

Vol. 28, No. 5

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# BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

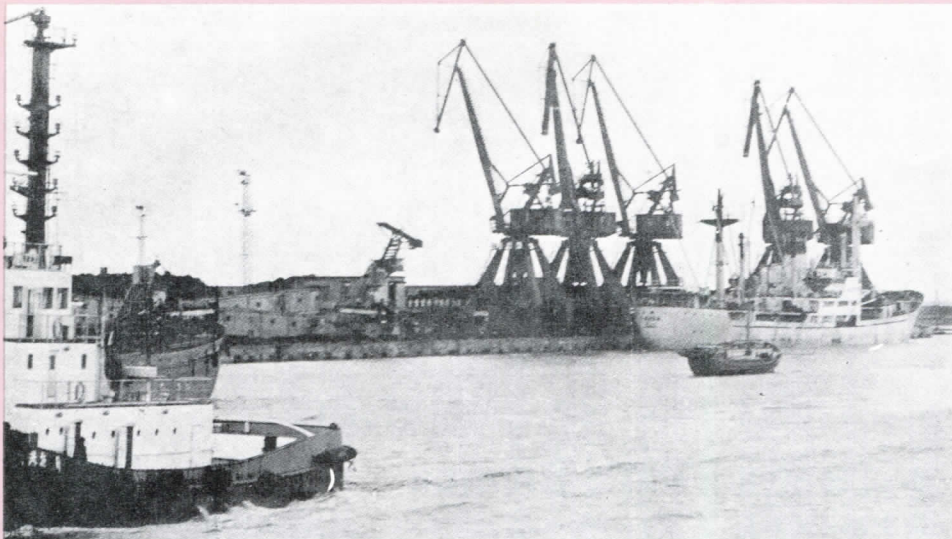
A CHINESE WEEKLY OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS

**China Welcomes Foreign Talents**

**Dealing With Divorce**



*Report From Nantong*



## Nantong — A Port City

A view of Nantong harbour.

Machine tools exported by the Nantong Machine-Tools Plant are well-received abroad.

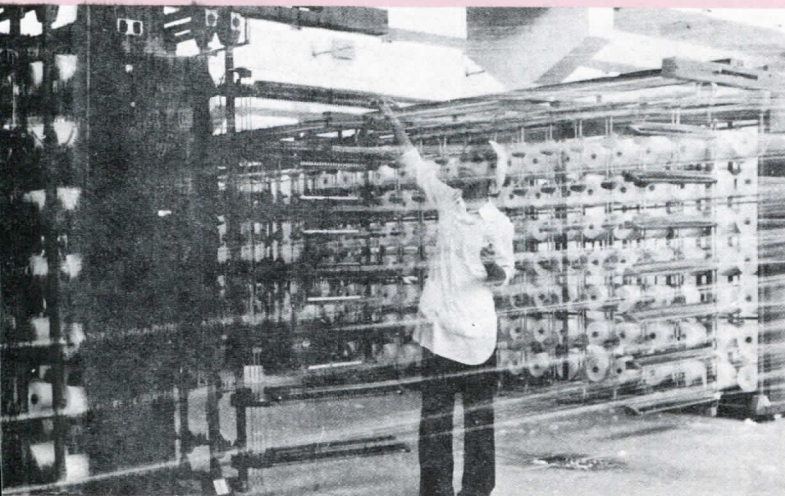


Workers keep busy at the Nantong Shoe Plant, a joint venture run by Nantong and a Japanese company.



The Nantong No. 1 Cotton Mill utilizes imported equipment.

## SPOTLIGHT



Workers at the Nantong Hat Factory perform quality control inspections.



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**COVER:** With their defty hands, Nantong embroiderers propelled a traditional art to national prominence.

Photo by Xue Chao

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### *China Welcomes Foreign Talents*

To bring in knowledge and talented people from abroad is an important aspect of China's open policy, declared Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang in one of his recent speeches (p. 6).

### *Deng Calls "One Country, Two Systems" Realistic*

The "one country, two systems" concept paved the way to the peaceful solution of the Hongkong issue to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. Deng Xiaoping says that born of Chinese realities, this concept is also applicable to many other international disputes (p. 15).

### *New Agrotechniques Lead to Top Harvest*

Last year's record harvest was spurred along by modern agricultural techniques such as the use of rare-earth fertilizers and an increase in the use of machinery. Fair weather also helped bring about China's first grain surplus (p. 7).

### *A Major Port City Rising in the East*

A mixture of ancient culture and modern industry, Nantong is quickly transforming from a small east China city into a modern industrial centre. If that rate of development is maintained, it will sooner or later take its place among the major port cities in the East (p. 22).

### *How Does China Deal With Divorce?*

An investigative report gives the reasons for the rise of divorce in China during the last few years and outlines the way divorce is handled under Chinese law (p. 18).

### *Return to Kitchen Rejected by Women*

Faced with pressure from housework and unemployment, some have suggested that working women return home to handle the house-keeping and to leave more jobs open for men. But most people think the problems should be solved by developing the service trades instead of sacrificing women's jobs (p. 9).

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# Rural Economy No Longer Just Farming

by **WANG DACHENG**  
Economic Editor

1984 was the sixth consecutive year of rich harvest since China started the rural reform in 1978. The output of grain, cotton, animal by-products and aquatic products hit an all-time high, bringing in its wake better living conditions for the peasants.

With the problem of food and clothing basically solved, the peasants have set their eyes on a more affluent future. And to achieve that they have pumped more labour and money into a wide range of endeavours, such as farm and sideline product processing, commerce, transportation and service trades.

Rural enterprises are mushrooming. In 1984 they grossed an estimated 150 billion yuan in output value, up 23 percent from the previous year. Today 100 million people in the countryside are engaged in non-agricultural undertakings.

But such heartening changes can be marred if the problems which arise in the course of shifting a self-supporting (in some cases semi-supporting) economy into a commodity economy are not properly handled. The bumper harvest, for example, has made it hard for peasants to sell and store surplus grain. There are simply not enough granaries for excess grain. Officials in Jilin Province are hard put to find a market for their 6.5 million tons of surplus grain, while in Henan 7 million tons of grain is waiting to be shipped out. One more headache: grain stockpiling has considerably slowed the circulation of funds.

All this has prompted the government to abolish the state monopoly of grain purchases and to institute a buying-according-to-plan system, so that the peasants can gear grain production to market needs. Under the new system, the peasants will, before the sowing season begins each year, sign contracts on the amount of grain they will sell to the state. They may sell

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***The solution for the rural economy lies in the establishment of a rational economic setup aimed at achieving an all-round development of farming, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline occupations and fishing and co-ordinating the management of agriculture, industry and commerce.***

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their excess grain on the rural market.

This new system will help alleviate the peasants' difficulties in selling surplus grain. But what about the more fundamental problem behind the whole matter—the lopsided rural economic structure? In the current structure, there is too much grain and not enough cash crops; farm production keeps growing while forestry, animal husbandry and fishing lag behind; and industry, commerce, transportation and service trades remain underdeveloped.

The solution for the rural economy lies in the establishment of a rational economic setup aimed at achieving an all-round development of farming, forestry, animal

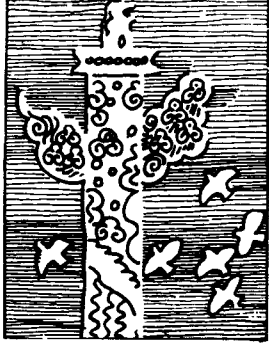
husbandry, sideline occupations and fishing and co-ordinating the management of agriculture, industry and commerce. Beginning from this year, the rural reform will be focused on adjusting the economic structure according to market needs and natural conditions. The main guidelines are:

- First, sparing no effort to do a good job in grain production where the land is suitable, while returning the rest of the grain plots to forestry, animal husbandry and fishing. For example, mountain slopes with a grade of more than 25 degrees are inappropriate for grain production and should be used to grow forage grass or trees. The state will help farmers to overcome the grain shortage thus caused.

- Second, developing traditional cash crops in coastal areas and the suburbs of big and medium-sized cities. The peasants of these areas will be encouraged to speed up farm modernization by using advanced agricultural expertise imported with foreign capital or co-operating with other areas or trades.

- Third, encouraging the peasants to combine management of agriculture, industry and commerce. Grain, in particular, will yield greater value if it is processed into finished products. The rural people should be encouraged to open foodstuff factories and stores.

- Fourth, diverting more of the farm labour force into other endeavours, such as transportation, mining and construction. The peasants will gain a free hand in running fodder and foodstuff pro-



cessing, building material manufacturing and other enterprises using local raw materials. Where possible, they will be encouraged to run industries now seen only in cities, such as light industry, textiles, electric motor factories and chemical plants. That is the ideal way to quicken the spread of urban industry to rural areas.

China will take a different path than the capitalist countries of yore, where industrialization was accomplished by forcing large numbers of farmers into bankruptcy and leaving them no choice but to enter the cities and become factory workers. In contrast, China's peasants are becoming factory workers by choice. Just as a Jiangsu county Party committee secretary said, they are being converted into workers in happiness. Why? Because instead of going bankrupt, the Chinese peasants will become better off through the transition. Most of them will enter factories without leaving their home villages. And besides factory jobs, there are other professions they can turn to.

Moreover, the cities will not exploit the countryside in the process. On the contrary, they will always support each other.



## LETTERS

### Open Cities Repetitive

I am extremely interested in the reports on the open cities. Their clear descriptions, maps and photos, are popular. You make it very easy for your readers to understand what is going on in the open cities.

However, these kinds of reports also have some problems. They tend to be repetitive. Comparing all the articles published on the open cities, the problem can be easily found. You tend to be repeating the information about preferential terms. Whether or not the preferential terms are the same for every open city needs to be explained more clearly. In this way, I can compare each city with the others.

I would like to know how things are going in the open cities and special economic zones. I have no idea about their progress. You seem to begin each report by saying that the open cities are developing rapidly. Is it true?

I hope to be able to read articles on the open cities every week.

**Mikio Sudo**  
Kamagaya, Japan

### Responding to Criticisms

I am very satisfied with your response to your readers' criticisms and suggestions.

In the first issue of 1985 you fulfilled one frequent request and published colour photos of the Uygur and Kazakh people in the centrefold pages.

On the whole, your magazine basically deals with Chinese and global economics and politics. Your editors on these subjects have a good command of our language and your approach towards events is very fair and reasonable. You

do no harm to others, and so are worthy of praise. It is exciting to read your magazine even without the photos to decorate it.

But, with regard to your layout, I think it would be better to print an article on consecutive pages. Please don't cut it and then continue after many pages.

I know readers, including myself, are too exacting. Sometimes their demands are beyond your range. But you must know that we make these suggestions because we appreciate your magazine. Our feelings are deep. The People's Republic of China is undertaking a great task. We can say with confidence that you will come out in front in the world in the not too distant future.

**Maurice Jaillet**  
Louhans, France

### Reprint Articles

I enjoy reading the "International" column. The interesting reports on international events make me feel concerned about the fate of all human beings. It would be better if you could run some pictures on those pages. I suggest that you reprint some articles on anthropology and archaeology from the magazine *El Correo de la UNESCO*. You can also publish some analyses and reviews from the *Foro del Desarrollo*. All these articles can attract readers.

**Flora Gonzales de S.**  
Goteborg, Sweden

I really appreciate the article written by Li Yimang (No. 32, 1984) about safeguarding world peace.

I also feel that you should carry an article on stamp collecting. Some new stamps could be shown.

**Colin Emmannel**  
Rumerange, Luxembourg

# Foreign Talents Welcomed

China is seeking foreign knowledge and talented people to boost its modernization programme, said Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang. He stressed the key role of such co-operation at a January 18 reception marking the 75th birthday of Michael Shapiro, a British journalist who has worked at the Xinhua News Agency since 1950 when he, at the invitation of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, was sent to work in China by the chairman of the British Communist Party, together with three other British Communists.

