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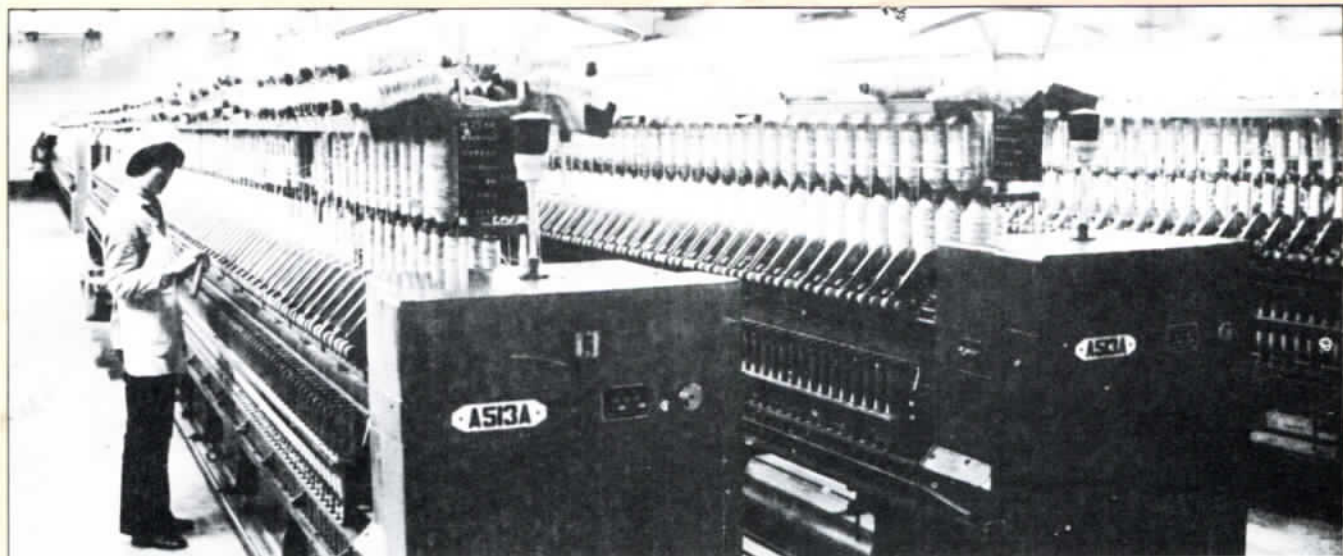
BEIJING REVIEW

北京周报

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

- Mobilizing People for Peace
- Enthusiasm for Study Among Youth





The spinning shop of a chemical fibre and textile mill in Tangqiao Town, Shazhou County, Jiangsu Province.

Free market.

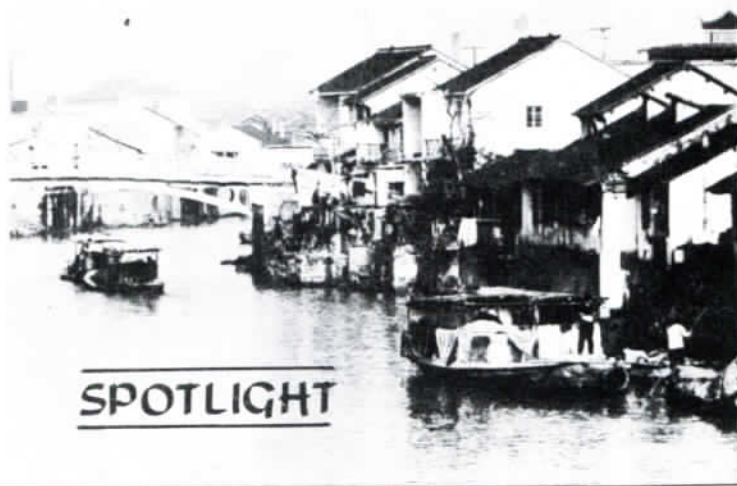


Customers examine Tangqiao's products.

A road which links Tangqiao with many villages in its vicinity.



Along the town's waterfront.



SPOTLIGHT

BEIJING REVIEW

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Photo by Xue Chao	

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

China Determined to Defend World Peace

Speech at a recent Beijing forum by Li Yimang, President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, expressing the Chinese people's determination to prevent a new world war and to fight for world peace, as well as China's firm stand for disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament (p. 15).

Panamanians Urge Peaceful Settlement

Beijing Review's special correspondent reports that Panamanians want the current Central American crisis resolved according to the Contadora spirit — through patient diplomacy and consultation (p. 18).

PLA Assisting Socialist Construction

Besides safeguarding China's security, the Chinese People's Liberation Army has played a positive role in socialist construction. Their activities also include extending disaster relief to people in stricken areas, and helping minority peoples to develop production and improve their transportation, culture and education. These activities have brought much benefit to the people and enormous wealth to the country (p. 22).

Rapid Growth of Spare-Time Colleges in China

Various types of spare-time colleges have sprung up to meet the needs of young people who wish to pick up an education while working. These schools are beginning to display certain advantages over the normal colleges: they require smaller investments and tend to provide more professional training in a shorter time (p. 26).

Rational Flow of Skilled Personnel

The uneven distribution and inappropriate use of scientists and technicians has intensified the need to reform the scientific personnel management system. In some departments and regions, a job-invitation system combined with a job assignment system has been adopted, which represents an effort to achieve this aim (p. 4).

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Rational Flow of Skilled Personnel

by **XIN XIANGRONG**
Cultural Editor

Unlike scientists and technicians in many parts of the world, those in China are guaranteed lifelong jobs, regardless of their seniority, which they never have to fear losing. However, some have other troubles. They feel that their knowledge and skills are not being fully used or that their requests for job transfers are going unheard.

China is faced with the task of distributing and employing its 6 million scientists and technicians wisely. The outstanding problem is that they are unduly concentrated in several large cities and in certain organizations and are not available in other places despite the dire need for them there. It has become a matter of urgency to break the barriers of different departments and regions and assign and use scientists and technicians more properly.

Late last year, a State Council document pointed out that efforts should be made to allow scientists and technicians to flow from the city to the countryside, from the large cities to the medium-sized and small, from the developed coastal regions to the frontier, and from overstuffed organizations to those urgently needing skilled employees. The central government has drawn up preferential policies to encourage the educated to go where they are most needed. These and other related policies, which have been welcomed by both understaffed units and trans-

ferred workers, have proved fruitful.

However, the uneven distribution and inappropriate use of scientists and technicians linger on. Moreover, some organizations with unneeded scientific staff are reluctant to let them transfer to organizations desperately needing them. The same situation exists in some research centres, universities and colleges, where scientists and technicians, like a stagnant pool of water, are held up so

The free-flow experiment, if it proves successful, will mean a breakthrough in the major task of reforming the entire scientific personnel management system.

tightly that they have gradually developed a rigid way of thinking and been confined to a narrow field of vision.

Some government departments have recently taken measures to solve this problem. In June, the Ministry of Labour and Personnel set up a talent exchange and consultation service centre in charge of promoting a flow of intellectuals. The same kind of service centres have been found in Guangdong, Shanxi and Anhui Provinces, and in Shenyang, Chongqing, Taiyuan, Beijing, Hefei and Harbin.

In July, the State Science and

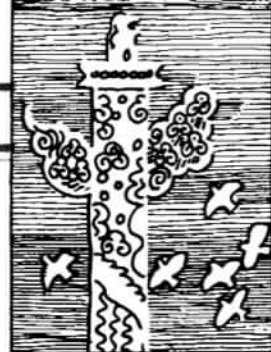
Technology Commission which, among other things, is in charge of scientific and technological personnel affairs, made a series of decisions affecting labour mobility, including:

- The trial-use of a job invitation system to co-ordinate the present job assignment system. Organizations that make job offers have the right to invite personnel and the right to terminate employment. The individual has the freedom to accept an offer and the freedom to resign. This decision will be tried first in Shanghai, Chongqing, Xiangfan, Changzhou, Xian, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

- The job assignment system is subject to reform, too, regarding those who have studied abroad. These people should be given the freedom to choose jobs, so long as the state plan is guaranteed.

- Scientists and technicians who are inappropriately employed should be reassigned. The personnel departments at various levels should investigate and intervene in those organizations which have a surplus of educated staff or use them inappropriately.

In Shanghai where there is a great number of scientists and technicians, the municipal personnel bureau has recently set up an agency responsible for transfer applications by individuals. Anyone can register with the agency if his skills or knowledge are not fully used. If the agency has had enough evidence to prove that the individual is in this



category and his organization has refused to let him go, it has the right to transfer the person to where he is needed without consulting the organization. The individual can also resign and report for duty at the unit which accepts him. This method will effectively promote the rational flow of competent people.

Introducing the job-invitation system and encouraging a flow of intellectuals does not mean that the job assignment system can be dispensed with. A combination of the two is needed, with the job assignment strictly being performed when it comes to key construction and research projects and to remote border areas. College graduates are free to transfer only after at least three years of assigned work.

All these measures are, of course, elementary and still being tried out. Therefore, more experiments and improvements will be needed. However, the free-flow experiment, if it proves successful, will mean a breakthrough in the major task of reforming the entire scientific personnel management system.



Great Changes

It was 10 years ago that I bought my first copy of *Beijing Review*. Since then, great changes have taken place in China's political situation, and in your magazine also.

In my opinion, during the "cultural revolution" *Beijing Review* was a boring theoretical weekly. At that time, all your articles dealing with domestic affairs only talked about China's achievements. Many of them were obviously exaggerated.

Only since the smashing of the gang of four has it become clear which of the claims were true and which were false. Since then, your content and layout have become more vivid and attractive. I was very glad when I read for the first time an article in which your editor stressed his own personal ideas. He made the article seem closer to me.

In my opinion, the "International" column is very good and interesting. It gives a general survey of the relations between China and other countries. Your special reports are also very interesting. They offer detailed introductions to the various aspects of politics and society in China.

Your article "China's Economy: Achievements in 1983" in issue No. 8 was quite outstanding. It contained accurate statistics and yet did not neglect the discussion of some present problems.

The article "Relations Between China and Yugoslavia" written by Wu Xiuquan in issue No. 49, 1983 was excellent. He talked about his experience in Eastern Europe in the 1950s. I hope to read more such articles. I think Han Nianlong and Ma Muming's articles belong to this category and I hope you'll continue to publish them.

Publishing photographs of the Party and state leaders (Zhao Ziyang, Hu Yaobang, Li Xian-nian, Ni Zhifu, etc.) on the cover is a good approach. This has nothing to do with personality cult, but only expresses people's respect for their special contributions to China. It would be much better if you published landscape photos on the back cover instead of advertisements, such as in issue Nos. 5 & 6, 1984.

I would like to know more about the current reform of the agricultural system and also about special economic zones and minority nationalities. Such articles you have published to date have aroused my strong curiosity.

The information about the meetings of Chinese leaders with foreign government heads and their speeches is necessary. The supplementary "Documents" column, which has not appeared in your magazine for some time, is also very important.

I am not interested in the column "Culture & Science."

In addition, if you could print more about the work of the central Party organs—the Political Bureau, the Secretariat of the Central Committee, the Central Advisory Commission, and the Central Commission for Inspecting Discipline, I would certainly be very interested, because very few people know about these aspects.

In brief, as a subscriber to *Beijing Review* of 10 years' standing, I am very happy with the changes and "new appearance" of the magazine, and also with its distribution and price.

Zhomas Zuche
Trier, Federal Republic
of Germany

Changes in the Market

The big changes that took place in China's market in the first half of this year, compared with the corresponding period last year, are clearly shown as follows:

— Light industry developed at a faster pace. The output value of light industry in the January-June period amounted to 163 billion yuan, up 11.5 per cent over the corresponding period last year, exceeding the growth rate of retail sales. Increase in the production of TV sets, tape recorders, radios, cameras, washing machines and electric fans ranged from 20 to 60 per cent over the first half of last year, while the output of refrigerators increased several times.

— Markets had a brisk purchasing and selling. In the first six months of this year, 81 billion yuan worth of industrial products was purchased by domestic trade, an increase of 12 per cent over the first half of last year, surpassing the growth rate of light industry production. Retail sales reached 148.4 billion yuan, an increase of 9.8 per cent over the first half of last year, far exceeding the target set in the annual plan. Retail sales of consumer goods grew 9.9 per cent.

— There were changes in the composition of consumer goods and people had greater choice of commodities. The sales of food-stuffs and medium- and high-grade goods went up and those of beverage increased by a big margin. In addition, the sales of woollen goods, silks and satin, knitting wool, and mixed polyester fabrics continued to rise. Apart from the three main items in demand — a watch, bicycle and sewing machine,

consumers now want six more — a TV set, tape recorder, camera, washing machine, electric fan and refrigerator.

— Multi-channel circulation of commodities was further smoothed. In the first half of this year, retail sales of state commercial enterprises took up 74 per cent of the total sales, collective enterprises 17.4 per cent, with individual enterprises handling the remaining 8.6 per cent.

Trade centres for manufactured goods and wholesale markets were set up in many places, while early morning and night markets appeared in many cities and shops prolonged their business hours and

adopted more flexible modes of operation.

— State revenue was larger than expenditure. The country had taken back more currency from circulation. In the first half of this year, state revenues grew by 22.6 per cent compared with an 18 per cent rise in state expenditures. The margin between revenue and expenditure was more than 3.98 billion yuan. The bank's credit had a favourable balance of 3.88 billion yuan, 2.17 billion yuan more than the same period last year.

Retail sales will continue to grow in the second half of this year, according to an official from the State Economic Commission. The figure will exceed the planned target. And the sales of market goods will continue to flourish.

Economic Data Centre Set Up

China's first centre to collect, edit and distribute economic information, predict economic trends and offer economic materials and data for city departments needing them, has been set up in Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang Province.

The economic information centre, which opened in mid-July, has invited noted economists and leading members of economic units to be advisers. Originally sponsored by seven cities, it has 50 cities participating in it.

The overall economic reform under way in China has brought great changes in the country's economic institutes and in the relationship between supply and demand. To meet the new situation, it is imperative to make full use of available information, respond effectively to changes in the mar-

ket, and balance production and consumption throughout the country.

