many third world nations still remain subor-

dinate to their former colonial powers and are still burdened by the vestiges of the colonial or semi-colonial era.

These vestiges are apparent in the often lopsided economies of third world nations, in exploitation by price "scissors" on the international market where the third world countries can only export primary products and have to import manufactured goods, in business operations which are still subject to the control of foreign capital, in dependence on developed countries for technology, in restrictions on the acquisition of foreign capital imposed by the international monetary monopoly, and in heavy debts incurred as a result of the developed countries' control of financial resources and the exorbitant credit terms they impose.

With the stepped-up rivalry for global hegemony between the superpowers, many third world countries have also become targets of the superpowers' attempts to enlarge their spheres of influence. Economic penetration, control and exploitation are the major means by which the superpowers try to manipulate and rob the developing countries.

Thus, it is clear that following their political independence, the third world countries

must gradually achieve economic independence by developing their national economies in order to become truly independent.

After ridding themselves of colonial rule, some third world countries are able to map out policies and laws in compliance with their own conditions, thereby restricting and even eliminating colonial control and influence in their countries in order to build up their national economies in the interests of their own people. Many third world countries, after gaining independence, have set out to strip the imperialists of their special privileges, to regain their own legitimate rights and recover control of their own economic lifeline. They have supervised, regulated or nationalized those major economic sectors controlled or owned by foreign companies such as lands, mines and banks. This undoubtedly contributes greatly to the development of their national economies.

However, a number of third world countries have failed to free themselves of dependence upon the developed countries and have failed to abolish poverty and backwardness because of underdevelopment and the absence of timely, effective measures, thus leaving the door open for outside manipulation, interference and plunder. This severely limits their ability to maintain and consolidate their political independence, to play their proper roles in international affairs.

What is more, as third world countries become increasingly embroiled in the old international economic order, those third world countries which have not yet achieved economic independence will inevitably fall victim to fluctuations in world economic conditions, and become targets of the developed countries for exporting their economic crisis. Even those countries that have taken the first steps towards economic independence cannot be wholly exempt from such adverse impacts. As a result, economic troubles will provide a hotbed for social unrest and political turbulence.

In their attempts to maintain the old international economic order, the colonialists, imperialists and superpowers take advantage of the economic difficulties of some third world countries to weaken their economic strength. By this strategy they attempt to influence and change the domestic and foreign policies of some third world countries. Through economic penetration, they even attempt to find and foster proxies to subvert legal governments.

Today, the developed countries are facing the most serious economic depression since World War II. Therefore, it is of prime importance that the developing countries strive to develop and preserve their own national economies, eliminate foreign control and achieve economic independence. Only thus can they safeguard and consolidate their political independence.

The Task Ahead

Around the world the developing countries are uniting to call for a change in the old international economic order. The Latin American countries first launched a struggle against the superpowers for the 200 nautical-mile maritime rights. Some oil-exporting and raw material-producing countries have struggled to establish permanent sovereignty over their natural resources. In recent years the third world countries have made more efforts to build a new international economic order. All these struggles have limited somewhat the ability of the superpowers and developed countries to manipulate and exploit the developing countries at will. However, the North-South talks have not gained any substantial progress because the developed countries, especially the superpowers, have stubbornly stuck to the old international economic order.

More and more third world countries now realize that the key to economic independence is self-reliance. Self-reliance does not prevent a country from dealing with foreign countries on an equal basis and for mutual benefit, while upholding its national rights, controlling its economic lifeline, putting into full use its national resources and relying mainly on the strength of its own people. In keeping with the principle of self-reliance, a third world country can formulate its own policies and measures in accordance with its specific conditions, solve its economic problems independently and change step by step its old social and economic structure. It may analyse its own economic characteristics and, by building upon its own strengths and avoiding its weaknesses, develop a multiple economy so that dependence on foreign countries will be reduced as much as possible. Economic independence based on self-reliance also calls for proper control over foreign investments and rational use of advanced technology and business management introduced from other countries.

On the basis of self-reliance, it is essential for the developing countries to carry out economic co-operation and exchange among themselves and adopt a common stand in the struggle to change the irrational international economic order. Although economically backward, the third world countries, having their own respective economic characteristics, can supply each other's needs. It is also essential for them to unite because one country with a weak economy cannot free itself from the control of the big powers by itself.

The Bandung Conference of 1955 first put forward the principles for changing the old international economic order, for strengthening

co-operation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and for stabilizing the price of the raw material products. Since then, some developing countries which are raw material producers and exporters have set up specialized and regional organizations for economic co-operation. These organizations have played a significant role in freeing their member nations from the yoke of the old international economic order and in strengthening the position of the developing countries in their talks with the developed countries. South-South co-operation, or collective self-reliance, has already shown itself to be an important means for achieving economic independence in the third world. □

Rural Women and the New Economic Policies

by Our Staff Writer Wu Naitao

Since early 1979, the Chinese Government has encouraged economic diversification in the countryside and has implemented the production responsibility system and a series of other new economic policies. As a result, the rural areas have chalked up remarkable achievements. The following article explores the impact of these developments on rural women. — Ed.

LIU FENCHAN, 37, is a member of the Yangmingbao commune, Daixian County of Shandong Province. Her husband works in another place. Her four children live with her. Formerly sideline occupations by individual households were prohibited. Liu could do nothing but her household duties. Her family eked out a minimal living on the 40 yuan or so her husband earned each month.

However, when her commune adopted the responsibility system in 1981, she contracted with her brigade to provide all the baby silkworms for the villagers. She earned 1,700 yuan in the first year.

Her husband joked: "I never expected that you would earn more than I do." This change in Liu Fenchan's life epitomizes the current situation for China's rural women.

Good Prospects

Women have always constituted about 50 per cent of the labour force in China's country-

side. In the past, many of them joined men in heavy manual labour in the fields. Now that the government encourages diversified economy, women are maximizing their skills in planting, breeding, gathering, weaving and embroidery.