"It is an important part of our Party's open policy as well as a firm principle to boldly bring in knowledge and able people from abroad," said Hu. "With our country now in a new historical period of concentrating on the four modernizations, it is more than ever imperative for us to seek knowledge and friendship. Since we are aware that we are still backward economically and culturally and that our lack of knowledge is in sharp conflict with our task of modernization, why shouldn't we learn with an open mind from all friends who have knowledge of current science and technology?" Hu added.

Since the founding of the Party in 1921, Hu recalled, the Chinese Communist Party and people have always enjoyed the support of friends from other lands. "Whether it was during the period when our Party was founded, during the first or second revolutionary civil war, the war against Japanese aggression, or the third revolutionary civil war, whether it was before

or after the founding of the People's Republic, and whether the circumstances were favourable or unfavourable, we have always been keenly aware of the sense of devotion and heroic spirit of defying extreme hardship and difficulties displayed by our friends from other lands who fought as members of our own ranks," said Hu.

He said that many foreign friends fought to their last breath and dedicated their lives to the Chinese people's cause of liberation. "We will always be grateful to them and remember them forever," he said.

Since New China was born in 1949, Hu continued, tens of thousands of friends from some 50 countries have come to take part in the Chinese people's cause of revolution and construction. "The work they have done and the energies they have spent have been a tremendous support to the cause of the Chinese people," the general secretary said.

The Wuhan Diesel Engine Factory in central China recently hired an engineer from the Federal Republic of Germany, Werner Gerich, as its director. Zhu Shou-zhi, vice-chairman of Wuhan's Economic Commission, said that hiring Gerich is an experiment. But he believes the practice will spread.

The idea of hiring foreign industrial specialists from developed countries was first brought up in public by State Councillor Zhang Jingfu when he said that specialists from abroad are welcome to help manage China's new projects

and factory modernization programmes. "We would be happy if they would bring their families and we would do everything we can to make their stay here pleasant," said Zhang.

# Taiwan Terrorism Condemned

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman January 23 strongly condemned the Taiwan intelligence department's involvement in the murder of Chinese-American writer Henry Liu (Liu Yiliang).

Speaking at a weekly news briefing, the spokesman said, "All honest people are shocked and indignant at the involvement of the intelligence department of Taiwan in plotting the murder of the Chinese-American Liu Yiliang. We strongly condemn this mean conduct of terrorism. According to our knowledge, Mr. Liu's relatives on China's mainland have once again urged the US government to make a thorough investigation into the case and make sure that the assassins are severely punished and justice is done."

# Trade Balance Dips Into the Red

After three consecutive years of trade surplus, China's foreign trade balance dipped into the red in 1984, with a deficit amounting to US\$1.1 billion.

The trade imbalance resulted from China's gigantic move towards modernization, according to a spokesman from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

Imports were stepped up dramatically in the country's foreign technology purchasing spree to

speed up construction of key projects, revamp aging enterprises and expand the special economic zones, the ministry spokesman added.

China's 1984 foreign trade level hit a record high of US\$49.97 billion, up 22.7 percent from the 1983 total of US\$40.14 billion. The export value reached US\$24.44 billion, up 10.1 percent over 1983.

The increase in the 1984 export volume, however, was dwarfed by the spiralling volume of imports, which totalled US\$25.53 billion, or 37.8 percent more than the previous year.

The US\$1.1 billion deficit in foreign trade is in sharp contrast to the situation which prevailed from 1981 to 1983, when China recorded a foreign trade surplus for three straight years. The trade surplus in 1983 was US\$3.86 billion.

The ministry spokesman attributed the 1984 deficit to the country's efforts to upgrade itself, adding, "With the fast development of the country's modernization programme, the demand for certain goods on the domestic market has grown considerably."

In 1984 China opened 14 coastal cities to foreign investment and trade. This brings the number of open cities and regions to 19, including the four special economic zones and Hainan Island.

More than 700 joint ventures were approved last year. The foreign investment involved totalled US\$1.1 billion. The number of joint ventures exceeded the total that had been approved in the previous five years.

**Foreign Trade Relations.** China maintained trade relations with more than 170 countries and regions during 1984.

The nation's 1984 volume of trade with Japan climbed to US\$12.37 billion, an increase of 36.3 percent over 1983; volume of trade with Hongkong was US\$8.54

billion, an increase of 27.7 percent; and trade volume with the United States reached a record US\$6.06 billion, up 50.6 percent.

China had a deficit of US\$1.73 billion in trade with Japan and a US\$1.5 billion deficit with the United States.

The renewed Sino-Soviet trade grew to US\$1.16 billion last year, compared with US\$647 million in 1983. In view of the "economic visit" made last December by Ivan Arkhipov, vice-chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, trade between the two countries is expected to continue its quick growth. The ministry spokesman predicted a 36 percent increase in the coming year.

While most trade grew, trade with the European Economic Community countries dropped last year: Exports fell from US\$2.21 billion in 1983 to US\$2.09 billion last year, while imports dipped slightly from US\$3.47 billion to US\$3.36.

In the future China will open all the coastal areas to foreign investment and trade, and Chen Muhua, minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, said the country will make further efforts to "use foreign funds and import technology." A booming foreign trade is therefore anticipated.

## Modern Methods Boost Ag Harvest

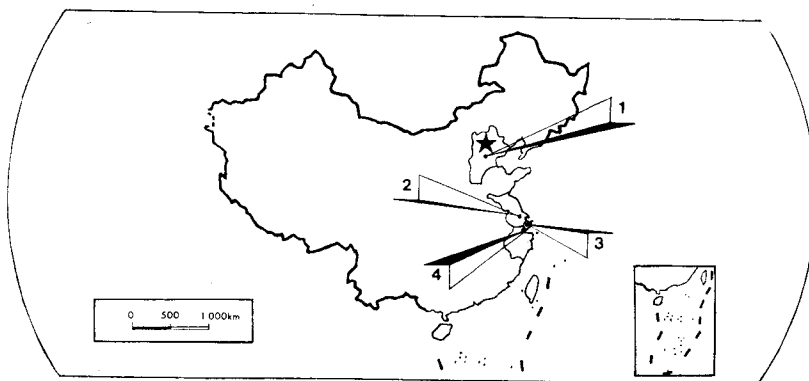
Advanced farming techniques were described as "agricultural deities" by Chinese peasants when they helped bring about last year's unprecedented harvest.

In 1984 China's farmers reaped 400 million tons of grain, 12.5 million tons more than in 1983. They also harvested 5.5 million tons of cotton, an increase of about 20 percent over the year before.

Much of the credit for the good year has been given to new scientific farming methods. The Jiaxiang County Science and Technology Association in Shandong Province, for instance, introduced to local peasants new cotton strains, crop rotation schemes for wheat and cotton, and scientific methods of raising chickens. The new techniques resulted in 90 million yuan a year in added income. The figure is about 30 percent of the county's total agricultural output value.

There are now more than 110,000 rural organizations spreading the word about modern agricultural techniques across the countryside. And by the end of 1984, 2,277 counties, about 93 percent of the country's total, had established

### PLACES IN THIS ISSUE



1. Yongqing (p. 8) 2. Nantong (p. 22) 3. Shanghai (p. 22) 4. Qinshan (p. 8)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Construction has recently begun on a 300,000-kw nuclear plant in Haiyan County, Zhejiang Province. Named after the Qinshan Mountain, the plant is the first of its kind designed and built entirely by the Chinese.

\* \* \*

Cooking gas will soon reach 200,000 Beijing households through a pipeline from the Huabei (North China) Oilfield's gas treatment centre in Yongqing County, Hebei Province.

The 70-km pipeline will send 400,000 cubic metres of natural gas a day and supply about two-thirds of the city's daily gas consumption. The city plans to provide gas hookups to all Beijing kitchens by 1990.

\* \* \*

China plans to set up six special institutes to promote the mental, physical and intellectual development of the 350 million children aged 14 and under.

These institutes will specialize in child psychology and physiology research and will search for ways to improve children's education, diet and toys.

\* \* \*

The China International Conference Centre for Science and Technology was recently opened in Beijing.

The centre will organize, at the request of both domestic and foreign organizations, academic symposia, conferences, lectures and scientific exhibitions.

science and technology associations. A nationwide rural network has been formed, with 3.5 million peasants belonging to science associations, said Bao Yishan, a member of the secretariat of the China Association for Science and Technology.

By using rare-earth fertilizers, the state farms in Heilongjiang Province increased their yield on 22,300 hectares of spring wheat by 9 percent in 1984. The higher yield boosted their output value by 15 million yuan.

Research on the use of rare-earth elements in fertilizers started in 1972 and was listed as one of the key research projects for the Sixth Five-Year Plan period (1981-85).

Last year some 250 tons of rare-earth fertilizer was used on 340,000 hectares of farmland, resulting in an increase of 50,000 tons of grain and an income hike of 20 million yuan.

Meanwhile, modern agricultural machinery is finding favour with farmers, said Wu Yadong, an official of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fish-

ery. Last year the total horsepower of China's agricultural machinery increased by 8 percent over 1983. Tractors, combines, and trucks used for farm purposes increased by 16 percent, 4 percent and 32.3 percent respectively. "The positive effects all these machines brought about are obvious," said Wu.

For Chinese farmers, heaven is still a very important factor in farming. Many recite the proverb, "Man proposes, God disposes." It is common that some farmers, especially the elders, pray to the gods at mountain temples, asking that the harvest be good. Wu acknowledged that "one of the very important reasons for the good harvest last year was the satisfactory climate," but he did not think the good weather should be attributed to prayer.

In 1984, said Wu, there was no widespread and enduring drought and floods, windstorms, hailstorms and freezes were minimal. Insect pests were also less troublesome than the year before. The total area plagued by disasters in 1984 was 4.6 million hectares less than in 1983.

Experimental corn strains raised by agronomist Li Suisheng in the suburbs of Beijing are coming along fine.





## Women Reject Return to Home

Though some people have suggested that women should return to housework in order to leave more and better jobs for men, the idea has been rejected by both women and men in public opinion polls.

Lately some union officials have suggested that too many women are employed in types of work more suitable to men and that women should step aside to make way for unemployed or underemployed young men. They argue that women — especially women in their child-bearing years — actually hinder economic development and result in lower productivity, poor quality and inefficiency.

Women first began moving out of the house and into the workforce after the idea was put forth during the May 4th Movement in 1919, the first democratic mass movement in the history of modern China. But the idea was not realized until the 1950s, when millions of Chinese women began to go to work.

In 1949 women made up only 7.5 percent of all workers in state-owned enterprises. The percentage rose to 21 percent in 1965 and 36 percent in 1983. In addition, one-third of China's scientists are women and women have begun to take leadership roles in a number of fields.

But some have begun to suggest that there are too many women in the workforce today. Xing Hua, an official of the Beijing Trade Union, said, "It is because a woman is naturally more adept at housekeeping than a man that she should carry more of the family burden. But they must be worn out if they at the same time go to work. How can we say women are liberated under such a situation?"

To solve the problem, some have suggested that some working



### Icy Fun in Harbin

Harbin's annual Ice and Snow Festival is under way in the cold northern capital of Heilongjiang Province. The festival, famous for its ice lanterns and ice sculptures, also includes action on the ice. Women hockey players from the hometown are pictured here. Other ice sports featured include winter swimming matches and sledding. More than 100,000 people attended the opening ceremony for the festival on January 5. The crowd included 100 guests from Japan, the United States, France, Denmark and other countries and 500 from Hongkong and Macao. The icy festivities continue through February.

women, not all, stay at home, while giving their husbands or brothers double wages. They argue that under this circumstances, families would retain their same level of income, and women could run the house and raise children much better.