The centre is expected to significantly promote urban economic reform and bring the role of the large cities into play.

Full Responsibility For Factory Heads

A reform giving directors and managers of state-run factories full responsibility over production and management is in full swing throughout the country.

The introduction of the director responsibility system in state-run factories — a reform drawn up in May at the Second Session of the



Liu Shiming (left), director of the Haikou No. 1 Radio Factory in Guangdong, and a technician of the factory designing new products.

Sixth National People's Congress (NPC) — frees factory Party committee of the burden of being responsible for everything and allows them to concentrate on ideological work and the Party's day-to-day work, supervising the carrying out of Party principles and policies and fulfilment of state quotas.

Factory directors will also be in charge of carrying out the 10 Provisional Regulations on Greater Decision-Making Powers for State-Owned Industrial Enterprises issued on May 10 by the State Council (see "Businesses Enjoy Expanded Powers" issue No.25, 1984, p.10).

Initial trials have shown that a factory director will shoulder heavier responsibility after he has gained greater decision-making powers, thus giving fuller play to his management potential and reducing the approvals needed from his superiors, which leads to higher efficiency.

On an inspection tour of the largest northeastern industrial city of Shenyang, Pengzhen, Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, pointed out that to carry out the reform required enthusiasm and co-operation of the factory director, the Party committee and the

trade union. The director should follow the mass line, seek the support of the Party committee and the workers, and put his operation under their supervision.

Some localities have drawn up a system of reward and punishment for factory directors or managers to encourage them to carry out their duties boldly. In mid-July, the Xincheng District economic committee in Xian raised the salaries of 19 directors and managers by one grade because their factories had overfulfilled production quotas for the first half of the year. It gave another 54 smaller bonuses, fined seven for bad economic results at their factories, and removed 15 who were incompetent from their posts.

China Launches Patent Agency

The China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) has, after several years of preparations, opened the country's first patent agency.

The agency has been set up in Beijing under a State Council directive to assist foreign individuals

and companies in applying for patents in China and Chinese and organizations in applying for patents abroad. It will draw up and translate patent application, advise on how to apply for a patent and provide legal services regarding patent lawsuits, patent transfer, and licensing negotiations.

The agency has mechanical, electrical, chemical, administrative and legal divisions.

To establish the agency, CCPIT recruited experts in technology, foreign languages and law, studied foreign regulations and related information on patent, and sent personnel abroad to study. To learn how a patent agency operates as a business, it invited foreign experts to give seminars and teach courses.

The agency has also established relations with its counterpart organizations abroad such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, various patent bureaux, and patent lawyers associations.

An office — China Patent Agent (Hongkong) Co. Ltd. — has been set up in Hongkong.

New Agency to Spread Technology

The China International Technology Development Corporation (CITDC) — a new big unofficial comprehensive enterprise — was recently set up in Beijing.

The business purposes of the corporation are:

— To fully exploit and utilize internal scientific and technological achievements and intellectual resources, as well as scientific and technological information sources at home and abroad, so as to provide leaders at various levels with advice on policy decision-making.

— In fields such as building rational personnel structures inside enterprises and accelerating the flow and development of knowl-

edge and intellectual resources, to carry out reforms, thus offering society experiences in these fields.

— To develop new technology, materials and products with Chinese characteristics and conforming to up-to-date standards, and to create a new enterprise in which scientific research, education and production are integrated with internal and external markets.

Having amassed a substantial amount of funds, the corporation has now set up dozens of branches and incorporations in Hebei, Zhejiang, Hubei, Hunan, Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and other provinces and cities. It has also embarked on a number of projects and consultative research tasks.

Preparations for the establishment of the corporation were started last year. It received help and support from the central departments concerned, some provinces and cities and more than 30 units, including the All-China Federation of Taiwan Compatriots, the China Society for Research Into the Future, the China Society of Scientific Research and Management, the Intellectual Development Company of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Trust and Consultancy Company affiliated with the Bank of China, and the *Guangming Ribao* (Guangming Daily).

Big Cities Coming Alive in Evenings

China's major cities are seeing more and more "night life" as shops introduce evening hours and restaurants and cultural centres organize concerts, tea parties and dances.

In Beijing, the Xinhua bookstore on Wangfujing Street, the largest in China, has drawn large crowds since it began staying open from 7:30 pm to 9:30 on June 15. The



The Hongli orchestra of Guangzhou performing at a tea party.

Beijing Science and Technology Bookstore on Xidan Street sold more than 10,000 books in the first three evenings it was open. Other bookstores on busy streets have also extended their hours.

The Capital Library, the biggest in Beijing, plans to stay open till 10 pm. It used to close at 6 pm. The library is also sponsoring "Moonlight Parties" to give readers opportunities to talk to others about their favourite subjects and study experience.

The Ancient Observatory in Beijing, testimony to China's achievements in astronomy, has also begun opening in the evenings. Youngsters can view various kinds of astronomical instruments and visit six observation rooms to examine stars through telescopes and watch slide shows. Also on display in the observatory is calligraphy by Dong Shouxi, a revered pen man. Tea is available in the observatory garden.

Beijing residents can also enjoy tea parties in the Minorities Palace restaurant where they can watch television and appreciate music. On summer weekends, there are dances, singalongs, films and other recreations organized in city parks.

Night life in Shanghai has also

been enlivened by recreational activities. Starting on July 9, some noted Shanghai musicians have sponsored lectures on music appreciation, which have been well received.

The recently opened Shanghai Hotel has extended its opening hours to 11 pm, providing music, tea and closed-circuit TV. The cultural square in the city centre has entertainment and the Shanghai TV station has arranged a special programme for children "A Happy Moment," and held dances for youngsters.

Wu Meets Pakistan Foreign Minister

The Afghan issue must reach a just and reasonable settlement according to the UN resolutions, Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian has told visiting Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahibzada Yakub Khan.

"Political settlement of the Afghan problem should premise the unconditional and complete withdrawal of foreign troops, and the independence and sovereignty of Afghanistan be fully respected and guaranteed," Wu said at a

banquet in honour of Yakub Khan, who arrived on July 21 for a four-day visit.

Yakub Khan agreed, saying, "Pakistan will not recognize the Kabul regime unless Soviet forces are withdrawn."

The Pakistan Foreign Minister also pointed out that friendship between Pakistan and China is not directed against any country.

On July 22 and 23, the two Ministers held two rounds of talks in the trains from Beijing to Chengde, a summer resort in Hebei Province, and back to Beijing.

Yakub Khan said his country would firmly carry out a policy of improving relations with India without compromising independence or sovereignty.

Wu also said that China would continue its efforts in improving and developing good-neighbourly relations with India. China wishes to see a fair and reasonable settlement of the boundary issue with India in the spirit of mutual understanding and accommodation, he added.

Yakub Khan said Pakistan supports China's efforts to improve Sino-Indian relations. "Improvement of Sino-Indian relations is in the interests of the people of India, China and other neighbouring countries and will help promote peace in the region."

Referring to Iran-Iraq war, Wu said, China is strictly neutral on this issue, and does not wish to see two Islamic countries locked in conflict and slaughter. We are for the efforts made by Pakistan and other Islamic countries to seek a peaceful settlement of the issue.

President Li Xiannian and Premier Zhao Ziyang met Yakub Khan on July 25. Both expressed satisfaction with the present good relations between China and Pakistan. "The Sino-Pakistan relations should become

an example of peaceful co-existence between countries with different social system and should

be seen as an example for South-South co-operation in economy and technology," Zhao said.

Talks on HK Make Progress—Deng

Deng Xiaoping has said that British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's talks with the Chinese leaders on the HK issue have made major progress.

During Howe's stay in Beijing (July 27-31), he held talks with Premier Zhao Ziyang and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian.

Deng, Chairman of the CPC Central Advisory Commission, met with Howe on July 31, during which he said he was happy to learn of the success.

Howe has made two visits to China in three months. His previous visit took place in April this year.

Foreign Minister Wu said that seven rounds of useful and constructive talks had been held between the Chinese and British del-

egations, and his recent talks with Howe is a breakthrough. The success is mainly due to mutual understanding and accommodation. It is entirely possible for the two sides to initial a draft agreement on the HK issue in September this year, so long as they continue to be co-operative, he added.

A successful settlement of the HK issue will evoke wide repercussions all over the world and will set an example for the whole world in solving issues between countries left over by history, Deng said.

While in Beijing, Howe said a successful settlement of the HK issue is of great importance to both countries. He also expressed his appreciation for China's "one country, two systems" policy, saying that it will guarantee stability and prosperity of Hongkong before and after 1997.

Calling for Pullout of Viet Troops

Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian and his Thai counterpart Siddhi Savetsila held a talk on July 25, both stressing that there could be no political settlement of the Kampuchean issue until Vietnamese troops were withdrawn.

The Kampuchean problem remains unsolved because the Vietnamese authorities stick to their stubborn aggressive policy and refuse to pull out their troops from that country, Wu pointed out.

Siddhi arrived in Beijing on July 24 for a five-day visit at Wu's invitation.

Thailand is a member state of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, whose foreign ministers had just held the 17th conference in Jakarta two weeks before. Siddhi briefed his Chinese counterpart

on the conference and the organization's desire to see national conciliation in Kampuchea after the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops.

Wu said that China supports the national conciliation of various political forces in Kampuchea, followed by a democratic general election under the supervision of the United Nations, after the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese forces.

Despite the fact that the social systems in China and Thailand are different, the two countries' strict observation of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence fostered a relationship of good-neighbourliness, amity, unity and co-operation between the two countries. Both foreign ministers reached a broad identity of views on international

issues of common concern — especially the situation in Southeast Asia.

During Siddhi's stay in Beijing, he had talks with Premier Zhao Ziyang and General Secretary Hu Yaobang. All of them expressed their satisfaction with the state of friendly co-operation now prevailing between China and Thailand, and agreed that their countries would adopt positive measures to expand relations in various spheres.

Check Hegemonism, Fight for Peace

The danger of another world war still exists. But the war could be prevented and world peace safeguarded as long as people the world over work together to disrupt the superpowers' strategic plans and check their hegemonism, said Ji Pengfei, State Councillor, at a peace forum in Beijing.

The forum is evidence of the Chinese people's determination to work together with the peoples of other countries to safeguard world peace. "The Chinese Government fully supports your activities and will provide and create all necessary conditions to promote such activities for peace," Ji said to some 200 participants from various Chinese political parties, people's organizations and other walks of life.

The forum was sponsored by the Chinese Association for International Understanding at a time when China is to send observers to the 1984 world conference against atomic and hydrogen bombs in Japan. The association was founded on September 28, 1981, to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the people of China and other countries, and to safeguard world peace.

World peace has become the

most important and urgent issue in world politics today and safeguarding world peace the paramount common task of peoples of all countries, Ji added.

A new world war would be more disastrous than the previous two wars which killed 40 million people, since the world has entered the nuclear age. Li Yimang, President of the Association, said at the forum that the two superpowers, which possess 60,000 nuclear warheads, are the only two countries in the world capable of waging a global nuclear war.

"The most urgent task is therefore to halt their nuclear and conventional arms race," Li added.

China is one of the five nuclear powers in the world. But, Li said, "The small and limited number of nuclear weapons China has to keep at present is solely aimed at resisting nuclear blackmail and intimidation by the superpowers, and at helping the struggle for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons."

And China has long ago undertaken the unilateral commitment never to be the first to use nuclear weapons or to use them against non-nuclear states or nuclear-free zones, Li added.

Further Sino-US Ties Called for

China hopes her co-operation with the United States in industry and technology will soon reach a new level, according to Premier Zhao Ziyang.

Relations between the two countries should be developed in both official and unofficial ways, Zhao said when meeting with a visiting US presidential trade mission, composed of government officials and representatives of big industrial corporations.

The mission, led by Assistant to the President for cabinet affairs Craig L. Fuller, arrived in Beijing on July 21 for a visit which, as Fuller said, was built on the foundation of President Reagan's visit to China and the US tours made by Premier Zhao and Minister Chen Muhua. The Chinese sources concerned regard the mission's visit as evidence that Reagan and his government support the US firms in establishing and developing economic, industrial and technical co-operation with Chinese enterprises.

The United States is the largest developed country in the West while China is the largest developing country in the world. Co-operation between the two countries in industry and technology, Zhao said, has great potential, and can be based on the basis of mutual needs and mutual effort.

Zhao and Reagan signed an agreement on industrial and technological co-operation on January 12 during Zhao's visit to the US. Both sides, Zhao said, have since exerted efforts to carry this out, as the US mission's current visit to China shows.

Zhao hoped that the recently-signed work programme for industrial and technological co-operation in the aerospace industry between the two countries would be effectively implemented and that fruitful results would be obtained.

Fuller said his talks with Zhao and the Chinese officials were fruitful. They would contribute to further development of the two countries' economic relations.



Viet Nam

World Factor Behind Attack

by HUANG YUAN

VIET NAM has ignored China's warning about further armed provocation, made in an attempt to ease the border tension. Instead, it is moving more troops into the area, ready for further fighting.

After a Vietnamese attack was beaten back on July 12, the Laoshan District in Malipo County, Yunnan Province, was bombarded. On July 13 and 14 alone, 7,000 rounds of artillery shells were fired.

Hanoi's escalated actions, due partly to tighter control at home, have also to be measured against a background of international considerations.

First of all, the Vietnamese authorities want to divert world attention from its aggression in Kampuchea. They have been condemned around the world for stubbornly persisting in the aggression in defiance of UN resolutions demanding withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. To extricate itself from the predicament, Hanoi has, in addition to playing diplomatic tricks to whitewash its aggression, stepped up its armed provocation against China in an attempt to split the international forces opposed to its aggression and to divert world attention.

Yet Viet Nam's anti-China propaganda, backed by Moscow, has been believed by few countries. On the contrary, international appeals and pressures for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops

are getting stronger. The 17th ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting on July 9-10 called for the early withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea and supported the just stand of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. The foreign ministers pointed out that Viet Nam's occupation of Kampuchea poses a threat to peace and stability in Southeast Asia, and they once again dismissed Hanoi's call for a prompt dialogue between the Indo-Chinese states and the ASEAN states. Viet Nam is worried about its isolation and passive international position, especially in the light of the coming debate and vote on Kampuchea at the 39th session of the United Nations General Assembly, scheduled for September.