In the suburbs of Qiqihar in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 11,000 housewives are raising chickens and have contracted with the state enterprises to sell their products. They sell over 4 million kilogrammes of eggs every year, accounting for 85 per cent of the sales of fresh eggs in Qiqihar. This has not only increased the income of these households, but also improved the supply of eggs in the city.

Women in rural Fujian Province raised 1.25 million West German rabbits for export and earned US\$ 2.76 million in one year.

In 1981, 2,500 women in Luobiao commune, Gongxian County of Sichuan Province, signed contracts in the name of a group, a household or an individual for such diversified tasks as picking tea, managing orchards, breeding silkworms and raising pigs. They created a wealth of 1.38 million yuan and brought in 63.1 per cent of the commune's income from diversified undertakings. Income for these women from collective distribution rose nearly 100 per cent and they also received 370,000 yuan from their household sideline occupations.

The diversified economy has also enabled old, weak, sick and disabled women to take part in productive labour. Wan Qilan, 21, of the

Yongfeng commune in Nanjing, was unable to work because of childhood malnutrition. But she has a strong character and was unwilling to be supported by her parents for the rest of her life. She sought a contract to do processing work for the commune's knitwear mill. She earned 500 yuan for the first time in her life in 1981. Now she supports herself, has a savings account and supplements her parents' income. What is more important to her is that she is no longer dependent on her family.

Reasonable Remuneration

The former method of calculating work-points was generally determined by the recipient's physical strength rather than the results of the work done.

An able-bodied man usually was assigned nine to ten work-points a day for work that gave young able-bodied women only seven. In the course of striving to give equal pay for equal work, women tried to match men's physical strength, often impairing their own health.

Under the responsibility system, both men and women commune members sign contracts to accomplish a particular output or output value. Their contracts stipulate that they are free to utilize the portion in excess of the production target. Therefore, the principle of distribution according to work has been truly implemented.

The aquatic product beds in the Yangzhou commune of Fuzhou city, Jiangxi Province, raises pearls in oysters. All members of the pearl group are women. Formerly, they had fixed incomes. Each woman only cultured 500 oysters a year. Since the responsibility system was implemented in 1978, their incomes have been closely linked with the fruits of their labour. They have assiduously improved their skills and now each can treat about 5,000 oysters a year. In 1981, they produced pearls valued at 170,000 yuan at a production cost of 40,000 yuan. Their individual income rose substantially.

The responsibility system allows each peasant household to use its family funds and labour power effectively. Women, once an auxiliary labour force, have become a main labour force and, therefore, they have more decision-making power in the arrangements of production and household duties. Women's labour is increasingly essential to specialized production and family earnings.



Collecting silk cocoons.

The old rural mentality towards women is being done away with. The strenuous household duties that hung like a dead weight on women in the past are now partially shared by their husbands on their own initiative so as to enable women to devote their energies to more important productive labour.

Improving Skills

To boost agricultural production and sideline occupations, women cannot rely merely on their arduous labour. They must also benefit from science and technology, as not a few women in the rural areas have realized.

When the production team leader set tasks for commune members in the past, women were usually assigned auxiliary jobs. Therefore they shared the view that it was of little importance whether they learnt agricultural science. Now that women have contracted to produce various items, they need a thorough understanding of related production techniques. Hence, many are engrossed in study.

Wu Qizhen, a woman commune member from Sichuan Province, travelled to other places seven times to learn new techniques for growing mushrooms and edible fungus.

Wang Shulin, a commune member in Dayi County, Sichuan Province, raised an improved breed of chickens. After an assessment for technical proficiency, the local county government raised her position to that of a chicken-raising technician, second class.

When communes run agrotechnical study classes, training classes or technical courses, women respond immediately vying with each other for the limited class space.

In 1982, some 648,000 commune members attended agrotechnical classes in the Yulin Prefecture of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 60 per cent of whom were women.

The women's federation of Xinhui County, Guangdong Province, ran 83 drawnwork technical study classes in 1982, and 8,253 women participated. Another 1,300 women met to exchange experiences and demonstrated new techniques.

The agricultural departments of various local governments organized agrotechnicians to conduct rural lecture and demonstration tours. The talks were transmitted across the wire-broadcasting network. These also allowed women to enrich their technical knowledge.

Encouraged by the local government, 1,830 women's scientific research groups have been set up in the Hanshou County of Hunan Province.

New Outlook

With the rapid growth of the rural economy, women have more opportunities to participate in various production and recreational activities. A large number of advanced women have been commended at women's federation meetings in various localities every year.

In Gutian County's Qianban Production Brigade, Fujian Province, Yao Heping together with her husband experimented with growing tremella in bottles for 13 years. During the years when the gang of four usurped part of the state power, the development of diversified economy and sideline occupations was labelled "taking the capitalist road."

Yao continued her experiments clandestinely. When the government again encouraged diversified economy, she was able to earn 50,000 yuan in three years. She built a 12-room house and bought numerous household electric appliances. Hers was the first better-off family in her village.

But she was not content with prosperity for her own family. Under her guidance, 49 of the 53 households in her village have mastered the skill of growing tremella in bottles. Now every household in her village has become well off.

She also made her techniques available to people in other places. Together with her husband, she edited a booklet on growing tremella in bottles and printed 5,000 copies at her own expense, which she sent them to people who had written to her for advice.

When she heard the news that Sichuan Province was suffering from severe flooding in

1981, she donated 1,000 yuan to the people in the afflicted areas.

In Xinnan brigade, Pinghe County of Fujian Province, Chen Manghua and her mother-in-law raised high quality rabbits. A profiteer offered to buy rabbit fur at a price of five yuan more per *jin* than the state purchasing price, but Chen flatly refused, saying, "I raise rabbits with the support of the state and, therefore, I will sell to the state. Even if you offer 50 yuan more per *jin*, I cannot sell to you."

In Xiajiang County of Jiangxi Province, Liu Taoxiu, a commune member, earned 2,518 yuan in 1981 by growing vegetables and raising chickens. She donated 580 yuan to build a well, a cistern and a stone bridge in her village.