The suggestion is flatly rejected by 9 out of 10 people polled. In Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, 100 persons were randomly questioned last summer. Among 50 women, 46 said they were unwilling to leave their jobs, no matter what the situation. The other four said they would like to return home if their jobs could be taken by their sons or daughters. Of 50 men polled, only six said they would like to see their wives resign their jobs, if it meant higher wages for themselves.

This proves, said pollsters Bi Bingsheng and Fu Zhihong of

the city's Women's Federation, that most people reject the idea of women returning home. "The idea reflects the feudalistic ideology that women are inferior to men and incapable of performing work that requires high intelligence or an aggressive manner. Women's liberation depends, in the final analysis, on economic status," said Bi.

However, the status of women is not only reflected in the employment rate, said union official Xing. She published her own opinion poll last year, indicating that 64 percent of the women workers at the Beijing Da Hua Shirt Factory favour her "phased employment" theory. The theory suggests that a woman worker take leave from her job when she is seven months pregnant and stay off the job until her baby reaches the age of 3. Xing suggests that

women on leave receive 75 percent of their normal salary and be allowed to return to work after the three-year period. "This will benefit children, women, their families and our society," said Xing.

Some of those polled, both women and men, felt the idea is a good one. It definitely seems to be more acceptable than the suggestion that women return to the home for ever.

It seems the vast majority are in favour of women playing a major role in modernization. However, said Zheng Zhaohong, a staff of the All-China Women's Federation, the debate is beneficial. It urges us to solve our social problems, especially the time-consuming housework that takes up most of our spare time, she said. But housekeeping problems should not be solved at the cost of women's jobs. Instead, said Zheng, housework should be reduced by developing the service trades and socializing, modernizing and professionalizing housekeeping.

## Retarded Children Need More Schools

Special classes for retarded children are in urgent demand in China because most of the estimated 1 million retarded children throughout the country find it hard to receive proper education.

There are now only a few more than 100 special classes in the entire country, a number that falls far short of the need.

Teachers, specialists, classrooms and teaching aids for retarded children are also in short supply.

Plans to improve the situation are being drawn up and efforts to enrol more retarded children in school are being stepped up, particularly in Beijing.

Nearly 500 students are attending special classes in Beijing. The

Municipal Education Bureau is considering the establishment of more such classes this year. The effort is focused on seven suburban counties which at present have no classes for retarded children, according to Zhou Zheng, deputy head of the bureau.

Zhou said that more than 200 teachers are working at the 26 special classes and two special schools in the city's urban and rural areas.

Most of the children when entering the special classes were indifferent and aloof because they had long suffered discrimination from the public and even from their families, Zhou said. Many know nothing about how to deal with daily life and some could not even dress themselves.

"Now they are different. They are becoming more confident and they are aware of the need to help one another," Zhou said.

"Compared with the work in developed countries, ours is nothing to be proud of," said Zhou, who was impressed with the work he saw done for retarded children in Japan during a visit in 1983.

Beijing has at least 4,000 retarded children of school age, 80 percent of whom have slight mental problems, a recent sample survey in the city showed.

China also has more than 70 homes for physically and mentally handicapped children.

More than 100 primary schools and classes for mentally retarded children will inaugurate vocational education courses next year to help the youngsters learn skills so that they can earn a living.

But, said Zhou, "rapid expansion of the special education programme for retarded children is held back due to financial reasons." And it is hard to find "experienced teachers because the programme is something new in China," he said.

## Around the Globe

### Ministry to Consider Bandung Invitation

The 30th anniversary of the Asian-African Bandung Conference will be celebrated this April in Indonesia. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said that China will "give a positive consideration" to an invitation when offered by Indonesia. It has been reported that Indonesia Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja said China will be invited to send delegates.

### Support for Kampuchea Reaffirmed by China

Democratic Kampuchean leader Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, in a January 24 meeting with Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang, said, "Viet Nam said it planned to pull out of Kampuchea in 6 to 10 years. But I think one year is enough." He then said that Viet Nam is buying time to "Vietnamize" Kampuchea. Hu reaffirmed China's support for Kampuchea and said that one year is enough time for Viet Nam to complete a pullout.

### Beijing Welcomes Arms Reduction Talks

China welcomes arms reduction talks between the US and the USSR and hopes that an agreement can be reached, said Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian January 26 while visiting Sri Lanka. But he added that China opposes Soviet deployment of SS-20 missiles in the Far East.

## Japan

### Nakasone Offers Pacific Prosperity

**Japan has made the first step towards broad Pacific co-operation, but the South Pacific countries are still somewhat cool to the proposal.**

by XIAO ZHOU

JAPAN is determined to promote a "Pacific Economic Zone" that will usher in an era of growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. With this grand aim, Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone recently visited Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand. His week-long tour ended January 20.

The Pacific rim is the most economically dynamic and fastest developing region in today's world. The combined gross national product of the nations bordering the Pacific makes up 60 percent of the world total. Because Japan is in urgent need of developing economic exchanges, it has a special role to play in the Pacific region.

A recurring subject in high-level talks between Nakasone and the leaders of the four countries was the need to strengthen economic and cultural co-operation and personnel exchanges. Japan is already the region's biggest trading partner. Between July 1983 and June 1984 trade between Japan and Australia reached \$A11.9 billion (US\$9.7 billion), more than that between the United States and Australia. Japan is, in fact, Australia's biggest trading partner. Japan tallied NZ\$3 billion (US\$1.4 billion) in trade with New Zealand, which also makes Japan New Zealand's most important trading partner. During his visit, Nakasone proposed increasing

trade with Australia and strengthening fishing co-operation with New Zealand. Japan will also provide interest-free loans worth 1 billion yen (US\$3.9 million) for Fiji to establish hospitals and train personnel. It will also loan some 5.7 billion yen (US\$27.6 million) to Papua New Guinea to build roads and power stations.

Since Japan's plans to dump low-level nuclear waste into the ocean have met opposition from Pacific islanders, Nakasone made assurances that Japan will not ignore the concerns of the region. The plan, in fact, is frozen, the Japanese prime minister said.

For 20 years Japan has repeatedly suggested that a "Pacific Economic Zone" be established. But because of the shadow which remains from Japan's aggression during World War II, many countries in the region distrust Japan. Japan must eliminate the lingering doubts and fears before it can set in motion its plan for regional co-operation.

During talks with Australian

Prime Minister Bob Hawke, the Japanese prime minister put forward "Nakasone's four principles." They are: promoting non-military and non-political co-operation in economic, cultural and technical spheres; encouraging people-to-people exchanges as the main form of regional co-operation; formulating an open and exclusive regional co-operation; and respecting the initiative of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Pacific countries. The aim of the four principles is to promote co-operation and to melt away the distrust of Japan in the oceanic countries.

During his South Pacific tour, Nakasone repeatedly stated Japan, learning from the bitter lessons of World War II, is forever committed to peace and will never again become a military threat to its neighbours. In regard to a previous Japanese proposal for safeguarding 1,000 sea miles of marine passage, Nakasone assured regional leaders that the marine passage will not reach the ASEAN region.

The trip demonstrated to the world that Japan is attaching great importance to Asia and the Pacific in its foreign policy. But it is reported that "Pacific co-operation" is still in the planning stages and that the South Pacific countries are not nearly as eager as Japan.

## Lebanon

### Israel Moves to Withdraw Its Troops

**To end the dilemma in Lebanon, the Israeli cabinet decided January 14 to withdraw its troops. But when the withdrawal will be completed is still uncertain.**

by REN YAN

THE Israeli cabinet January 14 approved by a 16-6 vote a three-phase troop withdrawal plan

from south Lebanon, with the first stage beginning January 20. This is a major step for Israel to extricate itself from a predicament in Lebanon.

Israel in June 1982 invaded Lebanon, claiming the Palestinian armed forces' bases in Lebanon constituted a threat to the security of Israel's northern territory. After the armed forces of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) evacuated from Beirut, Israel put forward unreasonable demands, including establishment of normal relations with Lebanon, opening trade ports, setting up a diplomatic representative in Lebanon and refusing to withdraw its troops. With mediation by the United States, Lebanon and Israel conducted long and repeated negotiations from December 1982 to April 1983 and signed an accord on troop withdrawal on May 17, 1983. After signing this accord, Israel continued to delay its troop withdrawal. Because of a series of perfidious acts by the Israelis, the Lebanese government flatly rescinded the Lebanese-Israeli accord on March 5, 1984.

With the long occupation of south Lebanon, Israel has been forced to support an increasingly heavy burden, so it decided to get out of Lebanon unilaterally. First, Israel's economy is in dire straits, mainly as a result of its reckless pursuit of the policy of expansionism and aggression in the past few years.

Official statistics place the inflation rate last year at 1,200 percent, the highest in the world. And the country of 4 million people has incurred an aggregate indebtedness of US\$24.8 billion. Two-thirds of the national budget since 1982 has gone to military spending and servicing of debts. The occupation forces in south Lebanon alone cost well over US\$1 million a day.

Exasperated by this desperate situation, the Israeli people have been pressing for a troop withdrawal from Lebanon. Prime Minister Shimon Peres admitted that his country was in the throes of a crisis of alarming proportions.

Second, the occupation of south

Lebanon has been roundly condemned by the Arab nations and many other countries. Pressure for a withdrawal became harder and harder to resist. Egypt, for instance, called for withdrawal from south Lebanon as one of the preconditions for a thaw in its relations with Israel.

Even the United States, practically the lone staunch supporter of Israel, wanted Israel to pull out. US diplomats hope the gesture to the Arabs might help revive Washington's "peace process" in the Middle East.

Third, Israel wants to create a vacuum in the Saida (Sidon) region with its withdrawal and thereby sharpen the factional strife there and undercut resistance.

Although Israel has begun to withdraw its first batch of troops, it refused to provide a pull out timetable during the 13th round of talks at Naqoura on January 22. The next two stages of troop

withdrawal will be decided by the Israeli government in light of the future situation. This is seen as an indication of Israel's intention to retain some kind of control over Lebanese territory.

The Israeli government has time and again demanded that the border area vacated by Israeli troops be placed under the control of the pro-Israeli "south Lebanon army" as one of the "security arrangements." It has also claimed "the freedom of intervention" in which Israeli troops may cross the border and wipe out any force that threatens its "security."

Public opinion in the Arab world has noted that the settlement of the Lebanese question is the first step in defusing the present situation in the Middle East. But whether Israel will completely withdraw its troops from Lebanon is still uncertain. It will be decided by the outcome of the trials of strength and struggle between the parties concerned.

## *New Caledonia*

# Riots Erupt Over Independence Plan

**Natives and European settlers cannot agree on the future of their tiny island, as Mitterrand urges peaceful discussion.**

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by YI QUAN

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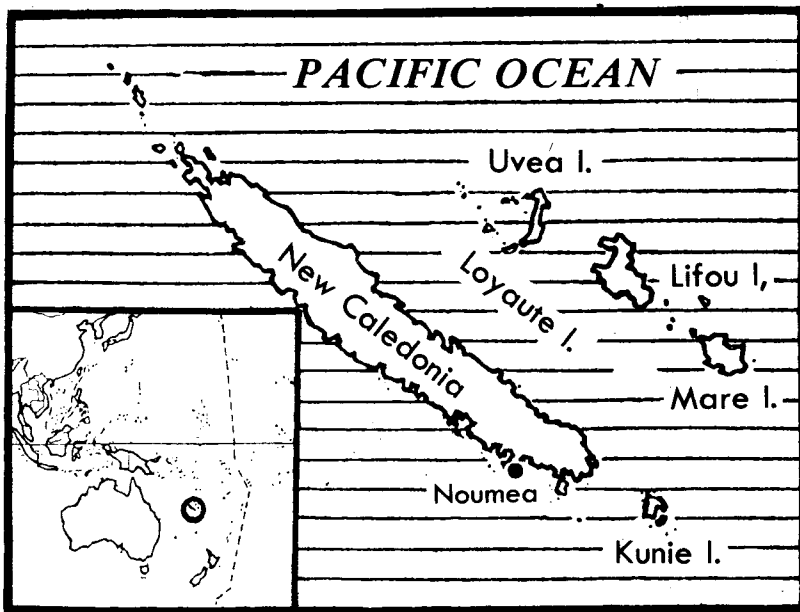
**F**RENCH President Francois Mitterrand hurried to New Caledonia on January 18 to try to quench some of the fires burning over the issue of independence for the French Pacific territory.