Secondly, the Vietnamese authorities want to drive a wedge between the Chinese and the Soviets. The consultations for normalization of Sino-Soviet relations have struck fear into the hearts of the Vietnamese leaders, who have attacked China's demand that the Soviet Union cease its support of Hanoi's aggression in Kampuchea, and worked hard to prevent any normalization in Sino-Soviet relations. At the beginning of this year, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach admitted that "we will, of course, try to stop them from doing so." (i.e. normalizing their relations.) Le Duan, General Secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, made it even more plain when he said: "To maintain close unity and total co-operation with the

Soviet Union is a principle and a strategy."

These statements clearly show Hanoi's determination to pursue regional hegemonism with Soviet backing. Thus, Viet Nam deliberately chose to intensify its provocation on the Sino-Vietnamese borders and create a tense situation last spring just before the scheduled visit to China of First Vice-Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers Ivan Arkhipov.

In May and June, Vietnamese Defence Minister Van Tien Dung and General Secretary Le Duan visited Moscow to discuss the Southeast Asian situation and "total co-operation," and to seek more Soviet aid and support. It is no accident that the escalation of the armed provocation against China took place at the end of June and the beginning of July when Soviet and Chinese deputy foreign ministers had just concluded their talks in Moscow.

Actually, Moscow's support for Viet Nam is based on its own global strategy. It has echoed Hanoi's allegations and attacked China for the Sino-Vietnamese border tension. Soviet leaders have assured Hanoi that "solidarity with" and "all round support for" Viet Nam is the "invariable course" of the Soviet Union. Hanoi's latest armed provocation against China took place in the wake of the Soviet pledge. An article in the Vietnamese army paper *Quan Doi Nhan Dan* confirmed that Viet Nam has the "full support" of the Soviet Union in its aggression against China.

China has pointed out time and again since the start of the Sino-Soviet consultations that Soviet support for Vietnamese aggression in Kampuchea is one of the obstacles to normalization of Sino-

Soviet relations, and that without the removal of these obstacles, normalization would be impossible.

Gulf Countries

Fresh Efforts for Peace

by ZHU MENGKUI

DIPLOMATIC efforts to bring about an end to the Iran-Iraq war have greatly intensified since last April, when the war rapidly spread from the battleground to the Gulf waterway. The two warring states have repeatedly launched attacks on Gulf shipping in an attempt to choke off each other's oil exports.

The two sides locked in the war have built up a series of diplomatic contacts with the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. Consequently, the sub-zero relations between Iraq and the United States have begun to warm up, and the Iraqi-Soviet ties have been steadily strengthened. Moscow has recently agreed to provide Iraq with a long-term credit of US\$2,000 million. In addition, it will ship SS-21 intermediate-range missiles to Iraq.

The improvement in relations between Iran and the Soviet Union follows a recent exchange of visits by officials of the two countries. Early in June Director-General of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Political Affairs Department Seyyed Mohammad Sadr visited Moscow. Late in June a Soviet delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Power and Electricity Alex Makuhin also paid a seven-day visit to Iran. Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Mussavi said on June 28 that Iran was looking forward to better relations with neighbouring countries, particularly the Soviet Union. Observers note that the Soviet Union, for its part, also felt the same need to mend its relations with Iran, despite Iran's ban two

Unfortunately, the Soviet Union is still unwilling to remove these obstacles.

years ago on the Soviet-backed "Tudeh" Party, a ban which once cast a shadow on the future of the two countries' relations.

The danger of the escalation of the Gulf war has greatly disturbed the other Gulf countries who feel vulnerable to the threat of the war. Last May Saudi and Kuwaiti tankers were raided by Iran, and Saudi airmen shot down an Iranian airplane. The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and the Arab League respectively held emergency meetings to study joint actions to deal with the situation. Secretary-General of the GCC, Yaccoub Bishara declared on July 8 that any new raid on GCC's ships "would be considered to be a declaration of war."

In face of this situation, the GCC member states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — have taken some urgent steps to upgrade their self-defence since the beginning of the year. Saudi Arabia has obtained from the United States military aircraft and ground-to-air Stinger missiles, and following this an agreement was signed recently by Kuwait and the Soviet Union on an arms deal worth US\$520 million. Some Gulf countries have made appeals for better relations with the Soviet Union and talked about establishing official ties with that country.

Arab political sources pointed out that if the Gulf shipping attack went on on a large scale, it might lead to a confrontation between Iran on the one hand and some Arab countries on the other, and compel the militarily-weak Gulf countries to seek aid from

the two superpowers. In such a situation, the way would be paved for the two superpowers to become involved.

Actually, both the United States and the Soviet Union have already built up their naval forces in the Gulf and the adjacent Indian Ocean on the pretext of "safeguarding Gulf security," while charging each other with "sinister motives."

However, the United States could do little to cope with the situation because it has been trammled by Israel and affected by its presidential elections. Neither could it meet the Gulf states' requirement for strengthening their self-defence. But the Soviet Union is in a favourable position to enhance its influence in the Gulf and the Middle East regions by renewing relations with Egypt, cementing alliance with Syria and approaching Iran and Iraq as well as other Gulf countries.

The intensified rivalries between the two superpowers in the Gulf and the Middle East have made the situation more complex and have aroused attention from the public throughout the world.

Over the past few days, there have been some encouraging signs that Gulf tension is relaxing. The six Gulf countries met on July 16 to discuss Iran's proposal for the convening of a regional conference on the Iran-Iraq war. These countries endorsed such a conference involving the GCC and Iran so as to bring peace back to the region. On the same day, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz made it clear that Iraq was ready to get out of the war with Iran as soon as possible, and reluctant to see the war spread to other countries.

The seven-nation goodwill mission of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) held a session on July 18 and 19 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, authorizing its newly elected Chairman, Gambian President

Dawda Kairaba Jawara, to consult Iraq and Iran on the resumption of efforts to contain the war between these two countries. It is also reported that Saudi Arabia has sent an invitation to Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani to visit while going on pilgrimage to Mecca during the year.

New Zealand

New Government Faces Troubles

by XIN ZONG

A LONG-TERM and arduous task of bringing the ailing New Zealand economy back on to the track lies before the Labour Party which defeated the National Party in the July 14 general election.

The former government of the National Party under Robert Muldoon had been under fire for its failure to overcome the country's serious economic crisis marked by its overvalued dollar, a rising external trade deficit and rocketing inflation. This contributed to the fall of his government.

New Zealand has suffered from the recent economic crisis in the Western world and higher oil prices. Its foreign trade has shrunk and its deficit in international payments has grown sharply. In the 1983-1984 fiscal year ending on March 31, it incurred a budget deficit of 2,980 million New Zealand dollars. Its foreign debts stand at 17,000 million New Zealand dollars. The number of unemployed has topped 100,000.

The final results of the poll showed that the New Zealand people in the country had very little confidence in the National Party's economic policies and wanted to have a change.

The eight-point proposal for economic recovery put forward by the Labour Party during the elec-

The Gulf press circles cheered the new efforts to end the bloodshed. Kuwaiti paper *Al Waten* expressed the hope that the proposed GCC-Iran dialogue would lead to rational relations between the two sides and "open the door for a negotiated end to the Gulf war."

growth strategy, a fiscal policy that tackles the problems caused by the internal deficit and the re-targeting of public resources to those in greater need.

To keep the promise he made during the election, Prime Minister David Lange announced on July 18 after the first cabinet meeting of the new Labour government the devaluation of the New Zealand dollar by 20 per cent, the removal of controls on interest rates and the immediate implementation of a three-month price freeze.

Initial favourable response came after the announcement as the interest rates for major commercial borrowers fell and a spectacular inflow of money was reported as soon as foreign exchange trading began.

Although the Labour government is not expected to present its budget until late September or

tion won the hearts of voters who were eager to see the country walk out of the abyss of economic crisis. The proposal includes consensus on the programme of economic and social reconstruction, a fair price and income policy, an investment strategy to help restore full employment and reduce the external deficit, reform of industry assistance, a fair tax system, a monetary policy that underpins a balanced

New Zealand Rebuffs US Warning

THE newly-elected Labour government has faced up against US pressure on the proposed ban of US nuclear ships from New Zealand.

New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange on July 25 rebuffed US President Ronald Reagan's statement that New Zealand will not go ahead to ban American nuclear ships from its ports. Lange said, "All I can say about that is I hope his other pronouncements on foreign policy have more grounding in fact than that one. The president of the United States can say whatever he likes, he's entitled to take whatever view he cares to, but of course, he and I have not spoken together."

Earlier the same day Reagan told a press conference televised across the United States that "I have every reason to believe there won't be any denial to our ships." He said the United States would do its best to persuade the new leaders in Wellington that it is in the interests of both countries to continue in the ANZUS alliance with Australia.

The New Zealand Labour Party during the general election pledged to ban US nuclear armed or powered warships from New Zealand ports and renegotiate the ANZUS Treaty which joins Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

US officials warned that Washington would have little interest in defending New Zealand if Wellington limits US access to its ports and defense facilities. US Secretary of State George Shultz said that ANZUS could be destroyed if New Zealand banned visits by American nuclear ships.

Lange was reported to have rejected Shultz's warning, saying "we support the idea of a nuclear-weapon-free South Pacific, in which nuclear armaments are not employed or stored."

However, earlier he said his government will reach "an understanding" with the United States on calls at New Zealand's ports by nuclear warships. But what kind of understanding it will be remains to be seen.

early October, its first steps to tackle the country's troubles seem to have won wide support.

However, with the presence of a

serious economic crisis in the country, the new government will have a tough job with many difficulties to overcome in the days ahead.

Washington-Moscow

Will Their Relationship Be Eased?

by MEI ZHENMIN

THE United States will hold its presidential election in November. This has had some influence on world affairs, particularly on the US-Soviet relations.

As many analysts have observed, in the past three years the Reagan administration has scored some "successes" which will benefit its re-election: Firstly, its special economic policy has made US economy the "catalyst" for Western economic recovery. Secondly, the hard-line US policy towards the Soviet Union and the US large military build-up have changed US formerly unfavourable position in the global rivalry.

However, the Reagan administration's economic policy (huge deficits, high interest and high exchange rates) has been condemned by the third world and Western countries. Many Americans and Westerners do not like Reagan's hard-line policy and his warlike attitude towards Moscow, which they believe has worsened East-West relations in general and US-Soviet relations in particular.

These public attitudes can be regarded as unfavourable factors in Reagan's re-election campaign. So, he is trying to make himself appear as a "peace envoy" before the voters. The Reagan administration has recently restrained its expansionist moves towards the Central American and Middle Eastern countries. Washington has encouraged the South African authorities to hold talks with neighbouring countries, and it has also

made moves to ease the icy cold US-Soviet relations.

Since mid-June, US President Ronald Reagan has launched a series of "peace offensives" vis-à-vis the Soviet Union. Reagan expressed his willingness to hold a summit meeting with Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko. Washington also made overtures aimed at the improvement of relations between the two countries, and adopted a pose of easing or abolishing sanction measures against the Soviet Union. Thirdly, Washington has withdrawn its original rejection of the Soviet proposal for the prevention of militarization of the outer space region and agreed to hold talks with Moscow with pre-conditions.

Some observers have noted that the Reagan administration is pursuing a policy of "using a soft exterior to mask a hard interior," and that his peace posture is purely for election purposes.

Some analysts say that although Moscow has made a series of peace overtures to relax East-West tensions, it does not want to do anything that will put Reagan in a favourable position during the election campaign. So the Soviet Union has recently adopted an uncompromising stand towards the United States. Soviet leaders have said repeatedly that the talks on the reduction of medium-range missiles cannot be resumed unless the cruise and Pershing II missiles installed in Europe are removed altogether. They disclosed that, as a counter-measure against the deployment of missiles, the Soviet

Union has since last November stepped up the deployment of SS-20s in its own territory and installed a number of tactical longer-range missiles in some East European countries.

Moscow has also ignored the US proposals for a US-Soviet summit meeting, criticizing the United States for making a series of "ambiguous" and "self-contradictory" statements, and charging that Reagan's response was a "propaganda manoeuvre." Soviet leaders said that Washington's linking of the talks on the prevention of militarization in outer space with the talks on nuclear disarmament was making the matter confusing and complicated. As a result, Moscow has rejected Reagan's suggestions which it described as unacceptable, pre-conditions for the talks.

The Soviet Union has attempted to force Reagan to make concessions. In a letter to the United States of June 29, Moscow proposed a meeting in Vienna in September to discuss a ban on anti-satellite weapons. By this move Moscow hopes to put Washington in an awkward situation and make some breakthroughs in the negotiations.

Recently, US Secretary of State George Shultz held frequent talks with the Soviet ambassador in Washington, as did Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko with the US ambassador in Moscow. The American and Soviet negotiators agreed to upgrade the 21-year-old "hot line" used to speed crisis messages between Washington and Moscow and prepare for the talks to be held on the cultural exchanges between the two countries. All these facts indicate that the tense US-Soviet relationship may loosen up in the latter part of this year. However, any change in this direction is limited since the two superpowers will not abandon their rivalry for global hegemonism and their race for superiority in nuclear arms race.

Build a Great Wall to Defend World Peace

China has decided to send observers to the 1984 World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs to be held from August 1 to 9 in Japan. China stands firm for disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, and suggests all peace-loving people and organizations carry out broad co-operation to publicize and express support for the people's movements to safeguard peace all over the world.



by LI YIMANG

AT the invitation of the Preparatory Committee of the 1984 World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, the Chinese Association for International Understanding and other organizations have decided to send observers to the annual session of the World Conference to be held from August 1 to 9. To avow the Chinese people's love for peace and their determination to defend it, as well as to wish our observers a bon voyage, we have today invited to this forum personages from various political parties, mass organizations, from scientific and technological, academic, religious, literature and art, journalistic and

The author is President of Chinese Association for International Understanding. This is his speech at Beijing Forum for Safeguarding World Peace held on July 28.

other circles. We are pleased to note that those present today include both young peace activists and well-known figures in the peace movement of the older generation. This is another grand gathering in Beijing with "all wise men attending, young and old." This shows that, as on all other fronts, our people's movement to defend world peace is at the stage of carrying over from the old and blazing a trail for the new.