Eliminating Feudal Remnants

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China stipulates: "Women in the People's Republic of China enjoy equal rights with men in all spheres of life, political, economic, cultural and social, including family life." Because of the long-term influence of traditional feudal ideas and because of old habits, discrimination against and maltreatment of women still exist in China's rural areas.

In order to control the population growth, the state has in recent years encouraged each couple to have only one child. But the concept of men being superior to women has not been fully wiped out. Some men have tormented their wives who gave birth to girls or drowned the infant girls in some rural areas (see "Protecting Infant Girls" in our issue No. 5, 1983). The government is quite concerned about this serious problem. Opposition to these practices is one of the important educational campaigns of the women's federations in various localities.

Local women's federations have taken numerous actions to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of women. For instance, in Yanshi County of Henan Province, over the last three years at the suggestion of the women's federation, the courts reviewed three cases involving unjust judgments of matrimonial disputes. In co-operation with departments concerned, the federation has intervened in 10 cases that denied young people the legally protected freedom to marry whom they please, and defended two women who were victims of beatings. It has also conducted numerous other actions to inform the population of women's rights under the socialist legal system and to help women secure those rights.

The Mighty Changjiang River

The Changjiang (Yangtze) River, the longest in China, has come into its own in the wake of a revitalized national economy characterized by thriving commerce. Yet its great potential as the nation's leading inland waterway is still not fully tapped. Fundamental reforms now underway are paying off in a rapid growth of shipping, and even more ambitious plans hold immense promise for the future.

A Vital Water Thoroughfare

by Our Correspondent Jian Chuan

STEAMBOATS and motor junks ply up and down the river, joined, from time to time, by tugboats pulling long lines of barges loaded high with cargo. At newly built modern ports, towering cranes hoist containers on and off ships while conveyer belts speed them along to their destination and forklifts scurry about. This everyday scene along the Changjiang (Yangtze) River is visible proof of the new flourishing commerce based on China's rapidly developing economy.

Changes

The world's third longest river after the Nile and the Amazon, the 6,300-kilometre Changjiang meanders its way eastward through nine provinces and a municipality, an area of mild climate and opulent natural resources. With a network of 700-odd tributaries whose navigable distances total 70,000 kilometres, the river accounts for 65 per cent of China's total inland navigation system. In conjunction with the eight railways that cross it, the river forms an important part of a gigantic water-and-land transport network.

The Changjiang shipping industry has seen dramatic

changes in the last three decades.

In the 1950s there was steady growth in the total volume of

freight handled along the river. This unfortunately was followed by 16 years of stagnation. Then, with political turmoil and confusion removed and with national emphasis turned to modernization, navigation on the Changjiang entered a new stage of development. In the period 1977-82, total cargo volume doubled.

In 1982, the Changjiang River Navigation Administration Bureau (CRNAB) alone handled 26.7 times more freight and 19.5 times more passengers than were shipped along the whole river in 1949 (see Table I).

Table I

Development of Shipping Along the Changjiang

| | 1949 | 1976 | 1982 | % increase, 1982 over 1949 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Passengers | 1.7 million | 20.031 million | 31.481 million | 19.5 |
| Passenger-kilometres | 500 million | 3,187 million | 5,475 million | 11.95 |
| Freight | 1.91 million tons | 25.414 million tons | 49.037 million tons | 26.7 |
| Freight ton-kilometres | 1,108 million | 13,457 million | 33,133 million | 30.9 |
| Cargo loaded & unloaded at harbours | 4.408 million tons | 51.785 million tons | 96,004 million tons | 22.8 |
| Number of ships | 333 | 1,654 | 2,159 | 3.6 |
| Total dead-weight tonnage | 138,000 tons | 1.176 million tons | 1.90 million tons | 14.8 |
| Gross industrial output value | 4.812 million yuan | 101.73 million yuan | 115.3061 million yuan | 24.96 |



An oil tanker passes through a lock in the Gezhouba water conservancy network.

Achievements notwithstanding, the river and its tributaries presently handle only 200 million tons of cargo a year, about the same as the Rhine in Europe, or half that of the Mississippi in North America. This relatively small shipping capacity characterizes China's whole transport industry. National economic readjustment demands the smooth, swift circulation of goods, and these transport bottlenecks must be solved.

Herculean efforts have been made in the last few years to increase the river's carriage capacity, and fuel transport was the first to benefit.

In 1981, coal and oil accounted for 31.7 and 28.9 per cent of the total volume of cargo transported by the CRNAB; 62.5 per cent of the coal was shipped to Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui in east

China and to Shanghai, the country's largest industrial city.

Port construction has been stepped up to accommodate increased coal and oil shipments. Between 1978 and June 1982, the number of oil piers increased 3.5-fold along the river, raising oil shipping capacity 3.24-fold. Three new coal piers were built and 13 old ones revamped, all with mechanized loading and unloading facilities, thus boosting shipping capacity by 6 million tons.

Nanjing is the largest of the 25 ports along the river. With an annual loading and unloading capacity of over 30 million tons (80 per cent devoted to coal and oil shipment), it is also the hub of east China's water-and-land transport system.

Forty kilometres east of Nanjing stands one of China's three leading oil ports. Completed in

1978, it has 11 piers. Crude oil is piped directly from oilfields in Hebei, Shandong and Henan and then shipped to chemical factories and refineries along the river. Due to a shortage in oil supply, only half of the port's 20-million-ton capacity is now being utilized.

Cutting Administrative Red Tape

Only a few years ago local shipping was not allowed to enter the Changjiang itself from its tributaries because the river was under the exclusive management of the CRNAB. Local shipping departments in turn managed traffic along the tributaries.

As a result, cargo bound for other provinces had to change ships before entering the Changjiang. This slowed shipping considerably and increased the cost — cargo-owners had to pay 2-3 yuan extra for transshipping each ton of cargo. So many enterprises simply shunned water transport, to the detriment of local navigation companies.

The Hubei Provincial Navigation Company, with 11,000 workers and staff and a deadweight capacity of 63,000 tons, had to restrict its ships to a 524-kilometre route on the Han River, a Changjiang tributary, although a 1,100-kilometre stretch of the Changjiang runs through the province. Unable to attract customers, the company suffered heavy financial losses every year.