A long history of racial conflicts between the indigenous Kanaks and European settlers flared up again after elections last November, widely boycotted by the Kanaks, gave the anti-independence New Caledonian Republic Guard Union 70 percent of the seats in the Territorial Assembly.

The pro-independence Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) responded with road-blocks and violent confrontations with police.

On December 1 the FLNKS raised a Kanak flag in front of a police station and declared itself "the provisional government of the Kanak Republic."

New Caledonia is a South Pacific island of about 19,000 square kilometres, with a population of 145,000. About 37 percent are Europeans, 42 percent Melanesians or Kanaks, and the rest Asians, mostly from other French territo-



ries. In the middle of the 19th century, French colonists established their first settlement in Noumea, now the island capital. In 1885 it was declared a French territory.

The European immigrants and the Kanaks have formed two distinct social communities. Neither makes up quite half the population, but the assorted Asians, mostly Polynesians, were encouraged by the French to settle on New Caledonia mainly to thwart Kanak moves for independence.

In the face of just such a declaration on December 1, Mitterrand summoned the first special council meeting ever since he took office. New Caledonia is a sensitive area, and developments there are likely to affect neighbouring Polynesia — the French base for Pacific nuclear testing.

While the French National Assembly heatedly debated the problem three days later, former French Minister of Agriculture Edgard Pisani arrived in Noumea as a special high commissioner. While the parliament rejected calls for a military crackdown and for immediate independence, Pisani persuaded the FLNKS to dismantle the roadblocks.

Pisani also said the French government fully recognizes New Caledonia's legal right to independence, and pushed up the schedule from 1989 to 1986. An island-wide referendum was promised for July 1985.

Pisani's plan, which Mitterrand is firmly sticking too, calls for an independent New Caledonia still connected with France in much the same way as Monaco. France would retain control of defence and internal security and would have rights and duties concerning currency, credit, the courts, international transportation, communications and broadcasting. But this enraged FLNKS supporters who want

## London

# Many Factors Prompt Pound's Fall

**The pound's slump reflects the economic reality in Britain. It seems that the days of the strong pound are gone for ever.**

by YI MING  
Beijing Review News Analyst

**T**HE pound sterling has been Britain's virility symbol for decades. In the past its strength was unquestioned, as it was the pri-

complete sovereignty immediately, and the Europeans, who wish to remain part of France. And while Pisani insisted that only independence "can maintain the internal peace and security," he also said, "France's presence on the island is necessary because France must look after its lawful interests."

The violence continued as Kanak protesters trespassing on a white-owned farm killed one of the inhabitants on January 11. The next day Eloi Machoro, one of FLNKS leaders, was shot by French gendarmes during a stand-off with police. To quell the ensuing riots, a state of emergency was declared.

Many feared that Machoro's death would bring an end to Pisani's plan. Mitterrand rushed in to save it, and ended his 14-hour visit by saying, "The line that we feared might be broken has been mended, and dialogue continues."

Mitterrand met with leaders of all political parties and assured them that every item in Pisani's plan "has room for discussion." The president said the plan was meant as "a compromise of interests between all social communities on the island and France."

But Mitterrand's hopes for continued dialogue and a peaceful solution may be thwarted on this tiny island, where tensions still run high.

mary currency for international exchange. But now, as the day when one pound equals one US dollar approaches, a shadow has been cast on the once proud symbol. On January 14 the pound hit a record low against the dollar in

trading, dropping to 1.110 in London and 1.102 in Asia. After the Bank of England reinstated its minimum lending rates as a guide on January 14 and set it at 12 percent (it was the second base rate rise, the first one being proclaimed on January 11), the sterling rebounded slightly to 1.124.

When Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher first won election in 1979, the value of the pound was much higher. One pound sold for more than US\$2. Between November 1980 and today the sterling exchange rate against the dollar dropped 55 percent, and between February 1984 and last month it fell 26 percent. At the same time, the pound's value against other West European currencies also dwindled.

In recent years the sterling has become one of the weakest currencies in the West. Its woes reflect two facts of the reality in Britain: one is the economy's slow growth and the other is the pound's historic overvaluation. The problems are made obvious by the poor performance of British goods on the world market.

Britain's economy has picked up since Thatcher's policies were implemented. The economy's growth rate registered a rise of 2.3-2.5 percent in 1984, and the inflation rate fell to 5 percent. However, manufacturing, Britain's economic mainstay, has not developed satisfactorily. As a result, British trade with other countries, with the exception of oil and oil products, has suffered. Besides, the unemployment situation has deteriorated. There are more than 3 million unemployed workers in the country, with one of every eight out of work. The unemployment rate stood at 13.4 percent in 1984, much higher than the 7 percent figure in 1980, and the rate is the highest among the West European countries.

As for the value of the pound, a report issued by a parliament

committee last year estimated that the sterling was overvalued by 10 percent. Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson refused to comment on the report. He steadfastly insisted that the exchange rate of the sterling cannot be artificially fixed, but should be decided by the market supply and demand. Last month's Bank of England move to boost interest rates was the first time the British government had attempted to stabilize the price of the pound since August 1981. Over the past three years, the Bank of England had not taken any action to institute official base lending rates. The government's attitude has been to leave it to the money market to decide the rates.

It is reported that Lawson may actually be welcoming the sterling decline. According to such accounts, Lawson is well aware that the pound's plummet has resulted in the value of North Sea oil increasing from 9.6 billion pounds to 12 billion pounds because crude prices are in US dollars and the North Sea oil field is producing record yields. In addition, the sterling's fall has attracted tourists in record numbers, as American visitors increased from 2 million in 1983 to 2.6 million in 1984. American visitors rushed to enjoy low-price accommodations and to purchase cheap British commodities. Owing to the devaluation of the sterling, Britain's exports to the United States grew 19 percent, reaching 8,150 million pounds in the first 10 months of 1984.

Therefore, the sterling's low exchange rate may actually strengthen the competitive power of British goods on the world market, helping industry to expand exports and providing an impetus to economic recovery. This is why the British government hesitated to rescue the pound.

The strong US dollar is one of the main external factors prompting the sag of the sterling. Due to high interest rates instituted by the

US government, large amounts of idle money have been funneled into the United States. This flow of cash exerts tremendous pressure on the pound sterling. In addition, the 11-month-old miners' strike and other labour stoppages in Britain have exacerbated the situation. British investors worry that Britain is no longer a safe and profitable investment environment.

Another external factor directly affecting the pound is the decline of oil prices. The oil glut has caused the price to slide. And because North Sea oil is Britain's biggest export earner, slipping oil prices batter the pound sterling.

There has been much talk in economic circles about the devaluation of the pound sterling. Some experts contend that the devalued pound will not harm the economy. Others hold that the sterling's crisis is an expression of the people's lack of confidence in their government. They charge that the government has done too little too late.

The government's move to raise interest rates is a psychological ploy to reduce worries in business and financial and monetary circles. Moreover, the government fears that further devaluation may make imports too costly. This would probably aggravate the inflation rate.

But government intervention only stopped the pound's slump temporarily. The pound did not rally back to strength. It will be much more difficult for the government to bolster the pound significantly. The government's gold and foreign exchange reserves are limited, only US\$15.7 billion last year. And if interest rates are hiked dramatically, economic growth could be choked off. So, with the prospect of higher oil prices unlikely in the near future and the US budget deficit and interest rates remaining high, the US dollar will continue to flex its muscles and the pound will continue to weaken.

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## What Deng Says (II)

# 'One Country, Two Systems' Born of Reality

China stands for peace and hopes to solve disputes by peaceful means. The policy of "one country, two systems" could be adopted in some cases and the policy of "joint development" in others.

THE policy of "one country, two systems" has been adopted out of consideration for China's realities. China is faced with the problems of Hongkong and Taiwan. There are only two ways to solve them. One is through negotiation and the other is by force. To solve the problem by peaceful negotiation requires that the terms be acceptable to all parties. The solution to the Hongkong question, for instance, should be acceptable to China, Britain and the people of Hongkong.

What will they accept? A socialist transformation of Hongkong would not be acceptable to all parties. In my talks with foreign guests, I proposed that new solutions to international disputes be devised to meet new situations and new problems. The "one country, two systems" concept was proposed on the basis of Chinese realities, but this idea could also be applied to international problems. International disputes that are not handled right can reach the flash point.

I asked them whether the policy of "one country, two systems" could be adopted in some cases and the policy of "joint development" in others. In this way we would not be confined to just one approach, the "one country, two

systems." We would have an alternative in "joint development." We Chinese stand for peace and hope to solve disputes by peaceful means. What kind of peaceful means? "One country, two systems" and "joint development." Everyone says this is a new and very interesting idea.

The resolution of the Hongkong question was not due to any special feats on the part of our negotiators, as much as to the fact that China has been progressing rapidly. In recent years, it has been thriving and growing powerful and is trustworthy. We mean what we say and keep our word.

Since the fall of the gang of four, and especially since the Third Plenary Session of the Party's 11th Central Committee, highly favourable changes have taken place in China. Its image has improved. The past five years have witnessed great changes. Our own people have seen this and so have people from other countries.

We can be proud of this. Of course, there is a difference between pride and conceit. We should not be conceited or boastful, because we are still economically backward. But recent developments, the resolution of the Hongkong question for instance, demonstrate our good prospects as a nation.

We resolved the Hongkong question by adopting a fundamentally correct policy or strategy of "one

country, two systems." It also represents the result of the combined efforts of the Chinese and British governments.

The resolution of the Hongkong question has a direct impact on the Taiwan question. The Taiwan authorities should be able to accept the "one country, two systems" concept.

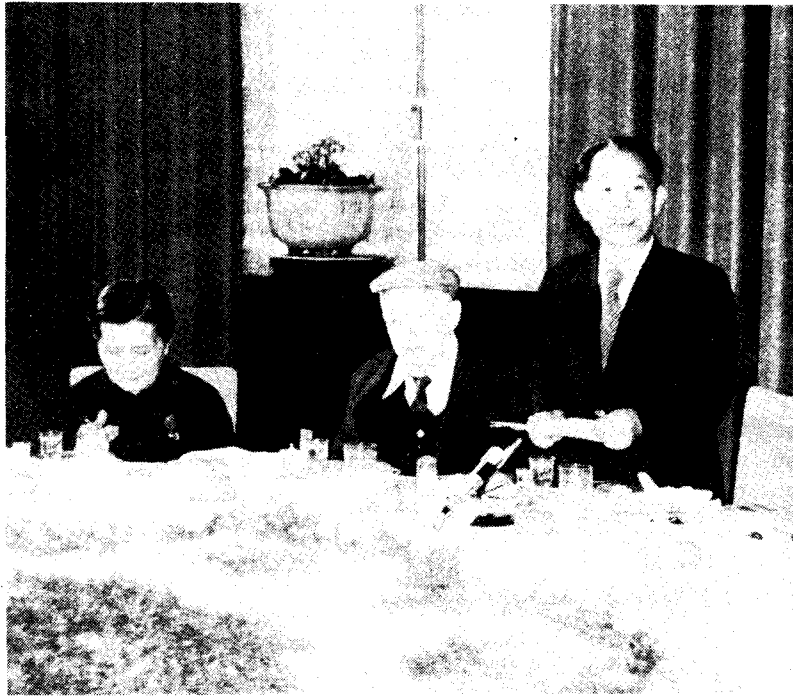
Is it realistic of Chiang Ching-kuo to propose unifying China under the "Three People's Principles"? His "Three People's Principles" were practised in China for 22 years — from 1927 to 1949. What became of China? When did the Chinese people stand up, so to speak? In 1949.