The Chinese people love and desire peace. Our country is undertaking peaceful construction on an unprecedented scale in an endeavour to quadruple its 1980 annual gross output value of industry and agriculture by the end of this century, and to raise the level of material and cultural life of the people correspondingly. The concerted efforts made by the people of all nationalities in recent years have resulted in the emergence of a thriving situation and the achievement of encouraging successes. However, we remain sober-minded and realize that owing to the weak foundations left over from the old China and the twists and turns we went through in past construction, even though we reach the goal of quadrupling our annual gross output value of industry and agriculture by the end of this century, it will still take another 30 to 50 years for us to get close to or catch up with the present level of the developed countries. A peaceful international environment is a prerequisite essential to any country engaged in peaceful construction, the more so for China, a developing

socialist country with a population of 1 billion and undertaking all-round peaceful construction.

The determination of the Chinese people to prevent a new world war and to fight for world peace is not merely an expedient arising only from the needs of their own country or the present generation. We still remember that the First World War took a toll of over 10 million lives and the Second World War a toll of over 30 million lives. The two atom bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki alone inflicted casualties of several hundred thousand. In case of another world war fought with nuclear weapons, the death toll would far exceed those of the two previous world wars. Neither have we forgot the countless sufferings brought on our own people by the wars the imperialists and their agents forced on China through more than a century from the Opium War in 1840. Though well advanced in age, I remember vividly the miserable scenes of the old China where corpses were scattered over the length and breadth of our blood stained fields. We desire peace not merely for the building of a modernized China. After the modernization of our country is achieved, even less would we like to see the factories, farms, mines, residential areas, hospitals and schools built with such painstaking efforts to be devastated by war. We wish to see not only our own future generations free from the misery of war, but also the people of the whole world enjoying life in peace for ever.

In order to safeguard world

peace, it is necessary to resolutely oppose hegemonism which constitutes the gravest threat to world peace and stability at the present time. To judge whether a country poses a threat to peace, we should not merely read the statement it publicises, or listen to the doctrine it claims to follow, but find out whether it pursues a hegemonic policy of external invasion and expansion. As an old Chinese saying goes, "Listen to their words and watch their deeds." If we apply this principle as a yardstick, it will not be difficult to find out that the greatest threat to world peace in our time originates from the rivalry of the two superpowers for world hegemony. In Europe, they are engaged in an armed confrontation. In many other regions of the world, they encroach on the sovereignty and interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and occupy the territory and slaughter the people of still other countries. In short, their contention is undermining world peace and stability and may lead to a new world war. The Chinese people will, as always, sympathize with and support the people of all countries in their just struggle to maintain world peace against hegemonism, foreign aggression and interference, regardless of whichever hegemonistic country perpetrates such aggression and interference under whatever pretext. As for China itself, not

only have we never sought hegemony, but also we will pass on the ideology of "never seeking hegemony" from generation to generation through assiduous and persistent education. We regard this as a moral commitment of the cause of world peace.

The people of the world are concerned with the question of disarmament, especially that of nuclear disarmament. The basic way to eliminate the threat of nuclear war is to completely prohibit and thoroughly destroy nuclear weapons. The military power of both superpowers far exceeds that of their own normal defence requirements. Their annual military expenditure surpasses the national income of China with its population of 1 billion, and is 5 times over that of the total annual GNP of the 51 least developed countries with a population of nearly 500 million. They possess about 60,000 nuclear warheads, 95 per cent of the world's total, with an explosive force equivalent to more than 10 billion tons TNT. Their nuclear weapons surpass those of other nuclear countries by scores even hundreds of times quantitatively and are vastly superior qualitatively. In the world today, only the two superpowers are in a position to run a nuclear arms race and are capable of waging a global nuclear war. Therefore, only when

the two superpowers take the lead by drastically cutting their nuclear weaponry, will it be possible to effect genuine nuclear disarmament. From the angle of any particular country or region, the threat posed by this or that superpower could be graver and more direct. However, taking the overall situation of preventing a nuclear world war into consideration, the most important and urgent task at present is to halt the nuclear and conventional arms race between the two superpowers. China is still a developing country which is in earnest need of concentrating its resources on economic development and the improvement of the living standards of its people. China stands for a substantial reduction in conventional weapons and for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. In our hearts, we are unwilling to spend even one cent on nuclear weapons which can neither be eaten as food nor be worn as clothes. The small limited number of nuclear weapons China has to keep at present is solely aimed at resisting the nuclear blackmail and intimidation by the superpowers, and at helping the struggle for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. Our country has long ago undertaken the unilateral commitment never be the first to use nuclear weapons or to use them against

At the Beijing Forum for Safeguarding World Peace.



non-nuclear states or nuclear-free zones. If the other nuclear states are ready to discuss the reduction of nuclear weapons, China will participate. The Chinese people resolutely support the statement made by Premier Zhao Ziyang in his report on the work of the government. "We will support any practical proposal for disarmament which is in keeping with the fundamental principle that the two superpowers take the lead by reducing their arsenals of nuclear and conventional weapons."

The Chinese people have full confidence in the cause of safeguarding world peace. Since the end of the Second World War, the forces defending world peace have grown considerably. The collapse of the world colonial system has weakened the imperialist war forces. The third world countries which were bullied in the past are now fighting to safeguard their own independence and sovereignty and struggling against foreign aggression and interference. Their voices are loud and clear in demanding the relaxation of international tension and the termination of the arms race. They made valuable contributions to the cause of world peace and have become an important factor in the defence of world peace. Many other countries are also making efforts to defend world peace according to their own environment and conditions. Moreover, the mass movement in defence of peace is more widespread and the outcry for peace higher than at any time in history. Peace movements on a world scale have advanced wave upon wave in recent decades, with one upsurge after another in the last few years. Since the First World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in 1955, the Japanese people have persevered for 29 years in the movement against atomic and hydrogen bombs and all told have collected over 82 million signatures. It is a movement which

has a significant influence inside Japan and in the world as a whole. The West European people oppose the deployment of both the SS-20 and the Pershing II. From October to November 1983, over 3 million people took part in various protest activities in Bonn, Berlin, the Hague, London, Rome, Athens and other cities. In June 1982, 700,000

A peaceful international environment is essential to China which is now engaged in all-round peaceful construction.

However, the determination of the Chinese people to prevent a new world war and to fight for world peace is not merely an expedient arising only from the needs of their own country or the present generation.

Americans in New York held "the biggest protest rally in the history of the United States"; millions of people took part in poll demanding that the United States and the Soviet Union first "freeze" and then cut back their nuclear weapons. In November 1983, 100,000 Romanian young people and children participated in the "youth-for-peace parade." We are aware that the struggle to defend world peace is extremely hard and complex and that it cannot be plain sailing. One grave development for people to contemplate and treat seriously, I should mention, is that the two superpowers are vying with one another to deploy new nuclear missiles in Europe despite opposition from the broad masses. Yet, in the long term, it is the people who are really powerful, and it is only the people who can decide the destiny of mankind. There was a lapse of merely 21 years between the First and Second World Wars, but world

peace has already been upheld for 39 years since the end of the Second World War. This is unquestionably due to many factors. However, it is beyond any doubt that the growth of the forces for peace and their struggle have played a very important role. So long as the people of all countries strengthen their unity in struggle and continue to foil the attempts of the superpowers to pursue policies of aggression and expansion, a new world war can be averted and the goal of the thorough destruction of nuclear weapons be realized step by step.

The Chinese Association for International Understanding and other people's organizations in this country wish to strengthen ties and co-operation with the peace movements, peace groupings and peace activists in various countries. Owing to differences in experience, environment and ideology, it is inevitable that there is difference of opinion among the various peace movements and groups on certain concrete issues. We consider that this is normal and it should in no way obstruct their exchange of information and co-operation. "Mount Tai is huge because it does not reject any soil; rivers and oceans are deep because they do not turn away even trickles." The contemporary peace movement is powerful precisely because it is all-embracing: people of different colour, race, profession, political views and religious faith in all social strata are brought into a great current surging towards the lofty common goal of world peace. In the past, people's organizations in China took an active part in different kinds of international and regional campaigns for world peace. In the early 1950s, our people on two occasions carried out nationwide petition campaigns against atomic bombs, in which close to 700 million signatures were collected. In 1952, Soong

Ching Ling, Guo Moruo and other noted activists in our peace movement sponsored the Asian-Pacific Regional Peace Conference in Beijing which was attended by delegates from 37 countries. Because of the 10-year internal upheaval caused by the "cultural revolution," our ties with peace movements in various countries were suspended for a long time. In recent years, we have invited a number of representatives of peace groupings and noted peace activists from other countries to visit China, or have made contacts with them on other occasions. Last year, we sent observers to attend the World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in Japan after an absence of 18 years. In the future, we wish to resume and further broaden contacts of this kind, including bilateral or multilateral contacts and discussions in Beijing or elsewhere.

Over 2,000 years ago, the Chinese people constructed the Great Wall, which is renowned today as one of the "wonders of the

world." In the tense and turbulent world today, the Chinese people wish to join with the people of the world in a common effort to build a new and even more magnificent "Great Wall," a Great Wall to defend world peace and prevent war.

We propose and appeal for the following:

1. In accordance with their own conditions, the people of all countries should take various forms of action to demand that both superpowers exercise restraint, bring an end to the deployment of new nuclear weapons in Europe, Asia and other parts of the world, stop testing, improving and manufacturing nuclear weapons, and sincerely negotiate and reach an agreement on a substantial reduction of their nuclear arsenals; and on this basis, the people of the world should demand that all nuclear powers conduct serious and realistic negotiations to reduce and then eliminate nuclear weapons.

2. All peace-loving political

parties, people's organizations and mass media should take prompt action to expose threat to world peace posed by the two superpowers in their contention for hegemony, to expose the devastation which would be inflicted by a world war, especially a nuclear war, on mankind as a whole, to propagate the need for the two superpowers to take the lead in drastically cutting back their nuclear and conventional arsenals, and to propagate and express support for the people in different countries in their movements to safeguard world peace.

3. Peace movements and peace groupings in various countries should strengthen their connections on the principles of mutual respect, learning from each other, seeking common ground while reserving differences, and not imposing views on each other, establish all sorts of contacts, and exchange views and experience so as to promote mutual understanding and friendship and realize the broadest co-operation. □

Report from Panama

The Canal and the Contadora Spirit

by **ZHENG FANGKUN**
Our Special Correspondent

THE time I and my friends went sightseeing on Lake Nicaragua in a country famous for its lakes and volcanos, the mists and waves of the lake were stretching so far into distance that we thought we were looking out over the ocean. In fact, our perception was partly right. In ancient times, the lake was part of the Pacific but became landlocked when volcanic eruptions caused movements in the earth's crust.

When the idea of building a canal across the Central American

isthmus — joining the Pacific and Caribbean and thereby shortening shipping routes by more than half — was first put forward seriously in the last century, there were 29 conceivable sites, the first running through Lake Nicaragua. From the point of view of US inter-coastal trade, it was the shortest route. When the choice of the canal site was eventually made, Panama won out over Nicaragua because there was a railroad between Colon and Panama City, built earlier to transport prospectors bound for the California gold-fields across the isthmus, which would make construction of the

canal much easier there. Had this not been the case, the face of Central America would have been greatly different today.

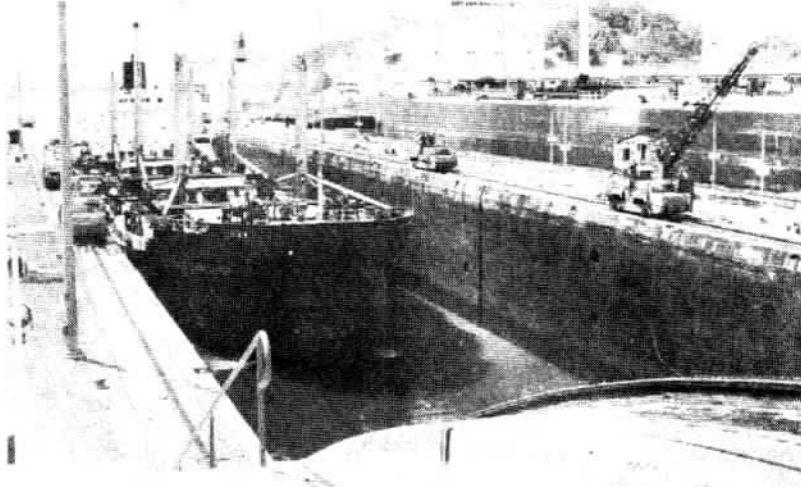
At the bleachers set up beside the Miraflores Locks for watching vessels transiting the canal, tourist guides rattle off statistics about the marine shortcut. Ecuador to Europe via the Panama Canal is 5,100 miles shorter than by the way of the straits of Magellan. From Peru to New York, the distance saved is 6,200 miles. From New York to San Francisco, the voyage is shorter by 60 per cent, and to Japan by 26 per cent. The distance from New York to the Far East by the canal is almost

the same as Britain to the Far East. The canal has given the United States a great advantage over its European trade rivals. And if a war breaks out, the canal enables US naval units to pass readily from one ocean to the other, serving as "the lifeline of US logistics." Between Nicaragua and Panama, there is only Costa Rica, neutral and unarmed and a mere 288 mile across. Aware of the canal's global strategic importance, the United States has never hesitated to intervene in Nicaragua, worrying that the latter would fall into the sphere of influence of another superpower.

The Central American isthmian belt—excluding Panama and Costa Rica, which have had some degree of political stability and high living standards—has for years been ruled by oligarchy and the military. Economically, all the countries are underdeveloped, with Honduras being the poorest state in Latin America and the Caribbean except for Haiti. The world economic recession at the end of the 70s and the beginning of the 80s, as well as internal political turbulence, hurt their economies badly. El Salvador's gross national product has dropped almost 25 per cent since 1978. In these countries famine, serious housing shortages and a lack of medicine have left many people malnourished and sick. The mortality and illiteracy rates are very high.