After the restriction was removed in 1980, the company's ships could freely enter the Changjiang, sail upstream to Chongqing in Sichuan Province and downstream to Shanghai at the river's estuary. Profits began to roll in. In 1981, the company handled 19.1 per cent more

To the Oceans

cargo than it did in 1977, with a 43.3 per cent increase in freight turnover and a 62.4 per cent increase in gross profit.

Though progress has been made, a number of bottlenecks still exist. An urgent problem is access to loading and unloading facilities at river ports. According to Yang Daisheng, deputy manager of the Jianghai Navigation Company of Jiangsu Province, ports managed by the CRNAB have not been fully opened to local ships, as the bureau fixes loading and unloading quotas according to its own needs. Where there is insufficient cargo-handling capacity, in particular, ports are reluctant to handle goods from local ships, for that means extra work.

Foreign experience shows that such problems can be solved only by bringing multipurpose use of river resources under unified planning by a special state agency. Regardless of the form management takes, the shipping system along the Changjiang must be streamlined. Pending a complete change in the current system, competition will be encouraged between various shipping companies in accordance with the state plan. On a voluntary basis, shipping groups will also be encouraged

to integrate their operations to their mutual benefit.

So far, three kinds of integrated shipping groups have started operating along the river:

— Shipping groups comprising barges from the CRNAB and local companies. These share out the work and co-operate with each other to ensure through traffic from the main river to tributaries and vice versa.

— Co-operative operations to transport large quantities of cargo financed jointly by localities or enterprises and the CRNAB. The localities or enterprises build their own ports or docks and supply their own barges, while the CRNAB provides tugboats and takes care of loading and unloading. The profits are divided according to the investment shares.

— A joint venture, the Yangtze Shipping Corporation Ltd., established by the CRNAB, the Shanghai Ocean Shipping Bureau and the China International Trust and Investment Corporation. Under the leadership of its board of trustees, the corporation independently manages transport of merchandise for export.

The Changjiang River empties into the sea, and even during low-water season, 10,000-ton ships can sail upstream to Nanjing without trouble. When the water is of middling depths, ships of 3,000-5,000 tons can reach Jiujiang and Wuhan in the river's middle reaches. With conditions so favourable, the river has a big role to play in expanding China's foreign trade. For many years, however, administrative red tape seriously affected the flow of local commodities to the outside world.

Transport of export goods has been given a big boost since 1980, when the ports of Zhangjiagang, Nantong, Nanjing, Wuhu, Jiujiang, Huangshi, Wuhan, Chenglingji and Chongqing were added to those to serving foreign trade.

Jiangsu Province places third in China's foreign trade. Yet in the past it had to ship its export commodities to Shanghai or Lianyungang by rail or water for transshipment, since its three Changjiang ports — Zhangjiagang, Nantong and Nanjing — did not handle overseas shipping. This caused both delays and stockpiling of goods. Today, merchandise can be promptly shipped to foreign countries through the three ports, and the province's exports have increased considerably (see Table II).

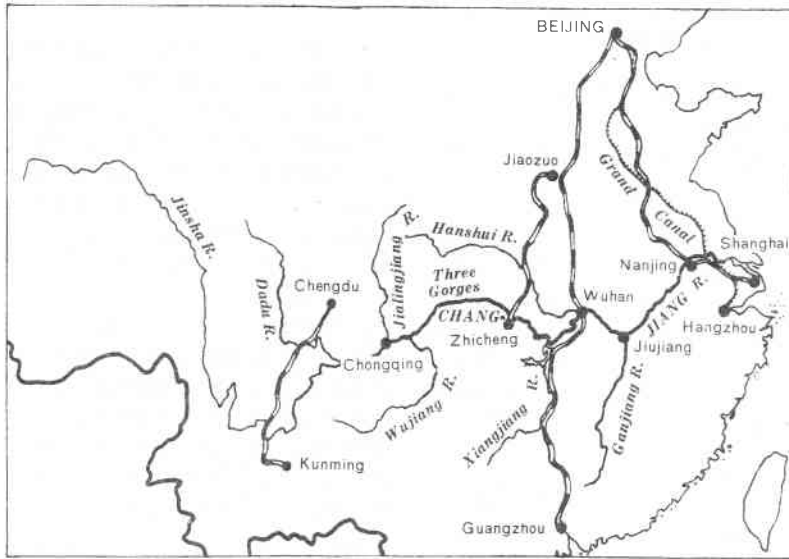
The China Ocean Shipping Corporation's Jiangsu branch, the first shipping agency in China co-managed by the central and local authorities, was established after the Changjiang ports were opened to foreign trade. With a fleet of seven oceangoing freighters totalling 51,000 tons in deadweight capacity, the branch since February 1980 has opened six lines to such places as Xianggang (Hong-

Table II

Foreign Trade in Jiangsu

(Unit: 10,000 tons)

| Year | Total volume of exports | Volume of exports shipped by land | Volume of exports shipped by sea | Volume of exports handled by Changjiang ports |
|------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1974 | 7.4 | 7.4 | | |
| 1978 | 16.1 | 5.4 | 10.7 | |
| 1979 | 30.3 | 7.3 | 23 | |
| 1980 | 65.8 | 7.8 | 35 | 23 |
| 1981 | 95.8 | 7.8 | 49 | 39 |
| 1982 | 110 | 7 | 54 | 49 |



kong), Japan, the Philippines and Singapore. Similar firms have been set up in Hubei, Anhui and Jiangxi Provinces.

Preparations are under way to open the Zhangjiagang and Nantong ports to foreign vessels following a December 1982 resolution of the Fifth National

People's Congress. This represents a significant step towards promoting foreign trade along the Changjiang and lightening Shanghai's heavy import-export traffic burden.

Booming Tourist Industry

The Changjiang's reaches have many places of historical

interest. There are also many notable scenic spots. These include the Lushan and Huangshan Mountains, Suzhou, Wuxi and Taihu Lake. The Three Gorges are an unforgettable sight famous through the ages. China's policy of opening for more contacts with the outside world has vastly expanded tourism in these places.