It was socialism and the Communist Party that made the Chinese people stand up. Isn't "one country, two systems," where you won't swallow us up and we won't swallow you up, a better solution? Recently, a foreigner asked me whether we would adopt a similar policy towards Taiwan. I said that, in Taiwan's case, we would adopt an even more flexible policy. By more flexible we meant that, in addition to the policies used to solve the Hongkong question, we would allow Taiwan to maintain its own armed forces.

A couple of days ago, I discussed Taiwan with another foreign visitor. I said we would strive to solve the Taiwan question by peaceful means but we could not possibly rule out the use of non-peaceful means to reunify Taiwan and the mainland. □

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This is part of a speech made by Deng Xiaoping at the Third Plenary Session of the Central Advisory Commission on October 22, 1984. The title is *Beijing Review's*.



General Secretary Hu Yaobang expresses congratulations to Michael Shapiro for his 75th birthday.

## My Heart Remains Young in China

*"My heart remains young in China," wrote Michael Shapiro, a British journalist, who has worked in China for 35 years, in an article in "Renmin Ribao" (People's Daily) shortly before his 75th birthday. In the article, he explained why China had become his second home and why he was not bitter after his traumatic experiences during the "cultural revolution." — Ed.*

by MICHAEL SHAPIRO

**I**N 1950, at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, I was sent to work in China by the chairman of the British Communist Party, together with three other British Communists. As a Party worker and journalist who joined the Party in 1934, I had read many books about China and had long sympathized with the revolutionary struggle of the Chinese people. Therefore, I gladly started my journey to China. At that time, even I did not imagine that I would fight and work alongside the Chinese people for all these years and even forever.

What was it that made me decide to take China as my second home and devote my life to her?

On arrival, I was assigned to work in Xinhua News Agency. When the Chinese comrades explained how simple their equipment was and how poor the working conditions were, I, for my part, observed the revolutionary spirit of these plainly clothed and low-paid comrades. Many had been soldiers during the war years, and now they worked hard, as if they were still fighting to finish their task and to improve their skills. I had been a journalist for many years, so I knew that this spirit could never have been bought with money. When they apologized for knock-

ing at my door late at night to give me articles to check, I felt very excited at being able to share in their work. In a very short period of time, they began to call me just "Michael," and I took this as a sign that I was accepted as one of them.

When I first arrived in China, I was able to visit many places. At that time, the whole country was recovering from the ravages of war and poverty. Yet, I saw joy on the faces of the workers and peasants, their eyes shining with happiness. Although their lives were hard, they were working in their own factories and on their own land. I had been born in a poor family and I had been involved in the workers movement for many years, so I knew what that meant. When the people became masters of their own fate and of the state, the power released can never be overestimated.



During these visits I got to know a peasant family on the outskirts of Beijing. They told me about the great changes they witnessed in the simplest words. Later, at the time of the Spring Festival, I'd go to greet them. They always made me feel at home and told me with joy about their good harvest and plans for the next year. Sometimes, they'd visit me in Beijing. So we came to treat each other as relatives. What they told me enriched the content of my articles and the figures they gave provided me some of the statistics I used. I could also see for myself the changes taking place. Naturally I was delighted and also had much to reflect on. Every reflection gives further and deeper thoughts and it makes me feel younger in my heart.

Yet it would be untruthful if I said everything I ever witnessed in China was wonderful. During the "cultural revolution," when millions upon millions of innocent people suffered, I was also jailed as an international spy. I recalled how I had my British passport confiscated on charges of "betraying my country," when I went to Korea with the Chinese People's Volunteers to serve as a war correspondent during the Korean War, to work among the British and US POWs and to report to the whole world the true situation.

This made me think even harder. I thought of my hard-working Chinese colleagues, who were labelled with all kinds of derogatory descriptions, my peasant "relatives," the book — *Changing China* — which I wrote to introduce New China to the world, and my pleasure in helping with the translation of the second to fourth volumes of *Collected Works of Mao Zedong*. I remembered in particular the cordial meetings granted by Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai to our British comrades and the banquets we took part at Zhongnanhai not long after our

arrival in China. These leaders gave me confidence and strength. The confidence and strength, which I received from the people as well as the leaders, gave me the courage to endure those terrible years. In 1973 I was released from prison, thanks to the direct intervention of Premier Zhou Enlai. Now I only want to say that so long as a party and a country can publicly acknowledge its errors and rectify them, it shows that it is following the genuine Marxist approach of seeking truth from facts. It also shows that this party and this country are politically mature and strong. Such a party can be trusted. After sharing the joys and sufferings of the Chinese people, I have become increasingly close to them.

Soon after I arrived in China, I married. My wife, Liu Jinghe, is a firm and gentle Chinese woman. We and our children have lived happily together over the years. Marshal Chen Yi, China's late minister of foreign affairs, called me China's "half son," saying that I was the son-in-law of China. And I felt very happy with that relationship.

Finally, I want to say that it would be impossible for me to be alive today without the care and concern of the Chinese leaders and the doctors and medical staff who have treated me. During the "cultural revolution," I contracted Parkinson's disease with several other complications. During the last few years, I was in a critical condition on at least 20 occasions. Since my release from prison, the Chinese leaders have shown great concern for me and I have had the best medical treatment. In my blood flows the blood of the Chinese people.

Because of my illness, I now cannot work as before with my Chinese comrades. However, since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee,

news of reform from all over the country is most exciting and encouraging. My peasant "relatives" are now specializing in growing vegetables and flowers. Their village is prosperous, providing Beijing with fresh flowers and green vegetables. Many new houses have been built and modern electric appliances can be seen in nearly every household. The widespread and great changes taking place in China today show me the power and concrete results produced by combining Marxism with China's reality. In my remaining years, I see New China's rapid development. How can my heart not feel young?

As a British citizen, I love my country. Over the past 35 years, I was wrongly regarded as a traitor by Britain, and then thrown into prison by the gang of four. Now, because of my poor health, I am not able to return to my native land. Of the four British comrades who came to China all those years ago, only I have remained. It is my sincere hope that Britain and China draw closer in ties of friendship now that a satisfactory agreement has been signed on the issue of Hongkong, setting a good example in settling international disputes through negotiations and contributing to world peace. This event especially gave me joy as one who spent the first half of his life in Britain and the second in China. I sincerely wish that Britain and China will always remain on very close, friendly terms, that there will be peace in the world, that the people's cause will ever prosper, and New China will make even greater progress in her heroic effort to modernize. □



# How Does China Deal With Divorce?

*In issue No. 12, 1984, we published a letter from a Nepalese reader, who expressed his opinion about a divorce case we reported. He wrote that he would like to read more articles about Chinese family life and social ethics. The following article explores how Chinese law deals with divorce. — Ed.*

## LI NING

Our Correspondent

**D**IVORCE in China has been on the rise since the adoption of a new marriage law in 1981, but, with about 500,000 divorces granted each year, China's divorce rate is still far below that in most Western countries.

In the first 12 months after the new law took effect on January 1, 1981, the people's courts at different levels handled 340,000 divorce cases (resulted in about 300,000 divorces) and civil affairs departments approved another 200,000 negotiated divorces. The 1981 divorce case-load was 27.2 percent higher than in 1980 and 64.6 percent above 1979. In 1982 and 1983, the courts handled 370,000 divorce cases each year and the civil affairs departments continued to grant about 200,000 negotiated divorces a year.

Though the number of divorce cases in 1981 through 1983 was much higher than in the preceding years, it was not out of line with the historical level of divorces in China. According to statistics from the Supreme People's Court, the average number of divorce cases heard between 1950 and 1980 was 400,000. And in 1953, following wide publicity about the 1950 marriage law, the divorce cases reached a record 1.17 million.

The primary purpose of the 1950 marriage law was to abolish arbitrary and compulsory marriages, and the feudal ideas about men being superior to women. The marriage law outlawed bigamy, concubinage and child betrothal. It encouraged freedom of marriage, monogamy, equal rights for

men and women and protection of the rights of women and children. The implementation of the marriage law helped dismantle the feudal marriage system left over from the old society.

During the 10-year turmoil of the "cultural revolution" (1966-76), the legal system in China was seriously undermined and political life in the whole society was abnormal. Citizens could not enjoy their lawful rights, including the right to divorce. Lower-level courts did not even accept divorce cases. Hence, the number of divorces dwindled. So when the new marriage law was publicized in September 1980, people's courts all over the country began to see a big upsurge in divorce filings. The annual total, however, is still below the average over the past 30 years.

Take Beijing for example. It has a population of more than 9 million. And in the municipality those all over

When the law was promulgated saw a sharp rise in divorce cases. It reached its peak level

Table I

Number of Divorce Cases in Beijing

Table II

Number of Divorce Cases in Beijing

In 1954, it began to come down, and, in the years that followed, it stayed right at around 6,000 (see Table I).

Over time, the area under the jurisdiction of Beijing was expanded. The city's population increased from some 2 million in 1949 to more than 6.5 million in the mid 1960s. In 1959, the number of divorce cases handled by the courts increased to 7,237. It remained around 7,000 until 1966, when the disruption of the "cultural revolution" reduced the number during the next 10 years.

Table II shows the number of divorce cases handled by the Beijing courts in the years just before and after the promulgation of the new marriage law.

From the table, we can see that the fluctuations in the period are not as big as those in the 1950s. This is mainly because the victory of the revolution in 1949 and social progress made since then have made the women able to enjoy equal rights with men politically, economically, socially and in family life. The feudal marriage system has been destroyed at large

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in the early 1980s, most people under 40 actually did not have a proper understanding of the marriage law and did not know how to take the legal procedures to get a divorce. After the new marriage law was promulgated, governments at various levels made great efforts to publicize the process. As a result, many couples who had long been married in name began to appeal for divorce.

—During the 10 years of the “cultural revolution,” some feudal habits came back to life and cases of arranged and compulsory marriages and wife abuse went up. There was at that time a curious contradiction: On the one hand, there were a few people obsessed by the unhealthy ideas of casual sex; while on the other, many people clung to the feudal idea that divorce was a bad thing no matter how bad the marriage. After the new marriage law took effect, many people, especially women, who dared not appeal for divorce before, began to seek dissolutions of their marriages. And divorces were granted in cases that should have been handled long before.

—In previous years, some courts were too reluctant to grant divorce verdicts. When the new marriage law was announced, some people who had unsuccessfully sought divorce in the past lodged their appeals again.

—Some couples misunderstood the new marriage law. They thought the government had relaxed all restrictions on divorce. So they filed for divorce just because they had minor quarrels, without sufficient consideration as to whether they had lost affection for each other.

According to Ma Yuan, deputy presiding judge of the civil division under the Supreme People's Court, the number of divorce cases has increased, but not at an alarmingly rate. On the whole, it can be said that family life in China is quite stable.

The marriage law clearly stipulates that everyone enjoys the freedom of marriage, which includes obviously, the freedom to divorce.

### **Forms of Divorce**

At present, there are several forms of divorce:

**Negotiated divorce.** Article 24 of the marriage law stipulates: “Divorce is granted when husband and wife both desire it. Both parties should apply for divorce to the marriage registration office. The marriage registration office, after clearly establishing that divorce is desired by both parties and that appropriate measures have been taken for the care of any children and property, should issue the divorce certificate without delay.”