Because so many problems and crises exist, Washington has been extremely nervous about Nicaragua "exporting" revolution, nervous that other countries in the region may emulate Nicaragua's example and that the flames of revolution are spreading so wide and so fast that even comparatively stable Costa Rica and Panama cannot stop them. Widespread revolution would upset US global strategy.

Walking along the streets of



Ships moving through a lock on the Panama Canal.

Panama City, one can feel the comparative prosperity of the country and may ask why Panamanians have been so lucky in such an unsettled region. Is it due to the canal? The Panamanian economy has four pillars: the canal, the Colon Free Zone, international banking and tourism. The latter three are connected with the canal. As a communications link between the two oceans, the canal attracts swarms of visitors who come to admire the immense engineering project. There were 410,000 tourists in 1980, earning Panama US\$200 million in foreign exchange. The Colon Free Zone on the Caribbean side has an advantageous location, helped by the presence of a shipping transfer station.

The conditions for the rise in banking are the same. In Panama City, a city of only 600,000, over 130 banks operate, the majority of them being branches of foreign banks. These banks not only occupy a decisive position in the Panamanian economy; they make Panama City the financial capital of Central and South America. Overall, Panama is a developing country with the largest part of its 1,900,000 inhabitants engaging in agriculture. Bananas are the main exports.

The world economic recession has left Panama with numerous difficulties. The country has

had trade deficits for several years running. The foreign debt is estimated at US\$3,500 million, making Panama the largest per-capita debtor in Latin America. Export commodity prices keep falling and unemployment keeps rising. Dissatisfaction with the situation is spreading and hidden social conflicts are intensifying. Strikes break out now and then.

The world crisis has reduced the volume of shipping, which in turn has reduced the toll income from the canal. The prospect is expected to improve in the near future, although many Latin American countries have not yet tided over their debt-induced difficulties. Also, currency devaluations and restrictive measures against imports have put the Colon Free Zone in a tight corner.

Wanting to see the landscape along the canal, I went to Colon by train. I was surprised to see no villages, not even a single peasant household, along all the 47-mile route—only luxuriant tropical vegetation reaching almost to the rails. This is because before the new 1977 Panama Canal treaty went into effect, the railway was within the 10-mile-wide Canal Zone, which was completely controlled and administered by the United States. Even Panamanians wanting to enter the zone had to get passes from US canal authorities.

The "state within a state" pushed the Panamanians past all patience and for many years they struggled to abrogate the unequal 1903 US-Panama treaty and demanded that sovereignty over the canal and Canal Zone be returned to Panama. That the Panamanian flag could be hoisted over the zone, many patriots gave up their lives. On January 9, 1964, a group of Panamanian secondary school students broke into the Canal Zone to fly the Panamanian flag, beginning an anti-US storm that left 22 dead and more than 500 injured. This year, on the same day, assemblies and parades were held in Panama and other cities to commemorate those who died in that movement. In their relations with the United States, Panamanians are determined to safeguard their independence and defend their dignity.

Under the new canal treaty, the United States returned 65 per cent of the Canal Zone to Panamanian jurisdiction. The political division of the Canal Zone marked on maps of the isthmus was then ended. The United States will continue to be in charge of administration and defence of the canal itself until 1999, when it will be completely turned over to Panama. The Panama Canal Company has been reorganized into a mixed commission with five American and four Panamanian members. In 1990, the ratio will be reversed. However, the new treaty stipulates that even after the canal reverts to Panamanian control, the United States is entitled to take part in the defence of the canal if it is attacked.

Whenever the new canal treaty is mentioned, one cannot but recall its originator, Omar Torrijos Herrera, the former head of the Panamanian Government and commander of the National Guard. When Torrijos came to power in a coup d'etat in October 1968, the first thing he did was to discard

the three draft treaties with the United States concerning the canal, saying, "We were not, are not and will not for ever be a colony, a protectorate or a state of any federation, and will never become a star on the US flag." During the next 10 years in his talks with Washington, Torrijos repeatedly expressed that "Panama will always stand firm and never yield to pressure."

What Torrijos sought by coming to power was independence and prosperity for Panama. After the new Panama Canal treaty was signed in 1977, he refused to take up the post of Panamanian president. On the contrary, he prepared to transfer power to an elected government and set about to form the Democratic Revolutionary Party to realize his ideal. The 1983 revised Panamanian constitution stipulates that the president of the republic is commander of the armed forces, and that the military cannot meddle in politics. This revision lays a foundation for the depoliticization of the armed forces.

This year's general election, the first since 1968, was held in a mixed situation. The 16 year under the military junta had been relatively calm, but Panama, like other Latin American countries, was and still is gripped in the most serious economic crisis since World War II. Behind the tall banks and lively casinos which symbolize the

spirit of free market policies, slum houses are collapsing and barefoot children are begging on the streets.

Although there are more than 9,000 US soldiers and their families stationed in Panama and the two countries still have differences on some questions, relations with the United States were not an issue during the election; nor were they the target of attacks — an unprecedented situation in the past 81 years of special relationship with the United States.

Encouraged by the signing of the canal treaties, Panama advocates settling the region's conflicts through peaceful talks, persevering unremittently in its efforts within the Contadora Group.

Fernando Manfredo, Acting Panama Canal Commission Administrator, said, "I believe those countries and those conflicting forces that have resorted to violence or are threatening to do so should look at the treaty as a legitimate course that has proved itself to be useful and effective in the solution of problems by peaceful means."

Manfredo, a member of the Panamanian bargaining team during the negotiations for the new Panama Canal Treaty and minister for several portfolios during the Torrijos' administration, admitted that negotiating the treaty was not easy.

"Owing to the slow and frus-

The hotel on Contadora Island where the Contadora Group first met.



trating pace of the complicated negotiations, many times Panama was tempted to lose patience, reject anything that would not result in immediate success and seek other avenues instead of resorting to patient diplomacy," he said.

Manfredo counsels those who are able to influence the outcome of the regional crisis to insist on negotiations: "Let us not undermine the only avenue of hope towards peace that has been found."

Some people feel that the talks began more than a year ago by the Contadora Group have not yet achieved any signs of breakthrough and they are losing patience. Some are even attempting to seek other avenues towards a settlement. However, a Panamanian diplomat has said that "peace in Central America is now as close at hand as war."

It is entirely possible that Panama, the communications centre of the western hemisphere, would be drawn into a regional war if it broke out. Throughout history European colonialists based themselves here. The expedition by Francisco Pizarro to conquer Peru began in Panama. The expedition to the Mississippi led by Hernando de Soto and the expedition to Ecuador by Sebastian de Belalcazar also started from Panama City.

Today, the US Southern Command in what was formerly the Canal Zone is not only a military and intelligence centre, but also a supply base for transporting weaponry to Salvadoran troops for their campaign against guerrillas and to the Nicaraguan rebel forces for harassing the Sandinista Government from Honduras. Panama, which insists that the Canal Neutrality Pact must be observed, has brushes with the United States often over these matters.

Contadora Island, one of the more than 120 Pearl Islands, lies

nearly 80 nautical miles off the Pacific side of the isthmus. Here the foreign ministers of Panama, Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela held their first conference last year concerning the Central American issue, thus beginning the group's useful work and giving the group a name. The island is only three square kilometres but has wonderful beaches for tourists. The islands are famous for their pearls. In Spanish, Contadora means "to count." In the past, colonialists used the island as place to count the pearls they had extorted from the Indians. The fortunes in gold, silver and gems amassed in Panama to await shipment to Europe aroused the greed of pirates. In 1671, Panama City was looted by pirates, who reduced it to ashes. Two years later, it was rebuilt 10 kilometres west of the ruins. The rebuilt settlement is now called the old city. The modern buildings that have sprung up between the old city and the ruins of the original are called the new city.

Having had the bitter experiences of colonialism as well as the wounds of war, Panama takes the stand of a third world country and pursues a policy of anti-imperialism, anti-colonialism, non-alignment and non-interference in other nations' internal affairs. In Central America, it perseveres in its efforts for peace, encouraging conflicting sides to carry out dialogue and negotiations through the Contadora Group.

So far the Contadora Group has actually found a way to peace by drafting a series of documents and establishing contacts in various channels. But, as Panama's Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega said, it is necessary to turn those simple and enthusiastic words into a concrete, effective and verifiable agreement.

To produce such an agreement is no easy task because of the

profound economic and social origin of the Central American problem. Moreover, each country has little faith in others because of divergences in history and politics. So time is needed to reach a consensus. As well, the Contadora Group can only control some of the factors affecting the crisis in the regions, although its efforts have enjoyed support and appreciation from many peace-loving countries in the world, especially in Latin America.

Actually the problems in the region are influenced by the conflict between the West and the East. Rodrigo Lloreda, Foreign Minister of Colombia, said, "The big economic, political and military blocs represented by the United States and the Soviet Union have augmented their strength in the region." This spring, a Soviet fleet led by its helicopter carrier *Leningrad* cruised the Caribbean Sea in a show of force, while the United States also stationed a fleet headed by the aircraft carrier *America* in the vicinity.

The Contadora Group's work is aimed at getting rid of all outside interference in the region and letting the people of Central America solve their own problems. In doing this, the group needs co-operation and goodwill from the countries concerned. It not only needs to mediate between Central American countries, but must also persuade outside powers to alter their policies towards this region. Through these efforts, the Contadora Group hopes that the region will be pulled out from the maelstrom of East-West confrontation and enter a calm atmosphere of consultation.

Persevering in peaceful consultations to find a settlement of the region's conflict instead of resorting to arms — that is the spirit of Contadora. Keeping this in mind, the group will eventually bring peace to Central America. □

PLA Assisting Socialist Construction

The work of the PLA has done much to strengthen the unity between the army and the government, and between the army and the people, and to promote the development of the army itself as well.

by XIE XUAN
Our Guest Writer

THE Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) exists to serve the people heart and soul. It has not only amply fulfilled its mission to defend the frontier and coastal areas and safeguard the country's security, but has also played a great role in socialist construction since the founding of New China in 1949, bringing much benefit to the people and enormous wealth to the country.

Assisting Economic Construction

After liberation, the greatest task facing the Chinese people was to build the economy. Well aware of this, the PLA has enthusiastically worked on the state's key construction projects, built water conservation works in the countryside, produced non-military goods, and undertaken many other projects.

In 1958 the PLA took part in 120 key construction projects, including building iron and steel works, textile mills and power plants. In 1959, when the country was faced with economic difficulties caused by the Soviet Union which unilaterally scrapped all the contracts and the imperialists who imposed an economic blockade on China, the army joined the oil workers to open up the Daqing Oilfield.

The PLA railway engineering corps, tunnelling through mountains, spanning gorges and building bridges over deep rivers, has laid 12,300 kilometres of railway

lines since liberation, one-third of all the newly laid lines.

The capital construction engineering corps, which was founded in 1966, has built 160 large and medium projects so far. They include state key capital construction projects, projects of national defence, hydrological surveys, and exploring and mining such minerals as uranium and gold.

In the last five years, the army has taken on more than 8,200 large and medium key projects, always shouldering the most difficult tasks.

In the construction project of diverting water from the Luanhe River to Tianjin, for instance, they had to dig a 10,000-metre tunnel. In another water diversion project in Jiulongjiang, the most dangerous part of the construction was also done by the PLA.

The PLA has put much hard work into building water conservation works in the countryside. Shortly after liberation, when the Jingjiang flood-diversion project was started, 110,000 officers and soldiers stationed in Hubei Province joined in the work. Since then, PLA members have helped build more than 100 reservoirs and other water conservation projects.

Helping industry and producing non-military goods is still another way the PLA plays its role in socialist construction. This is especially true in recent years, when the national defence industry has changed its production structure in line with the economic readjustment. Military suppliers now in-

tegrate the production of both military and non-military goods. They provide equipment for coal, petroleum, communications and other industries, help textile and food-processing enterprises in their technological renovation, and have produced large quantities of durable consumer goods.

In 1985, the output value of non-military supplies accounted for 22 per cent of the total national defence industry, up 12 per cent from 1978. At the same time, the defence industry departments have been co-operating in economics and technology with more than 10 civil industries and 20 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. They have also signed about 500 contracts for technological transfer and economic and technological co-operation.

Disaster Relief

Because China is so big, some places suffer a natural disaster almost every year. Whenever a disaster is announced, the troops do their best to rescue people, help them restart production and rebuild their homes and save state property. Over the past 35 years, the PLA has sent out 12.29 million soldiers, provided disaster relief on more than 342,700 occasions, rescuing 5.7 million people and treating 65.52 million patients.

Flood is one of the most frequent disasters to strike in China, and the PLA has offered great help in fighting it.

When catastrophic floods occurred on the middle and lower reaches of the Changjiang (Yang-

tze) and the Huai Rivers in 1954 and later in Tianjin, Henan, Sichuan and Shaanxi, army officers and soldiers safeguarded many large cities and rescued millions of people. Some of the rescuers lost their lives.

In the summer of 1981, when Sichuan was hit by a major flood, the PLA sent airplanes, ships, trucks and jeeps and a large number of officers and soldiers to rescue the victims. Some troops also sent shipments of biscuits, tinned food and fruit.

Since liberation, Yunnan, Xingtai, Garze, Yingkou and Tangshan have all suffered from serious earthquakes. Everytime an earthquake struck, the local soldiers rushed to rescue people and their property, even when there were still frequent aftershocks, completely disregarding their own safety.

In 1983, when a typhoon struck the Zhujiang (Pearl) River Estuary and burst its 700-metre dyke, more than 800 navy officers and soldiers rushed to the danger zone. They saved 1,200 people in danger, but seven soldiers died in the violent storm.

"Our army values the common people's lives more than their own," one of the rescued people said with gratitude.

Helping Minorities

For historical reasons, the economic foundations of China's minority areas are fairly weak and their productivity level is rather low. The PLA has always considered it a major task to help minority people develop industrial and agricultural production, and improve their communications and transportation, science, culture and education.

Most of China's minority groups live in border areas, where there are large expanses of wasteland.