The flow of foreign and domestic tourists began to grow even more rapidly in 1979, when the China International Travel Service established its Changjiang branch. To meet the needs of this thriving tourist industry, the branch has doubled its total accommodations by commissioning three new tour boats and refitting the second-class cabins of 20 regular passenger ships on the Wuhan-Chongqing route. By September 1982, it had served 21,000 visitors from abroad.

Changjiang — A Brief Introduction

THE longest river in China, the Changjiang is 6,300 kilometres long, with a navigable length of 3,000 kilometres. Its more than 700 tributaries total 70,000 kilometres in navigable distance. They, plus the Changjiang itself, account for 65 per cent of China's total inland waterway network.

The annual water flow is 1,000,000 million cubic metres, 21 times that of the Huanghe River (the second longest in China) or five times that of the Volga (the longest in Europe). Ice-free, it is open to shipping all year round.

The river, which runs through Qinghai, Tibet, Sichuan, Yunnan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi,

Anhui, Jiangsu and Shanghai, is linked with Hunan's Dongting Lake, Jiangxi's Poyang Lake, Anhui's Chaohu Lake, Jiangsu's Taihu Lake and the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, thus forming an extensive inland water transport network. The

railways which cross it—the Chengdu-Kunming, Beijing-Guangzhou, Beijing-Shanghai, Chongqing-Guiyang, Chengdu-Chongqing, Jiaozi-Zhicheng lines—join it to the country's land transport system.

The Changjiang carries an impressive portion of the total volume of cargo handled by the national inland shipping network (see Table III).

Table III

(1981 figures)

| Items | Handled by Changjiang River network | National total | Percentage of the national total |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Volume of inland waterway freight (10,000 tons) | 20,348 | 29,843 | 68.2 |
| 100 million ton-kilometres | 471.45 | 565 | 83.4 |

Table IV

Basic Facts About The Changjiang River Basin

| Items | Percentage in national total |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Area | 20 |
| Population | 33 |
| Farmland | 25 |
| Grain output | 70 |
| Cotton output | 50 |
| Fresh-water fish output | 66 |
| Total agricultural output value | 40 |
| Steel output | 40 |
| Coal output | 25 |
| Total industrial output value | 40 |
| Forests | 33 |
| Hydraulic resources | 40 |
| Coal deposits | 13 |
| Iron ore deposits | 50 |
| Copper ore deposits | 50 |
| Phosphorus ore deposits | 85 |

The Changjiang river basin is part of the Chinese heartland which, because it enjoys a mild climate and long frost-free period, is China's major agricultural area. The Chengdu and Jiangnan Plains, the Changjiang river delta and Hunan, Hubei and Jiangsu Provinces along the river's course account for 70 per cent of the nation's total grain output, one half of the nation's total cotton output and two-thirds of the nation's total fresh-water fish catches. They also figure prominently in China's production of hemp, oil-bearing crops, tea, tobacco, fruit and other cash crops.

The basin is also one of China's most economically developed areas. Along the river stand three economic centres — Shanghai, Wuhan and Chongqing — as well as many rising

cities, medium-sized and small, such as Nantong, Huangshi, Shashi and Yichang, with total industrial output value accounting for over 40 per cent of the national total.

The river basin also abounds in mineral, forest and hydraulic resources. Besides having well-developed machine-building, chemical fertilizer, cement and

textile industries, the area has four large coal mines (Huainan and Huaibei, Jiuzhou, Xuzhou and Liupanshui), five big iron and steel complexes (Panzhihua, Chongqing, Wuhan, Maanshan and Shanghai), and a dozen large chemical plants and oil refineries. All these provide great opportunities for further developing the river's transport system (see Table IV).

Comprehensive Plans for the River's Future

by Zhou Mingjing, Associate Research Fellow, and He Liyun, Engineer, both of the Navigation Planning and Design Institute of the Ministry of Communications

THE potential carrying capacity of the navigable portion of the Changjiang River equals 14 railways of the same length. But poor management and policies, and lack of an overall plan, have blocked full utilization of the river's immense resources.

Chinese navigation experts have put forward a number of major proposals to develop the Changjiang's potential as China's chief inland waterway and an axis for the export trade.

Management Reforms

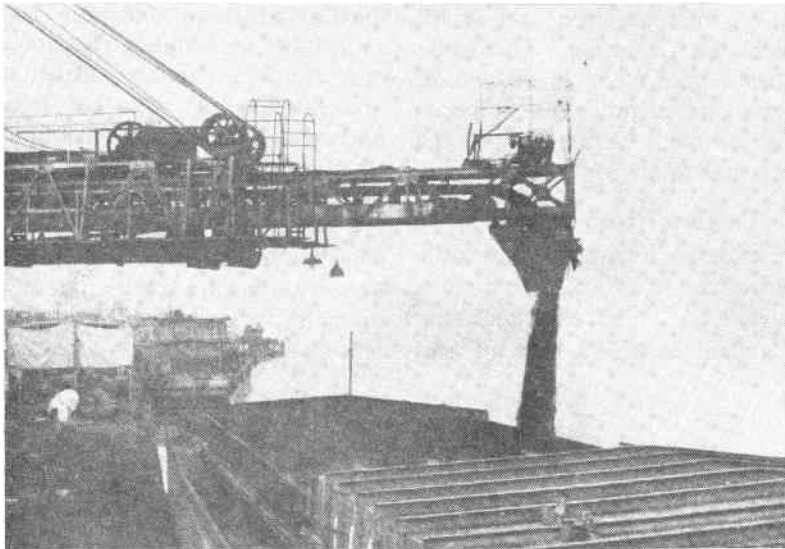
One vital need is co-ordinated management of such areas as shipping, water conservancy, power generation, bridge building, fish-breeding, water supply, environmental protection and so on. At present, these are managed separately by different departments and localities whose functions and responsibilities

often overlap. Shipping on the Changjiang itself and its tributaries are run by a number of different authorities, for example, thus seriously hampering co-ordinated utilization.

Regional and departmental barriers must be broken down and a special state agency established to map out general plans and provide unified guidance for the multipurpose utilization of the Changjiang's resources.