The marriage registration office is usually incorporated in a subdistrict office (an agency of the district government) in the cities and in the township government in rural areas. It is staffed by cadres in charge of civil affairs or judicial matters who take care of routine procedures regarding marriage, divorce and remarriage.

The prerequisite for the marriage registration office to grant a divorce is that “husband and wife both desire it.” However, it often takes time for investigation and mediation before the divorce is granted.

According to the marriage law, the husband and wife must reach an agreement regarding the custody of their child or children and division of community property. The agreement must specify which spouse will be the guardian of the child or children, the amount of child support the other party should supply and the duration of the support payments.

The marriage registration office must withdraw the marriage certificate and issue a divorce certificate if it establishes that the divorce application is justified and the agreement reached between the husband and wife is fair. Once the

divorce certificate is issued, the marriage comes to an end.

**Mediated divorce.** When only one party insists on a divorce, he or she may appeal directly to the people's court. In dealing with the case, the court (usually at the grass-roots level) initially tries to bring about reconciliation.

The mediation effort may have two results. If the dispute between the husband and wife is alleviated, they willingly withdraw their divorce request. If the mediation fails, a mediated divorce is then granted. The procedures for a mediated divorce are the same as negotiated divorce. The only difference is that it is granted by the people's court.

A mediated divorce is granted when the court issues a mediated divorce certificate. The certificate carries the legal weight of a verdict.

**Divorce by court verdict.** When the court establishes that a husband and wife have lost affection for each other and their relations have deteriorated beyond repair, it should pass a verdict to end the marriage relations between them.

### **Reasons for Divorce**

The marriage law stipulates that China's marriage system is based on the free choice of partners, monogamy and equal rights for men and women. All men reaching the age of 22 years and women reaching the age of 20 have the right to enter marriage and dissolve that bond if the marriage fails.

Since many of the feudal blocks to happy marriage have been removed, social observers have wondered why some marriages still don't make it. According to a national symposium on family life sponsored last May by *Family*, a journal in Guangzhou, the main causes of divorce today include: lack of love between husband and wife because of a rash marriage; conflict between lust for material comforts and life's realities; lack

of moral values; interference from third parties; and abuse of women who give birth to girls by men who still hold old feudal ideas about male superiority.

In addition, the vicissitudes in the country's political and economic life have also been reflected in the reasons for divorce. In the past, due to the influence of "left" ideas, one spouse sometimes asked for divorce because the marriage partner was being persecuted in a political movement. And since the production responsibility system was introduced in rural areas, a new marriage problem has appeared. Some people seek divorce because their spouses are lazy or gluttonous and are no good in economic affairs.

It is usually the wife who seeks divorce. Across the country, some 70 percent of the divorce filings are made by women. More divorces occur in the countryside than in the cities, but, of course, this is partly due to the fact that over 80 percent of China's population is rural. Divorces caused by remaining feudal ideas account for about one-third of the total.

In terms of age distribution, young and middle-aged people make up the overwhelming majority of those who have divorced. For instance, the Qianmen Sub-district Office in Beijing (a neighbourhood government office which has jurisdiction over 16,000 families, about 60,000 people) handled eight negotiated divorces in 1983. Of them, four involved couples who had been married only one year. The average age of those four couples was 25.5 years. The major reasons given by the young people for their break-ups were rash marriages and lack of love between the husbands and wives.

### **Principles for Granting Divorces**

Divorce is granted according to set principles of the marriage law, no matter whether it is a negotiat-

ed divorce, a mediated divorce or a divorce by court verdict. The stipulations in the new and old marriage laws are basically the same. There are only a few minor differences. For instance, the old marriage law stipulated: "In the event of either the husband or the wife alone insisting upon divorce, it may be granted only when mediation by the district people's government and the judicial organ has failed to bring about a reconciliation." The new marriage law stipulates: "In cases of complete alienation of mutual affection, and when mediation has failed, divorce should be granted." The stipulation in the new marriage law is better suited to the actual conditions in China.

The Chinese people have always taken divorce very seriously and they treat it as "an important event in their lives." This is a fine national tradition. Based on the experience gained in many years of judicial practice, the stipulations of China's marriage law have carefully balanced both "ensuring the freedom of marriage and preventing rash divorces." The freedom of marriage is also reflected in the legal procedures for divorce. Those who actually handle divorce cases never give permission hastily. Each case is carefully considered especially those cases which seem to be filed without merit.

Before approving a divorce, the officials always try mediation, just as in dealing with other civil disputes and cases. Mediation means giving counsel to the couple and making sure their differences are irreconcilable. Mediators tell both parties the advantages and disadvantages involved in divorce and ask them to cool down. Mediation can often convince people who have rashly asked for divorce to settle their differences and remain married.

At present, mediation is tried for divorce applications filed jointly by husband and wife and for divorce appeals lodged by a single

spouse to people's courts. Practice has shown that mediation can simultaneously reduce the number of divorces and the number of divorce appeals to courts. According to statistics released by the Beijing Municipal Civil Affairs Bureau, marriage registration offices in the city accepted a total of 8,409 divorce cases in the three years between 1981 and 1983. Of the total, 2,610 were cancelled after mediation, accounting for 31.4 percent. The number of negotiated divorces was 4,821. In only 978 cases did mediation fail and appeals have to be lodged in courts. In addition, court mediation also cuts down on the number of court verdict divorces. Sometimes, it even convinces people to withdraw their appeals and come to good terms.

Table III illustrates the first hearing results of divorce cases handled by people's courts in Beijing during 1983.

Judging from the table, it is clear that mediation is vitally important in dealing with divorce cases. Earnest mediation can prevent the disintegration of families, and is conducive to the healthy growth of children and to social stability.

The basis for mediation is to see whether the husband and wife involved in a divorce case have really lost their affection for each other. To judge whether they have truly lost affection, consideration is given to the following factors:

**The foundation of marriage.** Mediators seek to determine whether the husband and wife really loved each other before their marriage—did they get married voluntarily, or rashly in pursuit of money, one-time pleasure or houses (in some units, houses are first distributed to those who are married)? There are also some who have dishonest purposes for getting married. For instance, some people want to live in the

Table III

Result	Number	Percentage of the Total
Divorces allowed by court	822	10.5
Divorces not allowed by court	425	5.4
Negotiated divorces	3,035	38.6
Reconciliations after mediation	1,327	16.9
Cases handed over to other judicial bodies	67	0.8
Appeals withdrawn	2,096	26.6
Cases terminated	92	1.2
Total	7,864	100

big cities, so they marry a city person and use the marriage as a springboard.

**Relations after marriage.** Mediators study the relations between the husband and wife during their whole married life, including their habits, behaviour, interests, hobbies and political views, as well as their relations with other family members.

**Reasons for divorce.** Some people make up high-sounding excuses to cover up their real reasons for seeking divorce. For instance, some spouses have affairs, and, in order to marry their lover, they fabricate all sorts of excuses to get rid of their legally wed partners and children. There are even some husbands and wives who join hands to cheat the government and create false divorces for personal gains, such as moving from rural to urban areas. In dealing with such cases, the courts conduct careful investigations to determine the truth behind the divorce appeal.

**The possibility of coming to good terms again.** If it is possible for the husband and wife to reconcile their differences after mediation, permission for divorce will not be granted hastily. If reconciliation looks impossible, the court should not postpone indefinitely its ruling because a long delay is harmful to both the husband and wife, as well as to society. Sometimes, when the defendant feels wronged and will not consent to the divorce, the court point out

the disadvantages of strained family life. There was such a case. The husband and wife were both state cadres. For a long time, the husband was unfaithful to his wife, having conducted three illicit affairs. He brought up the question of divorce. To strike back at him, the wife refused to consent to a divorce for more than 10 years. As a result, the couple lived a terrible existence for more than a decade. Finally, the court persuaded her to divorce her indecent husband.

### **Words of a Presiding Judge**

Li Cheng is the presiding judge of the civil division of the Beijing Municipal Supreme People's Court.

Judge Li said that many people mistakenly consider divorce an unthinkable bad thing. This is actually a manifestation of lingering feudal ethics and the low level of China's economic and cultural development.

Li said people should not think of divorce as the cause of disintegration of families, but as a realistic acceptance of reality. Actually, he said, in most cases the total alienation of affection has existed for a long time and the families have long been broken. Under such circumstances, divorce is nothing but a recognition of the situation, said Li. Therefore, freedom of divorce will not bring about the disintegration of family relations. On the contrary, it will consolidate such relations.

While Li doesn't think it should be condemned, he hopes people won't adopt a reckless attitude towards divorce. More often than not, he said, rash divorce brings not only misery to both the husband and wife, but disaster to the whole family. Without the support of both parents, some youngsters become unstable and commit crimes. They lose the stability of family and face discrimination in society. This has become a social problem which cannot be ignored, said Li.

Judge Li said studies of law and judicial practice have shown that people should not judge the level of social progress and the stability of family relations by divorce rate alone. In dealing with divorce cases, he said, we should oppose feudal moral values and bourgeois liberalism, while simultaneously protecting the people's right of freedom of divorce and lawful marriages and families. This is in line with socialist and communist ethics, because the constancy and endurance of love are concrete manifestations of communist ethics.

Of course, many marriages in real life are not blissful. In a survey of China's young marrieds, pollsters found that 60 percent of those questioned lacked "real and spontaneous" love for their life partners. They said they had married just because they thought they "reached the age," "someone introduced them girl or boy friends," or "one had to be married sooner or later."

"We know that this is not a normal condition," Li said. "But, we are convinced that with the steady development of China's socialist politics and economics, and with the improvement of the people's education and the social morality, the number of happy families will increase. Divorce, as a social phenomenon, will continue to exist. But it will be kept at a relatively low level. □



## Port City Profiles

# Nantong: Smooth Sailing to Industrial Boom

by **ZHOU ZHENG**

Our Correspondent

IT was in the small hours of the morning when a group of Beijing journalists arrived in Nantong after a seven-hour journey up the

Changjiang (Yangtze) River from Shanghai. A few freighters were moored in the middle of the river. The undulating hills, faintly visible in the twilight, were the only sign that their ship was approaching the bank. The river was so wide one felt as if lost on a vast ocean.

its rapid industrial and agricultural growth, which has brought forth an impressive array of quality products and reduced unemployment.

## Robust Vitality, High Promise

SOON hovercraft and hydrofoils will be shuttling between Nantong and Shanghai, China's leading industrial metropolis 128 km away. A long-desolate airport not far from Nantong's city proper was recently refurbished to receive helicopters on a trial run from Shanghai. All this indicates that this small east China city is on the verge of an economic takeoff. Yet, for the time being, steamboats remain Nantong's major means of transportation.

The city earned its name, which means "a readily accessible south-

ern town," for its ideal navigation conditions. Nestled along the northern bank of the lower reaches of the Changjiang River, Nantong borders on the Yellow Sea to the east and its northern sections are linked by four canals, the Grand Canal included.