To help them build the economy, many soldiers have been transferred to these areas to reclaim wasteland and develop production. In the five years from 1952 to 1957, PLA units reclaimed 346,000 hectares of wasteland in Xinjiang and northeast China.

They have also helped build or expand 13 industries in Xinjiang, contributing much to the economic development of the region.

In Tibet, where once there was not a single highway, the PLA has built highways to Sichuan,

The PLA has made it a major task to help minority people develop industrial and agricultural production, and improve their communications and transportation, science, culture and education.

Qinghai and Xinjiang and opened an air route between Lhasa and Beijing.

These achievements have not been gained easily; the soldiers had to overcome enormous difficulties. The troops building a highway linking Dushanzi and Kuqa in Xinjiang had trouble adjusting to the high altitude and had to wear cotton clothes all the year round. Every day they went out against the drifting flakes and returned on the hard ice, displaying dauntless revolutionary courage.

In order to bring TV to the minority people in Bugat, along the northeastern border, a Shenyang PLA unit worked more than 25,000 days to set up a TV relay station on the top of a mountain 1,100 metres above sea level.

A reclamation farm run by the Kunming PLA sent officers and

soldiers to the countryside to help improve the educational level of the local people, giving them lectures on science and technology and introduce scientific methods of planting.

In the past five years, the army has trained 270,000 specialized technicians for the rural areas and repaired 2.8 million farm machines and implements.

Working for People's Interests

Another way the PLA serves the interests of the people is by increasing production and practising economy. In the years just after liberation the Chinese people had a very hard time. So did the army. Military supplies were far from adequate, but the PLA saved 5.9 million kilogrammes of grain to give to people in disaster areas. In the 1970s, it saved 8.8 billion yuan in operating funds and gave it to the state. Between 1961 and 1983, the PLA produced 12.3 billion kilogrammes of grain, of which 2.7 billion was turned over to the state. They also produced large quantities of soybeans, oil-bearing crops, meat and aquatic products, to feed themselves and help the state.

The PLA has also undertaken many public welfare projects. Over the past five years, the army has planted more than 200 million trees and afforested 360,000 hectares of land. They have also helped build bridges and highways, theatres, parks and playgrounds, and installed underground cables and gas pipes in the places where they are stationed. In the same period they have completed more than 19,700 public welfare projects.

To meet the needs of the socialist modernization drive, the army has been working hard to train

officers and soldiers suited for both military and civilian jobs. So far 236,000 officers have attended middle school or college courses and 600,000 soldiers have mastered at least one special skill which they can use after they are demobilized.

In Yichun County, Jiangxi Province, 368 demobilized soldiers have become skilled workers. Some of them have even been cited as model workers or invited to be key technicians. Demobiliz-

ed soldiers make up quite a large proportion of the specialized households which have sprung up in the countryside.

To build socialist morality and culture together with the civilians, the PLA has since 1981 developed a regular relationship with 50,000 work units all over China, involving 100 million people. Through their efforts, sanitation in these units has greatly improved, social mores and public order have taken a new turn for the better. Some

young people who had committed miner offences have been helped back on to the right road. The PLA has also helped the people learn science and technology and has set up 400,000 cultural centres and clubs.

The work of the PLA has done much to strengthen the unity between the army and the government, and between the army and the people, and to promote the development of the army itself as well. □

Hainan — A Treasure Island (5)

by HAN BI
Our Correspondent

THE hardest nut to crack in opening Hainan Island to the world and exploiting its potential is the modernization of its transportation and communications. Without improvements in these areas, it will be difficult to implement the economic programmes proposed by Premier Zhao Ziyang at a meeting in the island capital of Haikou in January 1983 and set out two months later in a circular issued by the Party Central Committee and the State Council.

Although it takes a Boeing 747 a little more than two hours to cover the distance from Beijing to Guangzhou, which by aviation standards is only a stone's throw from Hainan, once in Guangzhou it is not so easy even to get a plane ticket to the island. Frequent bad weather creates a backlog of Hainan-bound passengers, and even after I finally laid my hands on a ticket, the control tower at Haikou airport radioed ahead that it would not grant the plane landing permission because of heavy rains. After two days of anxious waiting, during which I languished in a hotel, I eventual-

ly had to return the ticket and made do with a 400-kilometre bus ride from Guangzhou to Zhanjiang. From there I intended to continue by bus down the Leizhou peninsula and cross over to the island by ferry. Fortunately, the weather had cleared by the time I reached Zhanjiang and I could fly to my destination. In all, the journey from Beijing cost me one valuable week.

On my bus trip from Guangzhou to Zhanjiang, I came across many Hongkong and Macao businesspeople and foreigners. Most of them were on the road negotiating investments and sight-seeing. The delays in getting to Hainan left them even more anxiety-ridden than myself. A Hongkong businesswoman told me her company was interested in pooling money to set up a clothing factory on Hainan because of the Chinese Government's preferential policy there. But the problems with local transportation disturbed her. She had been on Hainan a couple of times to survey the situation and sign contracts and each time had been stranded by poor transportation. Once she had trouble getting on to the island; the other time she had trouble getting off. The same plane delay that stranded me

in Guangzhou for several days had affected her, too. She had called Hongkong to ask permission to cancel the trip and finally made it only because the company insisted that she go on.

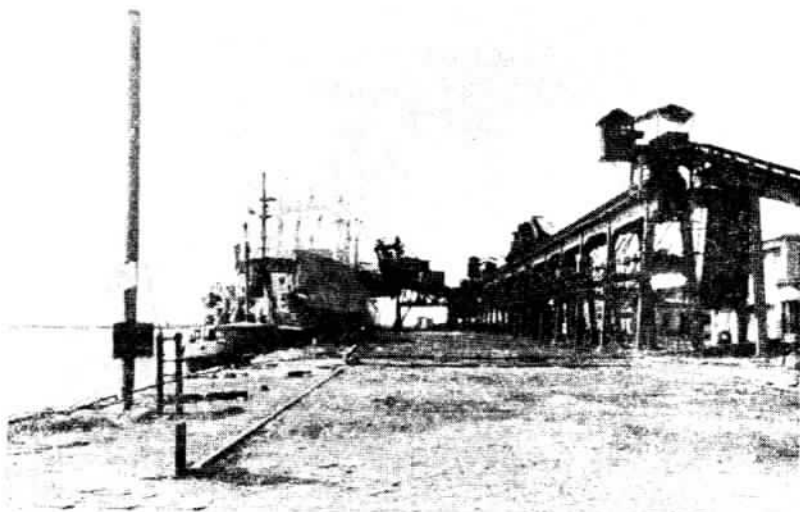
In the island capital of Hainan, a clerk at a travel agency told me up to one-third of potential tourists are scared off by reports of transportation delays caused by bad weather. Because Haikou airport is outdated and poorly equipped, the flight path from Guangzhou to the island is often clogged up. Travelling by sea takes 24 hours, not to mention delays brought on by fogs and typhoons. The bus trip via Zhanjiang and the Leizhou peninsula is even time- and energy-consuming. While the rest of the world has been made smaller by fast jets, poor transportation on the island makes short distance seem longer. This is the major bottleneck crippling the exploitation and development of the Hainan Island.

Hardly had I got to Haikou, when I heard of the news that the local airport would be closed in a few days. There was a plan to lengthen the runways and install new guidance equipment. The plan has been put off several

times in the past but this time it was for real and the airport was closed before I left the island. A military airfield 100 kilometres away was opened to civilian planes shuttling to and from Guangzhou and Zhanjiang. Although this has caused passengers some inconveniences, it is nevertheless the first step in a far-reaching plan. When opened again early next year, Haikou airport will be able to accommodate jumbo jets and offer express flights to Hongkong, a route less affected by weather. Meantime, another airport in Sanya at the southern end of the island will soon open to the world.

An important measure to be adopted to improve Hainan's transportation facilities is the construction and expansion of ports. One day at the end of March, I drove to Danzhou Bay at the northwest end of the island, where according to the short-term construction blueprint for Hainan, Yangpu, the island's biggest modern harbour will be built. Viewed from the air, Danzhou Bay looks like a boot kicked into the island. Outside the bay billows crash upon the shore, while inside the sea is calm. There are plans to construct one deep-water harbour and one regular harbour at the mouth of the bay, which used to be a haven for fishing boats and cargo ships in the typhoon season. The bay averages 11 metres deep and the deepest point is 26 metres. Because the narrow mouth speeds up the outflow of water, silt rarely builds up in the bay. The existing dozen metres of silt date back from several centuries ago.

Last year, the Party Central Committee and the State Council proposed that Hainan Island's deep-water harbour should be exploited as part of opening to the world. Specialists, professors and scholars, as well as entrepreneurs from the United States, Japan and Australia, came to inspect the site,



The ship at Basuo Harbour is being loaded with high-quality iron ore.

leaving with the common conclusion that it was indeed an ideal natural harbour and should have been exploited long ago. In the future most of the oil from the Yinggehai Oilfield will move through the harbour to the island to be processed. Grain imports will also be handled here. Salt, iron ore and other products from the island will find their way out through the harbour as well. Many foreign businesses have asked to build warehouses and factories there.

Beginning last October, the deep-water harbour of Yangpu underwent hydrological, topographical and geomorphological surveys. Geological exploration was conducted and investigation was made into economic results. Earthquake vulnerability was also surveyed and discussed. The project has now entered the data sorting and designing stage. Ground is expected to be broken in the second half of next year. In the first phase of construction, five berths—three for 10,000-ton vessels and two for 5,000-ton vessels—will be built. They are expected to go into operation at the end of 1988 or the beginning of 1989.

There is a narrow strip of land

jutting into the sea three kilometres, which serves as a natural breakwater. To have built the same thing by hand would have equalled the cost of building a new harbour from scratch, said the deputy director of the harbour construction preparatory office. The office workers have planted trees on the natural mole to strengthen it against waves and wind.

The Songtao Reservoir in the south of the island, with a storage stratum 40 metres deep, guarantees fresh water for the large harbour, docking ships, workers and residents and future factories.

Nor is a supply of electricity a problem. Power lines extend from the Songtao hydroelectric station to the harbour area, and the Changpo thermal power plant is nearing completion. There are at present two highways leading into the island and they will be widened in the future. A round-the-island railway will soon reach here. When construction starts, building materials will be ferried the 600 metres across the bay to the harbour sites.

The region around the Yangpu harbour is an important fishing

(Continued on p. 32.)

Enthusiasm for Study Among China's Youth

by **GAO MIAO**
Our Correspondent

ABOUT 9 or 10 o'clock in the Shanghai night, more buses and trolleys are dispatched to carry huge numbers of night school students home. During the rush hour, several hundred thousand students appear in Shanghai's streets after their evening classes. But several years ago, it was a quite different scene — fewer people walking and far less traffic.

This Spring Festival saw many young people thirsty for knowledge filling Shanghai's three big libraries, even though Spring Festival is the most important traditional holiday in China. At that time people, and particularly the young people, usually indulge in recreation, not study.

Due to the chaotic influence of the "cultural revolution" (1966-76), many young people missed school. With the drive to modernize our country going on seriously, they feel they are lagging behind and should study every subject again. They enter various kinds of schools, run by their units or local organizations.

In June 1983, in Sichuan 6 million urban and rural young people were taking lessons in their spare time, or 25 per cent of province's youth. In Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Chongqing and Shenyang, about 4 million young people take lessons from various kinds of schools. The figure is equal to 40 per cent of all the young people in these five cities. In Beijing alone, more than one million young people are involved in individual study. Of these, 70,000 were

enrolled in workers' colleges, radio and TV universities and correspondence colleges and evening schools, and 500,000 attended lectures on basic cultural and professional subjects, to make up the lessons missed during those chaotic 10 years. The state has formally recognized the junior or senior middle school courses they've now completed.

Some of these young people have been admitted to special or technical secondary schools or spare-time colleges, and about 600,000 are still receiving basic cultural and professional lessons.

A Network of Spare-Time Schools

OF course the young people's enthusiasm for study has won the support of the Party and state and aroused concern over how to meet their needs. And the various types of spare-time schools have begun to show their advantages of lower investments and more professional training in a shorter time.

There are now six types of spare-time higher education in China: evening university, correspondence college, radio and TV university, workers' college, spare-time college and qualifying examinations after individual study.

Evening universities are run by institutions of higher learning. Every week, students have 12 hours of classes. Those who successfully complete a three-year course are granted a certificate which a full-time student could earn in two years. Those who con-

The majority of students in spare-time schools are from government organizations, factories, mines and financial and trade units. Many are also waiting to be assigned jobs.

According to the department in charge of spare-time education, the individual study craze among young people will continue, because the number of institutions of higher learning in China is limited. Every year 75-90 per cent of senior middle school graduates cannot continue their studies unless they do it on their own.

tinue for another two years receive a regular college diploma.

Teachers of the evening universities are all invited from full-time colleges and universities, which also offer teaching and reference materials and laboratory facilities.

China now has 140 evening universities, with 50,000 students. Three thousand have already completed their course.

Correspondence colleges are also sponsored by institutions of higher learning. They supplement written lectures with personal instruction. The period of schooling is the same as that for evening universities.

Correspondence students complete their course of study according to a regular teaching programme, and sit for examinations at the middle and end of each term. Students who live near their colleges have access to more direct help from their teachers, from four

to six hours a week. However, students living elsewhere seldom have this opportunity. Some correspondence colleges with enough teachers have therefore set up branches. For example, the correspondence college affiliated to the People's University of China has branches in Beijing, Tianjin, Shijiazhuang, Zhengzhou and Xian, accommodating 5,000 students. This year it will open more branches in northwest and southwest China.

There are now more than 10 institutions throughout the country offering correspondence courses. About 200,000 students are receiving lessons, and 50,000 have successfully completed their courses.

Radio and TV university has the largest enrollment in China. Since 1979, when the university was first set up, it has enrolled 1.2 million students. In 1983 alone, its new students accounted for 40 per cent of all new students in universities and colleges in China. Now the university has 340,000 students, excluding those students who take only one subject and many auditors who also follow the teaching programme.