Past experience has provided valuable lessons.

In 1958, a headquarters was set up to co-ordinate the Grand Canal Engineering Bureau and other departments concerned in expanding the traffic volume of the Grand Canal. The work went smoothly. In a little more than two years a 404-kilometre section, from Xuzhou to where the canal joins the Changjiang,



A conveyer belt loads coal on to a barge.

was widened and dredged. This brought manifold benefits: Cargo shipping capacity rose from 900,000 to 16 million tons; 8.43 million *mu* of land was brought under irrigation; 62.43 million *mu* were freed from waterlogging, and the river's flood-resisting capacity was fortified.

The functions and powers of the CRNAB should be clearly defined. As a government department, it should formulate relevant policies and regulations, collect shipping and other fees, co-ordinate the work of various shipping agencies and supervise safety procedures. Meanwhile, a general shipping corporation should be set up to supervise cargo handling along the river and in ports. This corporation should organize a number of sub-companies specializing in co-operative or combined transport in the light of economic conditions along the river. In this way, procedures can be simplified and through traffic expanded.

Port administrative departments should be separated from loading and unloading enter-

prises, and each port should be put under the dual leadership of the local government and the higher shipping administration. Major ports should be directly managed by the Ministry of Communications, but in other ports the local governments should have more say.

Riverside Factories

Foreign experience shows that building riverside factories ben-

efits the enterprises themselves and also boosts inland shipping. This is especially so with iron and steel plants, chemical factories and power stations which can make full use of both the water and cheap transport facilities. For shipping companies, this means steady, regular cargo.

Riverside factories have also proved their worth in China. The Suzhou-Changzhou section of the Grand Canal, for example, is lined with numerous factories. In the medium-sized industrial city of Suzhou alone, 175 factories are located on the canal. Despite its small capacity, the canal handled more than 30 million tons of freight in 1979.

At present, the Changjiang navigation network handles little more than 200 million tons of cargo annually, falling far behind other rivers of the same magnitude. This is partly attributable to the past one-sided stress on building factories "scattered, near mountains and in tunnels" for defence reasons. This resulted in a lopsided industrial distribution, with very



A glimpse of Wuhan Port.

few riverside factories. The transport factor was neglected.

That practice has finally been repudiated. Riverside factories are encouraged and river transport is a key factor in choosing new plant sites. Eight of the 14 large chemical installations imported from abroad in recent years were built along the Changjiang, as were four new oil refineries and Shanghai's giant Baoshan Iron and Steel Complex.

Riverside enterprises are encouraged to build their own docks or invest in port facilities under the guidance of a unified plan. For enterprises with financial difficulties, the state has granted necessary subsidies.

For an Extensive Waterway Network

A nationwide inland river transport system centred around the Changjiang is both possible and necessary. In the upper reaches of the river, after harnessing and dredging, Sichuan Province's Minjiang, Tuojiang, Jialing and Fujiang Rivers on the northern bank can join Guizhou Province's Chishui and Wujiang Rivers on the southern bank to form a southwest China waterway network with Chongqing as its hub.

In the middle reaches, Hunan Province's Qingjiang, Xiangjiang, Zijiang, Lijiang, and Yuanjiang Rivers and Jiangxi Province's Ganjiang can be linked with the Jiangnan Canal to be dug in Hubei Province to form a central China waterway system with Wuhan at the centre.

In the lower reaches, after the Jianghuai Canal in Anhui Province is completed and the Grand Canal (running through



Tourists enjoying the Changjiang scenery.

Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Shandong, Hebei and Beijing) is widened, a flourishing water network will appear in east China with Shanghai as the hub.

In all these endeavours, river harnessing and dredging will be combined with building canals. Navigation conditions on the Changjiang will be constantly improved to keep up with economic development. The tributaries will be gradually knitted into the navigation network and their traffic improved. This could start with tributaries in the lower reaches and be accomplished in stages.

The building of canals on the Jinsha River and other tributaries in the middle and upper reaches will extend their navigable distances for vessels of 300, 500 and 1,000 tons and link them with the Baoji-Cheng-

du, Chengdu-Kunming and Chongqing-Guiyang Railways and highways. This also will allow them to serve the large coal, phosphorus and iron and steel industries along the rivers.

In the middle and lower reaches, major efforts will be devoted to dredging river beds and shallows and linking the Grand Canal with the Haihe, the Huanghe, the Huaihe, the Changjiang and the Qiantang Rivers. This in turn will link the northern network, via the Jiangxi-Guangdong and Hunan-Guangxi Canals, to the Zhujiang (Pearl) River.

Thus a nationwide waterway system will take shape, realizing an old dream—that ships could sail from Beijing along inland waterways all the way down to the South China Sea. □

LITERATURE

Poet Xiao San mourned

A memorial meeting for Xiao San (Emi Siao), outstanding proletarian cultural fighter and well-known poet, was held in Beijing on February 19.

Joining the Communist Party of China in 1922, Xiao San was one of the earliest members of the Party. He made significant contributions to Chinese proletarian literature and art and promoted friendship and cultural exchanges between the Chinese and the world's peoples.

Xiao San began his literary activities in 1928 when he was lecturing at the University of the Toilers of the East in Moscow. He attended the international revolutionary writers' congress in Kharkov in 1930 as a permanent representative of China's Left-wing writers and worked as editor-in-chief of the Chinese edition of the publication *World Revolutionary Literature*. With the approval of the Chinese Communist Party, he joined the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and twice held the post of Party committee member of the Union of Soviet Writers. During his stay in the Soviet Union, Xiao San introduced to the world about China's Workers and Peasants Red Army, the agrarian revolution and China's revolutionary leaders. His poems, essays, novels and reportage were translated into Russian, Bulgarian, English, German, French, Spanish, Japanese, Czech and other languages.

Xiao San was head of the editing and translating depart-



Xiao San at the Third Congress of the Chinese Writers' Association in November 1979.

ment in Lu Xun Academy of Arts and held other leading posts in literary and art circles after he returned to China in 1939. He edited *Dazhong Wenyi* (Popular Literature), *China Guide*, *New Poems* and others. After liberation, he was a committee member of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, member of the Secretariat of Chinese Writers' Association and vice-president of China Pen Centre.