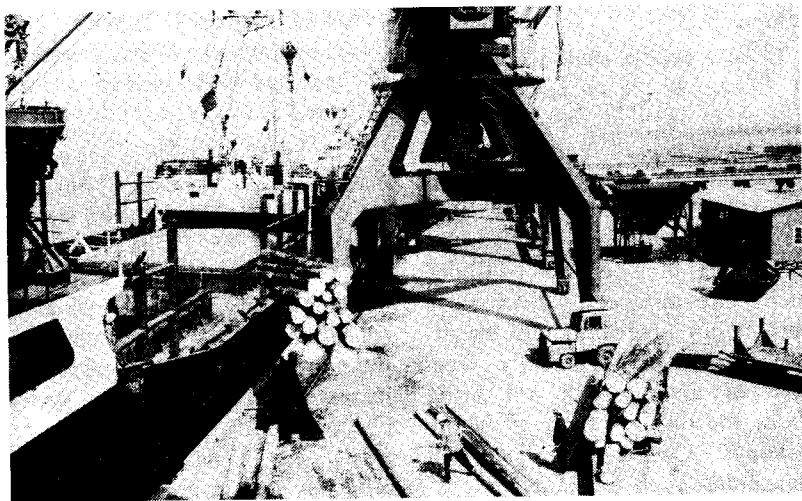
The city has two districts and six counties under its jurisdiction, totalling 8,000 square kilometres in territory, and only 390,000 of its 7.41 million residents live in the 121-square-kilometre city proper. In recent years, Nantong has leaped into national notice for

## A New Orleans in the East

In terms of its geographical conditions, Nantong compares favourably with Rotterdam in the Netherlands and New Orleans in the United States.

They all have one thing in common. "The world's largest port cities are all located on river estuaries," said Li Haitao, 45, director of Nantong's Harbour Administrative Bureau. Rotterdam is situated at the estuary of the Rhine, while New Orleans stands where the Mississippi empties into the Gulf of Mexico. London is at the estuary of the River Thames, and Shanghai is situated where the Huangpu joins the Changjiang. "The construction of a harbour is so much cheaper in places between the ocean and a river and it yields higher economic returns because it combines the beauties of maritime and inland shipping," said Li.

**Nantong harbour receives vessels from 32 other ports in 20-odd countries and regions including Japan, the Soviet Union and Greece.**



Nantong harbour is blessed with a smooth, deepwater shipping frontage along a 26-km stretch of the Changjiang River, which runs 8-16 km wide and 11-20 metres deep. Ice- and silt-free and protected from the brunt of typhoons, the harbour operates year round. Nantong's Tiansheng port was built in 1904, but after 80 years it remains 14-16 metres deep.

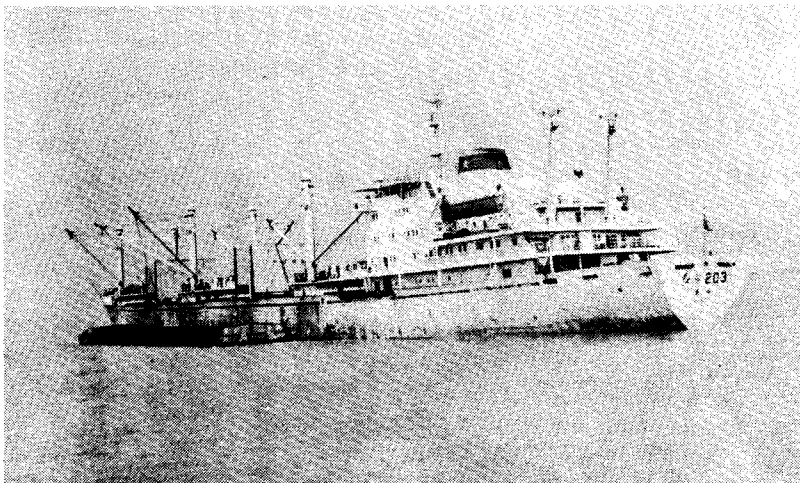
Two more ports — Nantong and Langshan — were added to Tian-

sheng after liberation to form today's Nantong harbour. The whole establishment has three deepwater berths capable of accommodating ships at the 10,000-25,000-ton class and 10 berths for ships at the 3,000-5,000-ton class. There are also 11 platforms built in the middle of the river, where 24 oceangoing ships can have their cargo unloaded onto barges.

Langshan port has a 6,500-square-metre operation zone, which is virtually a labyrinth of water lanes and canals reaching into the northern Jiangsu inland navigation network.

The outstanding shipping conditions enable the city's steamboats to sail up the Changjiang and its tributaries to other provinces such as Anhui, Jiangxi, Hunan, Hubei and Sichuan, or down the river to the sea.

Since May 1983 when the city opened its doors to the world, Nantong harbour has received 50 ships from 22 countries and regions, including Panama, Greece, Japan, Britain, the United States, Indonesia, the Soviet Union, Cuba,



Large ships moor at a platform built in the middle of the Changjiang River, where their cargo is unloaded onto smaller barges.

Yugoslavia and Thailand. It has also established shipping links with 36 overseas ports.

The harbour handled 6.25 million tons of freight in 1983, 164 times as much as in 1949. Last year the figure topped 8 million tons. Despite such impressive development, the harbour's capacity is far from fully tapped. Traffic on the Changjiang is sparse, and many wharves are running under capacity.

That is a far cry from Shanghai harbour, just 100 km away, where the shipping frontage is packed to overflowing, leaving many ships waiting impatiently at Wusongkou, where the Changjiang empties into the sea. Steps are being taken to lure more ships to Nantong harbour to ease the burden on Shanghai.

An embankment is being constructed to make room for the construction of three deepwater berths

## Native Products—Source of Pride

**Menthol Crystals.** Extracted from choice peppermint, Bai-xiong (White Bear) brand menthol crystals have won state gold medals for years running. With superb quality, they are known around the world as the "Fragrance of Asia."

**Citric Acid.** Citric acid is widely used in the foodstuff, chemical, pharmaceutical and building industries. In 1983 Nantong's Baihe (White Crane) brand citric acid was cited as the best of its kind at a national quality appraisal conference. It is now sold all over the world.

**Silk Blankets.** Nantong artists can hand-weave silk into 60

styles of intricate, colourful blankets. These blankets sell briskly in 37 countries and regions in Asia, Europe and the United States.

**Bundle-Dyed Cloth.** Over the last 1,000 years and more, the Nantong people have developed a special dyeing technique. They bundle silk or cotton cloth in prescribed patterns before dyeing it. This produces an unmatched artistic effect.

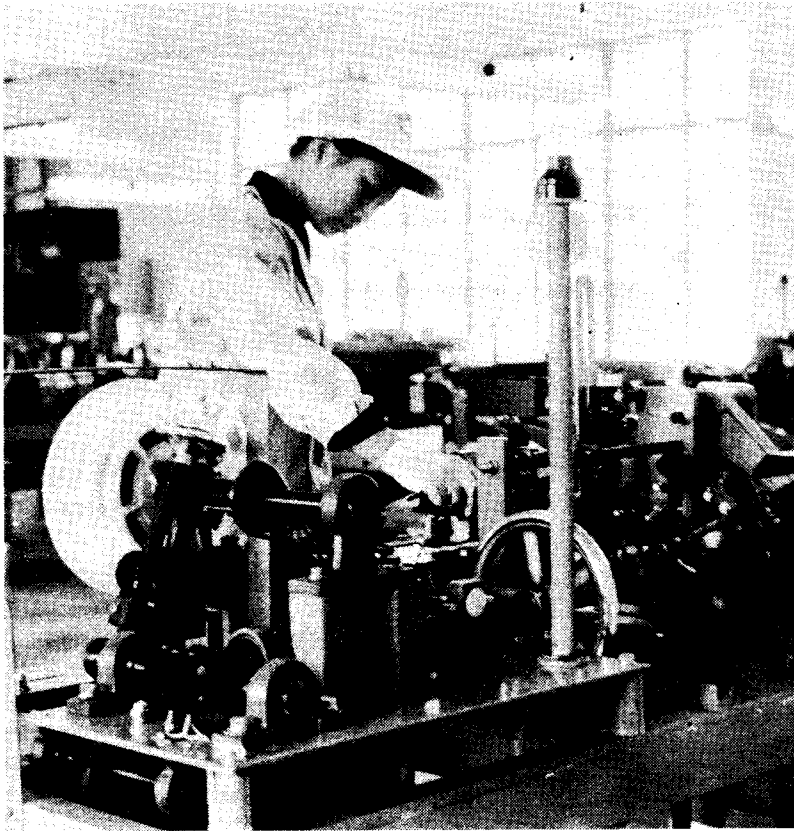
**Goat Skins.** Nantong goat skins are choice material for making shoes, garments, hats, gloves and bags. They can also serve as oil filters needed in industrial processes. Nantong

goat skin products are now sold in Japan, Italy, Spain and Hong-kong.

**Clams.** Known as the "most delicious food under heaven," Nantong clams have nutritious, tender meat encased in beautiful shells.

**Anchovies.** Processed with elaborate methods, Nantong's nutritious canned anchovies were cited as a top product at a national quality appraisal conference.

All these products are marketed by the Nantong Foreign Trade Company (Address—Yejiqiao, Nantong; telephone number—2859; manager—Mao Yuqi).



**The Nantong Capacitor Factory turns out electrical products for export with imported equipment.**

large enough for 10,000-tonners. By 1990 the harbour will have 10 more deepwater berths for ships at or above the 10,000-ton class, 14 more berths for transferring cargo from ocean ships to river vessels, 16 more inland waterway berths and two more mid-river unloading platforms. All these will combine to raise the harbour's freight to 35 million tons by the end of the century.

Nantong's 20-km Changjiang frontage is long enough to accommodate 100 berths for 10,000-ton vessels, and the river itself is wide enough for 100-200 mid-river platforms. Sooner or later, Nantong will emerge as the New Orleans of the East, handling 100 million tons of cargo a year.

### **Industry and Resources**

An ancient-style clock towers over the gate of Nantong's No. 3

Cotton Mill. Erected by the patriotic Qing Dynasty entrepreneur Zhang Jian (1853-1926), it is the birthmark of Nantong's modern industry.

The local people began growing cotton and weaving as early as the 13th century. In 1895 Zhang established one of China's first modern textile mills, the Dasheng Cotton Mill of Nantong. Since then Nantong has gradually evolved into one of China's textile bases.

The local textile industry developed rapidly during the 35 years since liberation. The city now has 48,000 cotton yarn spindles, 26,000 weavers, 28,000 woollen textile spindles and a printing and dyeing capacity of 200 million metres of fabric a year. In the past, only cotton goods were produced, but today the city turns

out 6,500 products of 15 varieties of textile fabrics, including chemical fibres, wool, jute and silk. Nearly 100 of these products are exported to 60 countries and regions.

Light industry and textiles constitute the mainstay of Nantong's comprehensive industrial setup. The machine-building, electronics, chemical, pharmaceutical, building materials and foodstuff industries are also well-developed. The city's 5,100 factories yielded a total industrial output value of 6 billion yuan in 1983 and an estimated 6.8 billion yuan in 1984.

Located on the alluvial plain of the Changjiang River basin, Nantong has fertile land and a mild climate. It is one of the country's major cotton producers. Peppermint, spearmint and jute abound as well. High-yield long-fibre Nantong cotton is a choice material for spinning fine yarn and weaving quality cloth. The city also enjoys rich supplies of goat skins, silk-worm cocoons and marine and freshwater products.

Peasant-run factories have sprung up like mushrooms in recent years. Accounting for one-third of Nantong's total industrial output value, they have become a major new economic force.

A case in point is the Chuanggang Electrical Motor Factory, which had only a dozen repairmen a decade ago. Today it has 1,100 workers and staff members and has become a major producer in the machine-building industry and the electronics industry. Chuanggang Electrical's Taohua-brand electric fans, which have won quality awards from the Ministry of the Machine-Building Industry, not only enjoy brisk sales on the domestic market but have also sold well in Southeast Asia. Liu Boxun, the factory's shrewd, ambitious 44-year-old peasant-turned-manager, was packing for a business trip overseas. He said he



planned to buy advanced technology and equipment to change his factory into an electrical appliances manufacturing giant.