Students who wish to enroll officially in the university must pass an entrance examination, and are registered on the university rolls and organized into classes. Auditors follow the TV courses, but have not taken the entrance examinations. Although they have no status as students, they may apply for final examinations as well. Those who pass the examinations can obtain certificates for one subject or a special course.

Most students agree that it is easy to enter the university, but difficult to graduate. The entrance standards are not high, but any student who fails the final examinations for two subjects in one term, or three subjects cumulatively, is struck from the school rolls.



Shanghai workers Shi Jun (middle) and Chen Peikang (right), taking the course in liberal arts offered by TV university.

In 1979 about 30 per cent of the university's students met that fate.

About 160,000 have up to now graduated from the university and more than 200,000 students completed their studies in one particular subject.

Workers' spare-time colleges are usually run by a city, a city district, or a department. Approved and checked by higher authorities, these colleges may register with the Ministry of Education, and their graduates are then recognized throughout China. There are now more than 800 such colleges in large and medium-sized cities.

In addition to liberal arts and science, the colleges also offer courses to meet urgent shortages in their areas. For example, Beijing's Dongcheng District Workers' College offers courses such as Chinese language teacher training, handicrafts, architecture for industry and cities and industrial economics. Graduates in these specialities are already showing off their useful new talents at work.

Zhang Zhi, 35, a student of industrial economics, was a workshop director at the Beijing No. 2 Standard Piece Factory. Because of poor management, his unit could not advance. In 1980 Zhang was admitted to the Dongcheng District Workers' College and he used what

he learnt to improve his workshop. Applying the principles of probability and scientific management, he soon solved the problem of machines standing idle, and strengthened the economic responsibility system in the unit. Ever since, the production quotas and the output value of his workshop have increased by 10 per cent each year. Now Zhang is the factory director.

Most students taking spare-time classes are married. They usually have a regular job and household responsibilities as well. It is really not easy for them to study for several years.

Wang Yanru, 33, a Chinese language student at the Dongcheng District Workers' College, said, "When I first went to the college, my two-year-old daughter kept pestering me to play with her as I did my homework."

Wang works as a teacher, at the Beijing No. 4 Cleaning Vehicle Factory, helping students make up the years of school they missed. When she was admitted to the spare-time college, her husband was in a hospital, her old mother was suffering from paralysis and her two-year-old daughter was being cared for in a day nursery. They all needed her help. Wang took three half days of lessons and

gave 10 classes a week. But she was not daunted by such heavy burden.

Wang's overwork worried her mother very much. She advised her daughter to leave the spare-time school. But Wang said, "If I wanted an easy life, I would not have applied to study. I am a teacher. How can I teach students without knowing myself? How can I be qualified in my work without learning?"

In the past two years Wang has never missed a lesson. She has received more than 80 marks out of 100 in all her subjects, and her students also get good grades. In 1982, she and her class were cited as an advanced individual and collective in her factory.

The qualifying examinations for those who have studied on their own are welcomed by people all over China. Whether old or young, employed or unemployed, in a high position or a low one, anyone can take this test for a certificate of higher learning. In recent years, the number of candidates has increased rapidly.

Beijing was the first to introduce qualifying examinations for higher education. In the second half of 1983, over 30,000 candidates took the examinations, exceeding the total since 1981. Among them, young people aged between 19 and 35 accounted for 90 per cent, and people over 35 for just 6 per cent. The oldest was a 75-year-old woman who is director of a neighbourhood women's federation.

By the end of 1983, 21 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions had set up special committees to oversee these examinations, with offices handling day-to-day work. So far, nine provinces and municipalities have organized examinations. The others are still developing their tests.

The committees are always



Zhang Zhi is absorbed in chart-making.

careful to set the examinations to a high standard, and go over the examination papers carefully. They are also completely impartial. Many candidates for the examinations have said, "The self-study examination committees refuse to have anything to do with one's relatives or friends."

By the second half of last year, 280,000 candidates had applied to take the qualifying examinations. Already, 113,800 people in China have earned their certificates for a single subject; 133 people in Beijing successfully passed the examinations in all college level subjects.

The department in charge of personnel in Beijing has stipulated that when students have passed the qualifying examinations, their units should give them work relating to what has been learnt. If a graduate is a worker, he or she may be considered for promotion to be a cadre if he or she has the qualifications. If a graduate has no job, he or she can be recommended to appropriate units by the examination committee.

Various specialized training classes have multiplied in China's big cities for the purpose of increasing the people's knowledge

and enhancing their skills. In Shanghai, study in the liberal arts or science has become common. These keen young people have then become key members of their units.

In the Shanghai No. 3 Bicycle Factory, which produces the well-known "Phoenix" bicycles, there is in the electroplating workshop a technical innovation team composed of 20 young workers in charge of repairs and maintenance and spray painting. In the past two years they have instituted 16 innovations, saving 308,600 yuan for the state. In 1983 the team was honoured as a "Shock Force in the New Long March" by the Shanghai municipal authorities.

These technical innovators are also taking more training classes. Some study chart-making, automatic controls, digital pulse circuit or sensor mechanisms. And the team members have put what they learnt into practice. In the past, not all parts of the strip steel used for bicycles were properly scrubbed because they were not perfectly straight. The sections missed by the scrubbing machines were useless. The team made repeated experiments, and finally figured out how to overcome the problem.

The success of this technical innovation saved the factory 7 tons of rolled steel a month.

Young people who attend these training classes do not have the qualifications of a formal schooling, but if they pass an examination for a certain technical post, their new status will be recognized. Gui Guofang, of the Xingang Transistor Elements Factory in Shanghai, is one example. Seventeen years ago, she studied at a key middle school in Shanghai and hoped to enter a key university and become a writer. But her hopes came to nothing because the "cultural revolution" began in 1966, the year she graduated from junior middle school. After eight years waiting

for a job, she was assigned to a processing workshop run by a neighbourhood committee. Together with several dozen older women, she processed transistor parts for a factory. Gui felt disappointed.

But she finally found her enthusiasm again, and began to study radios. Later she attended different training classes and studied mathematics, physics, chemistry, the fundamentals of transistors and a foreign language.



Gui Guofang.

In 1980, Gui Guofang passed an examination and was promoted to assistant engineer. The processing group has grown into a factory producing parts for transistor radios. In the same year, she introduced techniques which raised the percentage of high quality products from 50 to 70 per cent and saved 80,000 yuan a month for the state. After more than 100 experiments in 1981, she finally was able to produce low frequency semi-conductor tubes whose quality has been confirmed by 30 units including the municipal science and technology commission and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. In 1982, she developed a luminous diode, and in 1983 a plane semi-conductor luminous tube.

At the same time Gui's status in the factory changed. She is now deputy factory director in charge

of techniques, and was elected a municipal model worker and a deputy to the municipal people's congress. She is also honoured as a National March 8th Red Flag Holder.

In recent years, colleges run by periodicals have also appeared. Though they do not issue diplomas, they attract many students. The magazine *Shanxi Qingnian* (Shanxi Youth), for example, offers courses in literature, history and languages. It now has 510,000 students from China's various nationalities. *Guangming Ribao* (Guangming Daily), the Geological Publishing House and the Shanghai Educational College also offer various college-level courses.

Reading Campaign

In addition to regular courses and individual study programmes, the government is also encouraging people to read more, as a way of building China. Initiated in Shanghai in 1982, the campaign to read more books was sponsored by the Shanghai municipal committee of the Chinese Communist Youth League, the Shanghai Municipal Federation of Trade Unions, *Jiefang Ribao* (Liberation Daily) and the Municipal Publishing Bureau, in order to encourage the young people to study by themselves. The campaign involved one million young people in Shanghai at the

beginning. Now it has spread to 13 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions and 10 million people participate.

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Youth League, the All-China Federation of Youth and the All-China Federation of Students, which are the leading organizations of the campaign, have recommended many books on political theory, ideology, history, literature, art, biographies of famous figures and the natural sciences.

Young people aged 14 through 30 who want to participate can register at their work units or their neighbourhood committees and production teams, and read by themselves or join a regular study group.

The popular but suitable books recommended, plus the lively and varied style of the campaign, have been attracting more and more young people to join.

The Shanghai Youth Palace has held activities to swap ideas and discuss problems cropping up in readings. But the most popular activity has been the free study tours outside Shanghai. In 1983 the Youth Palace organized a visit to Shaoxing, the hometown of Lu Xun, the celebrated Chinese thinker and writer, so as to help the young people understand better

A group of young people practising oral English on the Zhanqiao beach of Qingdao, Shandong Province.



the life of this revolutionary literary giant.

Another good way to encourage reading is the knowledge contests launched by *Beijing Ribao* (Beijing Daily), *Gongren Ribao* (Workers' Daily) and *Zhongguo Qingnian Bao* (Chinese Youth News), which have greatly enhanced the young people's enthusiasm for books. In October 1983 *Beijing Ribao* organized its first contest, and received 200,000 replies in the 17 days after the questions were published in the paper.

This open-book contest included 100 questions on scenic spots, natural resources, ancient culture, the patriotic movements in ancient and modern China and great achievements since the founding of New China in 1949. The top three prize-winners were awarded 100 yuan, 50 yuan and 20 yuan respectively, to buy new books.

To answer the questions accurately, the young people had to read a large number of books and reference materials. Some young people in the Beijing No. 1 Pharmaceutical Works often spent their spare time playing Chinese chess or cards. But after reading the contest questions, they spent their spare time — and even their lunch break — looking for the answers.

Not only young people but also their families were involved in the contests. The three members of medical worker Zhang Yunxia's family took responsibility for answering the questions according to their interests. Zhang herself answered questions on history, her husband on natural scenery and her daughter on ancient poetry. In the evening the family got together to discuss and write down the answers. Sometimes they worked late into the night.

The contest took place in early winter, but the cold weather did not stop young people from crowding the big bookstores around Beijing to buy the necessary books and discuss the answers.



Young people from Daping Street, Chongqing, organizing themselves into a study group.

The campaign to read more books and the knowledge contests have inspired young people to learn more and to love their motherland. Top prize-winner Liu Shujuan, a 35-year-old worker at the Beijing Wire Communications Plant, said, "Through reading for the contest,

I now have a better understanding of our country's past sufferings and the vitality of the present. Our ancestors created a brilliant ancient civilization and today our young people should build our country into a flourishing nation with a bright future."

Successful Students

AMONG the first group of 133 young people who received their college diplomas through individual study, 116 majored in English and the rest in Chinese. Most of them were government employees, workers and People's Liberation Army soldiers. We spoke with four of them.

Overcoming Difficulties

Liu Linping, 36-year-old secretary of a PLA unit, has passed examinations in the 11 subjects required for the Chinese course, after overcoming various kinds of difficulties. It took him two years.

Liu said, "The examinations cover a wide range of subjects and the questions are difficult to answer. Since the teachers who make up the questions or correct

the papers have no contact with the lecturers, we students must review all the lessons and understand them thoroughly. It is hard for middle-aged people like me. Luckily, I have a good grasp and try to remember what I have learnt by understanding everything as fully as I can.

"Middle-aged people are burdened with household chores, and can't succeed in individual study unless they really persevere. In 1981, when I was reviewing my lessons on literary theory, my wife gave birth to a son. I was very busy, and even during my one-and-a-half-hour lunch break I had to go home to make dinner for my wife, and heat up milk for my son every day. At 10 in the evening, after I came back from my classes,

I had to wash diapers before I went to bed.

"In addition to these chores, beyond my worst expectations, my less than one-month-old son fell ill and was hospitalized on the eve of my examination. I waited outside the emergency room all night. During the examination I nearly fell asleep. But even at such a hard time, I never lost my confidence."

Liu was also loaded down with a lot of work, and often made official business trips. In 1983 he handled 6,000 documents. But he studied an average of four and a half hours a day, and on Sundays and holidays he spent at least 10 hours a day reading books. When he had meetings away from home, he always stayed in to review his lessons while others went to see films or visit scenic spots.

Many young people study by themselves and receive college diplomas because they want to earn higher wages or be promoted. But Liu's wage was already higher than what college graduates receive.

"I study to improve my work," he said. "Through study I have raised the efficiency and quality of my work. The more I study, the more I feel I can arm myself with more knowledge and make more contributions for the realization of four modernizations."

Pass Six Subjects in a Year

Among the first group of college graduates is a 30-year-old man who passed the examinations in political economy, philosophy, Chinese, elementary English, applied English and oral English in 1983, receiving his diploma in English. This man is Peng Zheng, a worker at the Chinese Textile Engineering Association. He is not a graduate of any foreign language school and has received little help from his parents. He studied English out of his own interest, and persisted in it.

During the "cultural revolution" Peng Zheng, who was studying in a junior middle school, went and settled in a rural area of Hubei Province together with his parents who were technicians. Eight years later he returned to Beijing and was assigned to a textile mill where he became a maintenance worker. He was interested in English, and began to learn the language from radio and TV programmes in his spare time.

In 1980 he enrolled in the Chaoyang District Workers' Spare-Time College as an English student. Two years later, when he found out people who have studied English by themselves are allowed to take examinations for college diplomas, he decided to have a try.

"Time is money," Peng said. "I had to work during the daytime and had my classes at the spare-time college four evenings a week. Furthermore, I had to review my English lessons for examinations. So I arranged my time reasonably. During the day, after I finished my work, I read my textbooks on political economy and philosophy. In the evening I studied my English and Chinese, except when I went to my spare-time classes. On Sundays I always read books in the library.

"I'm already past 30, and became engaged last year. But we met once a week, or even once every three weeks. Sometimes I had no time to meet her. But my efforts were rewarded with success. In April 1983 I passed examinations in three subjects. By the end of 1983 I passed examinations in another three subjects required for the English course. I got an average of 95 out of 100 points for each of the four subjects I studied at the spare-time college."

Hope for Regular Study

"I hope to pass examinations for the regular English course," said Chen Ge, an English teacher at the



Peng Zheng is studying English on his own.

Beijing No. 5 Middle School, after she received her college diploma for her individual study in English.