Xiao San was a schoolmate of the late Mao Zedong in primary school and in a teachers training school in Hunan Province's Xiangxiang County and they look part in revolutionary activities together.

His book *Comrade Mao Zedong's Youth* is well-known among Chinese readers and has also enjoyed an international audience. *Poems by Revolutionary Martyrs* and its sequel edited by Xiao San have served as valuable teaching material about revolutionary traditions, ideals and values to the Chinese people.

Xiao San maintained that poetry have a national characteristic. Poets should keep the people in mind and their literary creations must be understandable and easily remembered. Collections of his poems include *Song of Peace*, *Selected Poems by Xiao San* and *Fu Li Ji* (a collection of Xiao San's works in his later years).

Xiao San was one of the principal translators for the Chinese version of *The Internationale*. He also translated many famous plays and *Lenin on Culture and Art*.

As an international cultural activist and a fighter for world peace, Xiao San held these posts: Director of the Bureau for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries under the Chinese Ministry of Culture, permanent council member of the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, member of the Chinese People's Committee for World Peace, deputy secretary-general of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association, and permanent council member of the World Peace Council as well as Chinese member of its secretariat.

ART

Hall dedicated to an artist

The opening ceremony for a new memorial hall devoted to Xu Beihong (Peon Ju) was held January 31 in Beijing.

China's outstanding modern artist and professor of fine arts,

(Continued on p. 30.)

Beijing Review, No. 10

Brighter is home's moon

Dream Journeys to China

《还乡梦》

by Stephen S.N. Liu

Published by the New World Press

Distributed by China Publications Centre (Guozi Shudian)

Price: paper back RMB 1.60 yuan, hard cover RMB 2.70 yuan

Dream Journeys to China, a bilingual English-Chinese anthology of passionate poems by Stephen Shu-ning Liu (a poet of Chinese descent now residing in the United States) aroused great sympathy in me and set off many reveries. I still remember an English poem I recited in my childhood which went like this:

When I was a little lad
With folly on my lips,
Fain was I for journeying
All the seas in ships.
But now across the southern
swell,
Every dawn I hear
The little streams of Duna
running clear.

Stephen S.N. Liu shared this feeling, as he says in the preface of the anthology, "Sometime in 1948, upon my graduation from Nanking University, I reread *Pêcheurs D'Islande*, a French novel translated into Chinese by Professor Li Liewen. I suddenly heard the irresistible calling of the sea...."

"The Chinese verse says," he continues, "'the Hu horses lean upon the north wind, and the Yue birds nest in the southern woods.' Transplanted into this North American desert, I am, metaphorically, one of the tan-

gerine trees in my father's orchard. Unaccustomed to the alien water and soil, it bears only bitter fruits, my rugged verses. My nostalgic reveries of home, however, came true in the summer of 1975."

The anthology was published by the New World Press (Beijing) after the poet revisited his motherland in 1980 to realize his "dream journeys to China."

Liu was born by the scenic Changjiang (Yangtze) River and nurtured by the ancient and splendid Chinese culture. The feelings of a lost son are revealed in his poems.

When he picked up a pebble at a beach on the Tennessee River, it reminded him of a "star's egg" he had picked up in his hometown when he was a small child. Memories of the past welled up in his mind:

"It's a pear!" I cried in surprise.

"No, no," Mother said.

"It's a star's egg. A little star fell off her roost near Heaven's Palace and laid eggs on our riverbanks"

.....

The blue sparks amused me
on that night of June,

warm, windy, as my eyes
wandered the banks of
the Milky Way.

When he flew over the Rocky Mountains, he saw the Colorado River which reminded him of the winter Yangtze:

The Colorado River flashes
for a moment. Gone.

You vanish into the cur-
tained Rockies.

Only your Yangtze River
throbs, chills,

Crawling over my chest,
like a deathless python.

The famous gambling city of Las Vegas with its debauched night life increased the poet's longing for the "furry gorges" of home.

A night in Las Vegas,
jazz-mad,

The smoke-riding wind suf-
fers insomnia,

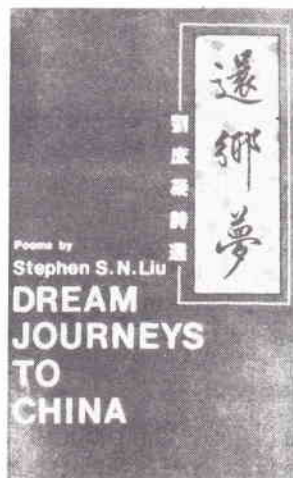
Fanning my sampan, I
know not how,

Through the furry gorges
on Yangtze.

An ancient Chinese verse goes, "Dew begins to turn white tonight, brighter is home's moon." Is the poet's nostalgia simply common homesickness? I think not.

Liu grew up in the war-ridden 1930s-40s. He joined an expeditionary army during the War of Resistance Against Japan. After the war, he attended Nanking University and later went to Taiwan. He eventually left Taiwan for the United States, where he has settled.

During the war, whether as a challenge to fate or as an arrangement of fate, it was common for the distressed and perplexed young people of Liu's generation to seek a way out. Many sailed away with the same mixed feelings the poet expresses in the *Night on the Sea*:



*Ah the steam whistles that
sadden the travellers!*

*I go tonight for a voyage,
A long voyage, alone.*

With such contradictory feelings, the poet travelled a long distance and worked as a newspaper boy, dish washer, driver and janitor. Decades of unsettled life only increased his nostalgia for home.

It is worth noting that, today, after he has gained a secure life as a college professor and won the 1981-82 Creative Writing Fellowship Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, his heart is even closer to his motherland. In the anthology's preface he praises New China's revolution and construction:

"Without New China there will be no Great Bridge on the Yangtze, no Chinese-made battleships in Huangpu Harbor, no electricity on remote farms, no personal dignities for the peasants; and certainly there would be no nuclear weapons for China to defend against foreign encroachment. Above all, the revolution has brought China a reputable seat in the United Nations."