Chen Ge, 29, was a graduate of the Beijing No. 5 Middle School. She liked English very much and wanted to be an English teacher. In 1974 she settled in the countryside. Two years later she entered the Beijing Foreign Languages School to study English. In 1978 when she graduated, her wish came true and she was assigned to be an English teacher at the Beijing No. 5 Middle School, which is one of Beijing's key middle schools. Before long Chen felt her knowledge was too limited. She attended English classes run by the district and lectures on British and American literature given by foreigners at the Institute of Foreign Languages.

In 1981 when Chen heard the state would give qualifying examinations for college diplomas to self-taught people, she was very happy. She decided to sit for the examinations to test her English level. She was burdened by her teaching, giving 12 lessons a week and correcting 100 homework papers a day. But she saved every minute to study, especially during her vacations. By the end of that

year she passed the examinations in three subjects.

In 1983, when she was preparing for the English examinations, she gave birth to a son. In order to keep on studying she left her one-month-old son with her neighbour and went whenever possible to the library, where she spent one-third of her 6-month maternity leave. By the end of 1983, her efforts were rewarded by success in her examinations — 89 for her elementary English, 76 for applied English and full marks for her oral English.

Passing Two Courses at One Time

Mou Changlin, a 28-year-old air force officer stationed in Beijing, is

one of the first young people to get an individual study college diploma in English. At the same time Mou also passed the examinations for eight of the 11 subjects required for the Chinese course.

Mou's educational level was not high. He joined the air force before he graduated from the junior middle school, and studied English for three years there, devoting most of his efforts to studying military terms and not systematic grammar.

Because his unit was located on the outskirts of Beijing, he lost much valuable study time in travelling to the city. In order to save time, he changed his habit and went home at about 9:30 pm on

Monday instead of on Sunday, after taking lectures on political economy and philosophy at the Beijing Teachers' University. Though his wife complained, she supported his study because she was also studying at a spare-time university.

Over the past two years, Mou persisted in his studies and even on his honeymoon or in his trip to visit his parents, he never forgot to review his lessons.

As to his future plans, Mou said, "There is no limit to knowledge. I will continue to improve my English and at the same time strive to get a college diploma for my Chinese course in the next two years." □

(Continued from p. 25.)

centre. Two-storey cottages along the beach house fishermen and their families. Under the trees near the beach is the free market, where fishwives buy and sell fish, crabs and grain. The deputy director said that the local people are enthusiastic about the harbour construction. When the surveyors first arrived, they were put up by the locals. Young Danzhou residents who could speak mandarin Chinese volunteered as interpreters and guides. Even though the construction site encroached upon their farmland, they lodged no complaints. Everywhere on the streets of the village, one can see stone slabs and blocks carved from igneous rocks for future house-building. But to avoid having to dismantle new houses in the future as the harbour area expands, the local people have stopped building altogether at the government's request, and are selling these building materials to the state instead.

One evening, as the sun set, illuminating the horizon, the sea and tiny home-bound sails, the deputy

director and I sat on the beach to study the map of the harbour. We were soon surrounded by a troop of playing children. They pressed near and squeezed each other, giggling and whispering, jabbing and mocking one another. The deputy director, who had been a teacher and principal of a middle school for 20 years, beamed: "Look how simple, how enthusiastic, these children are. In effect, when the harbour is completed, they will have to move away. But they still welcome the coming changes. And they will in time become builders of the new civilization."

The island authorities will expand Haikou, Qinglan and Basuo harbours in addition to Yangpu. Existing highways will be improved and more bridges built. The railway will extend from Lingtou to Basuo, stretching to Haikou and completing the network along the southern, western and northern sides of the island. Microwave communications will be established between Haikou and Guangzhou and automatic telephones will be installed in Haikou.

In 1955, General Secretary Hu Yaobang visited Hainan, at which time he named it "treasure island." In February 1983, he returned. This time he said the island had made great headway in its construction, thanks to the great efforts made by its people.

"But the local people are far from satisfied with the status quo," Hu said. "The island has its strengths and weaknesses, the weaknesses stemming from the island's isolation, from being cut off from the mainland and the world. This has hamstrung an economic takeoff. Therefore the first step in opening to the world should be the promotion of economic exploitation, which in turn would promote opening to the world. The two are inseparable and complement each other, each being the condition for the other's development."

In the future, the Hainan Island will have developed land, sea and air transportation and convenient home and international communications. This will be an important boost for its economic takeoff. □

State Expanding Museums' Range

China is expanding both the number and the range of its museums to cover areas other than history and natural sciences. Among other subjects, the new museums will focus on agriculture, post and telecommunications, medical history, overseas Chinese history, textiles, Chinese stamps, printing techniques and the coal industry.

Since 1976, an average of 20 to 30 new museums have been added every year, and 58 opened last year. Under the state museum policy, each of China's 289 cities and every government department should have at least one museum by 1990.

One of China's best-known new museums is the Museum of Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses in Xian, which houses about 500 life-size terra-cotta soldiers and steeds found in 1974 near the tomb of the first Qin Dynasty (221-206 B.C.) Emperor Qin Shi Huang. This magnificent museum, which has been seen by hundreds of thousands of visitors since it was opened in 1979, was designed around the structure of the original ancient site.

Museum attendance in China last year was 170 million, up 4.5 times from a year earlier. In addition to their regular exhibits, 690 museums presented 786 special shows. There were also a number of travelling exhibitions, featuring everything from clay figures from the tomb of Qin Shi Huang to ancient agrosience and technology and ancient Mongolian relics.

China's first museum was set up in 1905 in Nantong, Jiangsu Province, by Zhang Qian, a Qing Dynasty *zhuangyuan* (the one who comes first in the highest

imperial examination in the feudal dynasties) and entrepreneur. By 1949, the number of museums had grown to only 21, including the Palace Museum in Beijing.

China's museums today contain nearly 6 million artifacts, 50,000 of them key relics. Since 1978, many of these invaluable pieces have been exhibited in more than 20 countries, where they have been seen by 19 million people.

Lu Jimin, director of the Cultural Relics Bureau under the Ministry of Culture, said that China, as a cradle of human civiliza-

tion, has unlimited potential for museums because of its long history and rich culture.

An army of specialists is being trained for museum work. Nankai University in Tianjin and Hangzhou University in Zhejiang Province have introduced a museum studies programme, turning out 70 graduates every year, while Fudan University and Nanjing University are recruiting museum cadres for additional training. As well, the Cultural Relics Bureau has organized centres for training museum clerks in specialized areas and management.

Carvings Depict Human Sacrifice

An archaeologist studying early bronze rock carvings found in the Yinshan Mountains in Inner Mongolia has identified scenes depicting human sacrifice.

While poring over thousands of rubbings made of the Yinshan carvings, Gai Shanlin isolated two tableaux of ferociously grinning hunters gathered on a platform heaped with mangled human corpses and heads, which he interpreted as human sacrifice.

The custom of killing humans to appease gods has been recorded in many parts of the world among ancient tribes, such as those Indians in North America, and the tribes on the lower reaches of the Lena River in Siberia and along the Ganges basin in India.

Gai, a middle-aged Manchu who has spent years studying more than 10,000 rock carvings and paintings in Inner Mongolia, said the well-preserved carvings, which were made by unknown artisans using stone tools, are of great value to

students of history, folklore and ethnology and reveal the technological standard of the times — the Bronze Age by the late period of the primitive society.

Research into ancient rock paintings and carvings has picked up in recent years in China. Just this year 48 paintings and carvings of the New Stone Age were found in Keshiketeng Banner on the border of Liaoning Province and Inner Mongolia, the fourth group of rock paintings to be found in Inner Mongolia in eight years.

Most of the newly found works are realistic representations of animals and hunting scenes, employing white pigment on smooth brown rocks, unlike works found earlier in the Yinshan Mountains, which were generally carved and relied heavily on hyperbole and expressionism to depict the life of herdsmen.

Several of the paintings depict hunters chasing deer and gathering together afterwards.

More of Chen Yun's Works Released

The second volume of the three-volume *Selected Works of Chen Yun* (Chinese edition) has come on sale throughout China. Chen Yun, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, has long been in charge of finance and economic work. An introduction to the first volume appeared in *Beijing Review* No. 10, 1984.

The newly published volume contains 52 articles written between August 1949 and July 1956, among which 36 have never been published before. They deal mainly with the economic problems facing the Chinese Communist Party after the founding of New China, including price stabilization, unified leadership over the economic work in the country, the revival of the national economy, the ensuring of state monopoly over the purchase and marketing of grain and other major farm products, the carrying out of planned economic construction and the socialist transformation of the private ownership of the means of production. In some articles in the latter part of the volume, Chen Yun also put forward some tentative ideas for restructuring the economic management system following the basic completion of the socialist transformation.

Integrating the basic principles of Marxism with China's concrete situation, Chen Yun flexibly solved many complicated problems in China's economic development without violating the principles.

Therefore this volume, being a collection of Chen's major view-

points on economy, will certainly help in promoting China's current reform of its economic and managerial systems, and in boosting the development of its socialist modernization programme.

With the War of Liberation culminating victoriously throughout the country in the second half of 1949, the Chinese Communist Party was faced with the tasks of reviving the war-devastated industrial and agricultural production, communications and transportation, of ending the price skyrocketing caused by galloping inflation left over by the Kuomintang regime, and of finding alternatives to relying solely on the issuing of banknotes to cover the huge financial deficits. At a meeting discussing these questions, Chen Yun delivered two speeches entitled "Overcoming Serious Financial and Economic Difficulties" and "Some Points in Financial and Economic Work That Merit Attention," which are included in this volume.

"Stop Slow Sale of Goods," "Readjust the Relationship Between Public and Private and Consolidate Taxation," "The Current Economic Situation and Measures to Readjust Industry, Commerce and Taxation"—these are three reports made by Chen Yun at various national meetings between May and June 1950. In these articles, Chen Yun analysed the causes of the slow sale of goods and the work stoppage or shutdown of some privately-owned factories and shops following the stabilization of prices, and put forward principles, policies and

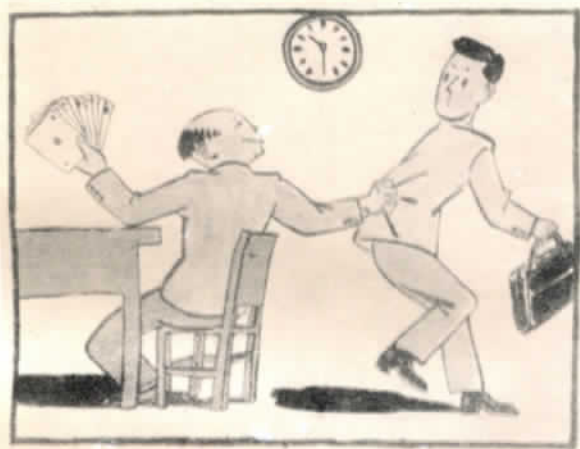
methods to readjust industry and commerce. He pointed out that in readjusting industry and commerce, emphasis should be laid on readjusting the relations between the public and private sectors of the economy, between labour and capital and between production and marketing.

Between June and July 1956, soon after the socialist transformation of the private industrial and commercial enterprises, Chen Yun put forward some new methods. He proposed that all commodities necessary for the national economy and the people's livelihood, such as grain and cloth, should continue to be distributed by the state in a planned way. Meanwhile, on a sound basis of socialism, free sales and purchases, namely free markets under the state planned economy, should also be allowed to exist to a certain extent.

In revising this volume in 1983, Chen Yun explained that because of an insufficient supply of commodities at the time, these ideas failed to be put into practice. Now, with an ample supply of commodities, the free sales and purchases of commodities has become more and more realizable.



Humour in China



"It's too early to go home yet."

by Xie Shiceng

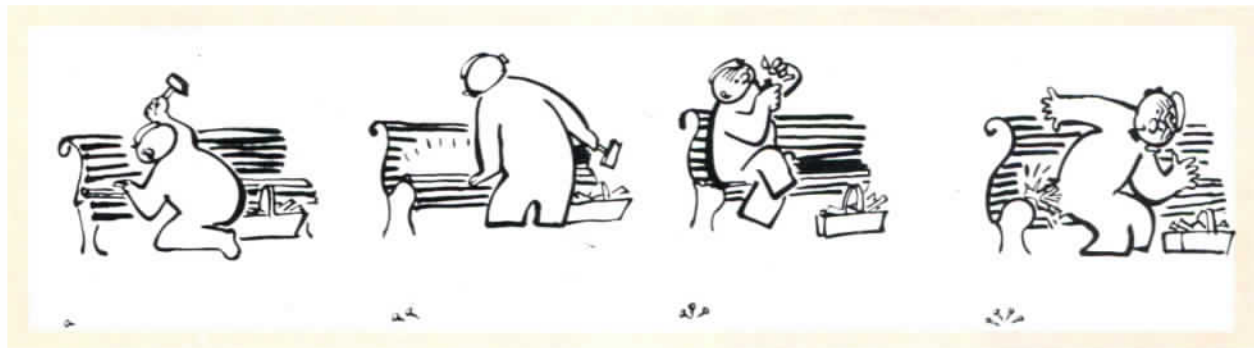
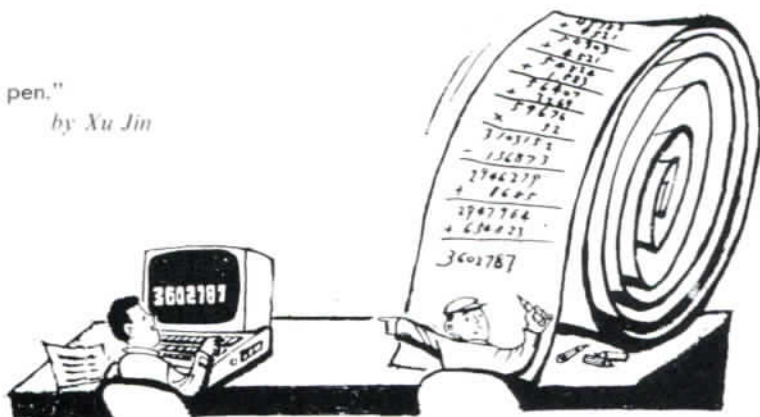


"It can only hear flattery."

by Hua Junwu

"I'll stick to my pen."

by Xu Jin



Uncle Ma Dahan.

by Shi Bu

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