He pours out his happy feelings for the tremendous changes of the motherland in *Ode to Chongqing*:

*The Jialing River once
mirrored*

Your scarred face. . . .

*And after baptism of the
Great Fires,*

*You soared high like a
phoenix.*

Years ago, on a tour to the United States I met some overseas Chinese and found that there were really very few of my generation who were happy abroad and did not miss home. Many could not help shedding tears when they heard accents of their native places or met an old friend from New China.

Liu voices their feelings in his poem to his hometown, Fuling:

*Say my heart is an iron
stick if I had not looked
back while the monstrous
ship carried me off the
harbour of Hong Kong,
port of nation's
shame; . . .*

*Call me a Philistine if I had
not recalled,*

On my Apollo's journey to

*the dusty craters, tales
from your Autumn Moon
Gate. . . .*

*And when my metropolitan
days spread out into
smog,*

*Into gluey heat, into car-
bonate and pesticides,*

Call me a blockhead,

*If my memories of you did
not spin about my bed*

*Despise me, ah Fuling, when
in neon glitter,*

*Down some seaport, haunt-
ed by painted women,*

*If I had not returned to
your maidens in Lo's
Garden. . . .*

The 56 poems in this anthology were written in English and most have been published in US newspapers or periodicals. The writer himself later translated them into Chinese. Translated poems tend to lose their original flavour. But since this is a "dream journey to China," some metaphors sound more natural when they reappear in Chinese. This may be another special feature of this anthology of poems.

— Shu Xun

(Continued from p. 28)

Xu Beihong is best known for his paintings of figures and horses.

Xu inherited his talent from his father and grandfather who were self-taught painters. Xu knew hardships while learning to paint, yet his talent, diligence and honesty won him opportunities. After going to Beijing in 1917 he became recognized in art circles. Two years later, that is, in 1919, he went to Paris on a government scholarship. He returned to China in 1927 and devoted him-

self to artistic creation and education.

He showed great sympathy and concern for young art lovers. Many a brilliant contemporary artists received help and encouragement from him. Even as President of the Central Institute of Fine Arts and chairman of the national union of Chinese artists, from liberation to his death in 1953, the first thing he did each day was answering letters, many from youths.

Xu's traditional paintings, oil paintings and sketches are all outstanding. His unique works

carried forward the realistic tradition of Chinese paintings while absorbing artistic techniques and realistic creative methods from classical Western art. In art education, Xu emphasized basic skills, advocated learning from one's teachers while avoiding formalism.

The new hall, a two-storey building, is located on a street north of Xijiekou and has seven exhibition halls; 2,700 square metres. It houses 155 of Xu Beihong's masterpieces, only a fraction of his more than 1,000 creations. His other works will be exhibited later.

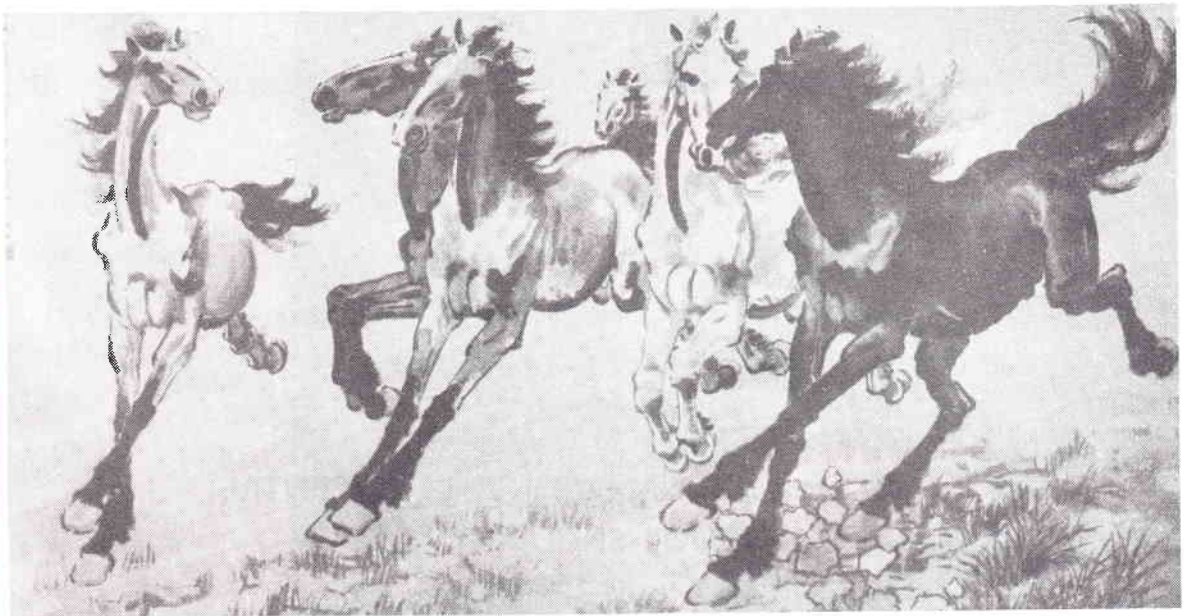
Xu Beihong's Paintings



Portrait of Tagore.



Bamboo.



Gallopig Horses.

Subscribe to "BEIJING REVIEW"

Know China Through A Chinese Source



Airmailed direct to you every week from the Chinese capital, BEIJING REVIEW

- Keeps you abreast of political, theoretical, economic and cultural developments in China,
- Acquaints you with Chinese views on major international issues,
- Carries translations of important Party and government documents.
- Standing columns and regular features include: "Notes From the Editors"; "Domestic: Events & Trends"; "International: Reports & Comments"; "Special Feature"; "Articles & Documents"; "Culture & Science"; "Books"; "Letters"; and art pages in China.

*Also available in French, German, Spanish
and Japanese editions*

Advertisements to be printed on back cover
of BEIJING REVIEW are cordially invited

Order from CHINA PUBLICATIONS CENTRE
(GUOJI SHUDIAN)
P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China