The affluent life in the villages around the city of Nantong is the envy of most Jiangsu peasants. Take, for example, Zhongxing Village in the southeastern suburbs. The 800 villagers in 275 families operate a fishing fleet, a refrigerated storage facility and five factories making hydraulic devices and household electrical appliances. In 1983 Zhongxing grossed 5.25 million yuan from its industrial and agricultural endeavours, 6.85 times more than five years ago. Many women operate machine tools right at home, processing components for the village factories while tending to family chores. No longer shy about showing off their riches, the villagers are proud to have guests in their spick-and-span houses, which are usually furnished with colour TVs, refrigerators and upholstered chairs. Seeking to further improve their lot, 248 families recently formed a joint-stock company, which is selling shares for 500 yuan apiece.

Between January and October last year Nantong received 300 groups of businessmen and bankers and signed contracts on 40 co-operative projects. Equipment has been shipped in to prepare for some of these projects, while others have already begun trial operation. Negotiations are still in progress on more such co-operative ventures.

At a symposium on investment in China's open cities held in Hongkong last November, the Nantong delegation met with more than 300 groups of overseas business representatives and signed agreements, letters of intent or memoranda on 60 of the 150 projects discussed. Involving a total investment of more than US\$300 million, these 60 projects cover a

wide range of endeavours and will introduce diverse forms of co-operation. Twenty-seven of them are joint ventures.

Nantong was one of the first Chinese cities to begin absorbing foreign capital and importing advanced technology. From the beginning of 1976 to the end of 1983, the city undertook 92 projects in such forms as the use of foreign exchange loans, joint ventures, co-operative management, compensatory trade and property leases. Some of the projects are designed to process or assemble materials and components supplied by foreign businesses. Sixty-eight projects have gone into operation, achieving marked economic returns.

The city has emphasized the technical transformation of its textile industry. In 1979 the No. 3 Cotton Mill used a short-term loan of US\$3.18 million to import weaving equipment. The equipment was put into production the year it was imported and paid for itself within 30 months. This has enabled the mill to turn out products that are highly competitive on the world market. Its terylene cotton cloth and other fabrics sell

well in Hongkong and Western Europe.

The city's synthetic fibre factory began operating long-fibre polyester production equipment only 10 months after purchasing it from West Germany and Britain for US\$20 million. The loans were repaid in just 18 months.

Co-operation between the Nantong Machine Tools Plant and the US Tree Machine Tool Co. Inc. proved highly rewarding to both sides. The two companies met for negotiations in March 1981, and five months later they signed a five-year trade agreement. Accordingly, the American firm supplied blueprints, some components and digital-control devices needed by the Nantong factory to produce three varieties of digital-control boring machines. The Chinese factory, on its part, was committed to sell at least 600 machines to the American partner. Today, the contract is being carried out smoothly, and many machines have already been shipped to the United States.

Nantong benefits from a contingent of sagacious, enterprising officials well-versed in their professions — mayors, foreign trade company managers and factory

**The Nantong Artistic Dyeing Factory produces kimonos, ties and scarves, which are sold to Japan.**



directors. Many of them are young and aggressive. This, no doubt, is a Nantong asset no less valuable than its superb geographical conditions and bountiful natural resources.

There are many success stories in Nantong's business world. There is, for example, the joint venture between the Nantong Acoustics Plant and a Hongkong company. The two partners came into contact at the end of October 1983, signed a letter of intent on November 11, and concluded an official agreement on December 7. In what looked like a blitz, they set up a board of directors in April 1984, put the products onto the market in only five months and began to reap profits six weeks later.

The China Nantong Rikio Co. Ltd. is another success story. A joint venture between China and Japan, the company produces Japanese-style steel-toed work shoes. Established in February 1982, the joint venture began constructing its factory buildings in April, completed the construction seven months later and went into production in February 1983. The company had anticipated a loss of US\$116,000 at the beginning; instead, it netted 450,000 yuan

in profit. What accounted for the success? Junichi Kanda, the company's Japanese technical adviser, said, "The Chinese officials here all know what they are doing. That enables the work to go smoothly. Besides, the many textile mills in Nantong have ensured a constant supply of cotton, which accounts for 60 percent of our raw materials." Kanda had only one complaint which he hopes will soon be addressed, "Life here is a bit too dull."

### Co-operation: Broad Vistas

Zhang Youcai, Nantong's 43-year-old mayor, is a graduate of the Nanjing College of Chemical Engineering. He is full of ideas about how to attract more foreign investment and technology.

Like other open cities in China, Nantong will continue to emphasize utilizing foreign capital and importing advanced technology. That is geared to the immediate task of technically revamping the old enterprises and undertaking medium-sized and small projects vital to the four modernizations. The technical transformation will involve all the light industrial enterprises as well as the textile, foodstuff, machine-

building, electronics, chemical, pharmaceutical, building material and shipbuilding industries. When possible, new industries, such as high-tech electronics firms and biological engineering companies, will be set up. Scientific research and higher education, too, will be developed.

Farming and sideline production will be modernized with the help of foreign investment, advanced technology and improved seed strains. Farm and sideline product processing, aquaculture and fishing will be boosted and the sea shallows will be developed into highly productive aquaculture centres.

In transportation and communications, foreign capital and expertise will be used to transform and expand Nantong harbour and to increase the number of ships so as to improve transportation along the Changjiang and on the sea. At the same time, industries, commerce and service trades that serve the harbour will also be developed.

Nantong has marked off a 4.62-square-kilometre economic and technical development area at Fumin port, which is situated about 10 km to the southeast of the city proper. Skirted by rivers and linked to the city by a bridge, Fumin port is an ideal location for setting up joint ventures and wholly owned foreign enterprises.

Construction is afoot everywhere in Nantong. The aim is to provide a convenient and comfortable investment environment. Hotels are being expanded or built, and no effort is being spared to improve transportation and telecommunications. While waterway and air shipping conditions between Nantong and Shanghai are being improved, motor vehicle ferry crossings have also been built to facilitate highway traffic. A microwave telecommunications station linking the city with Shang-

Workers at the Rikio Co. Ltd. put the finishing touches on Japanese-style work shoes.





Nantong Museum, the oldest museum in China.

hai has been built and will soon be commissioned. When a new telecommunications building is completed, the city will import a digital-controlled switchboard capable of handling 10,000 lines. For the time being, 1,000 telephones are being installed to alleviate the acute shortage of telephone services.

With the changes taking place, city officials feel Nantong will attract investors, and they are able to offer the preferential treatment that investors receive in all the open cities. Said Mayor Zhang,

"We will strictly act according to the state regulations." (See "Gu Mu On Policies for Coastal Cities," issue No. 50, 1984.)

The mayor is confident that so long as the city's people work with one mind to implement the state's policy of opening to the world and enlivening the domestic economy, Nantong will surely become an important trade and transportation hub on the Changjiang, a modern textile and light industrial base and a major export commodity producer where foreign capital and expertise will be put to good use.

## Charming Land, Full-Grown Culture

**Haohe River.** The willow tree-flanked Haohe River encircles the city of Nantong like a green belt. The bridges, pavilions and pagodas are frequented by the residents seeking a quiet place to unwind after a tiring day's work. Boating along the river is also a popular pastime in the city.

**Langshan Hill.** Standing 106 metres tall, the Langshan Hill is one of five hills that rise above the Changjiang River in the southern suburbs. The picturesque landscape is studded with scenic spots and historical sites. The Guangjiao

Monastery, built during the Tang Dynasty (618-907), is more than 1,000 years old. For this the Langshan Hill ranks among the nation's eight minor Buddhist sanctuaries. The Faru Monastery at the foot of the hill houses a porcelain mural of 18 famous monks. Cast in life-like images, the paintings were done by Fan Zeng, a Nantong native and a famous contemporary traditional Chinese painter.

Nantong has a cherished tradition in culture and education. In fact, the city features quite a number of "firsts" in the country.

**Nantong Museum.** Nestled among green trees, golden-roofed pavilions and zigzag corridors on the bank of the Haohe River, the museum was established in 1905 as a local history and natural history museum. It is a small affair by today's standard, but it is unique in its own way: It was China's first museum.

**Tongzhou Normal School.** Founded in 1902, this was China's first institution for training teachers at the secondary level. Since its establishment it has trained 15,000 teachers, who today are found around the world.

**Embroidery Institute.** Set up in 1914, the Nantong Embroidery Training School was one of China's earliest vocational training schools. Shen Shou (1847-1921), a celebrated expert in embroidery, once taught there and trained many skilled artists (see "Virtuoso's Embroidery Lives On" in this issue's "Culture and Science" column). Known today as the Nantong Arts and Crafts Research Institute, the school has produced many award-winning masterpieces in embroidery. One of them, *The Great Wall of China*, is now displayed in the Beijing Hotel.

The Nantong people credit much of their rich cultural tradition to textile entrepreneur Zhang Jian (see main story). And indeed he deserves the honour. During the days when xenophobia was prevalent, Zhang was one of the few who launched China's modern industry. And he never hesitated to draw on the strengths of Western educational system.

The city now has 4,200 schools of all kinds, 10 institutes of higher learning and 40 scientific research institutes. Indeed, it is this well-developed educational system that has made Nantong what it is today, a rising industrial city in east China. □

### Research Suffers From 'Inbreeding'

from "GUANGMING RIBAO"  
(Guangming Daily)

ZHOU Guangzhao, a noted Chinese physicist and deputy-director of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, argued that "inbreeding" in academic research is the cause for the scarcity of "top-notch" scientific research personnel in China.

Zhou said that "inbreeding" in academic research results from teachers keeping on their students as assistants. When the assistants become teachers, they, too, hire their students. This practice breeds identical views, methods and research subjects in academia. Students of such "inbred" teachers have a narrow train of thought and lack the spirit to blaze new trails. They either believe that their teachers' views are perfectly correct, or, in other cases, they may have their own thoughts, but they dare not challenge their teachers.

Today there are very few outstanding middle-aged research personnel, and this "inbreeding" is one of the main reasons. When veteran scientists retire, there are often no celebrated and influential middle-aged researchers to take their places. A task of top priority is to bring into full play the initiative of the 45- to 55-year-old researchers. Those who have made great achievements and are at a high academic level should be promoted to become senior researchers who have earned their formal qualifications and seniority.

Zhou stresses that young scientific research personnel should be trained in new ways. Universities and research institutes should not, in general, hire on their graduates. They should be allowed to transfer

to other institutes to receive different academic views and cooperate with people from a different background. With a more diverse background, they can blaze new research trails.

### Good Party Member Poll

from "RENMIN RIBAO"  
(People's Daily)

RECENTLY, soldiers in two companies under the Jinan Military Unit answered a poll entitled "What kind of Communist Party member do you admire in your company?" The soldiers listed five main qualities:

1. They admire the Party member who seeks truth from facts and gives no thought to undeserved reputation. Of the 61 soldiers polled in Company No. 9, 40 spoke highly of company commander Ren Zhuanlong. In his reports to his superiors, he never deceives others and reports the company's actions factually.

2. They admire the Party member who has advanced thoughts, higher educational level and professional ability. Most of the members of the two companies admired 11 Party members who have good political characteristics, high educational levels and strong professional abilities. Guo Huaiyu, a squad leader,

Zhou contends that persons sent abroad to study should not be confined to fresh college graduates. He urges that young scientific researchers who have earned their doctorates and have worked for some time should also go abroad for advanced studies.

three times won an artillery command competition.

3. They admire the Party member who quietly immerse himself in hard work and is adept at using his head. Squad leader Wang Fuhua, said the soldiers, makes a reasonable division of labour in construction and stands among the best of the company in progress and quality.

4. They admire the Party member who seeks no personal gain and works for the interests of the masses. Yan Qiaolin, another squad leader, took responsibility for raising pigs and thus improved the supply of pork for the company's meals. Altogether 37 soldiers in Yan's company admire him.

5. They admire the Party member who cares for others and possesses a communist style. Squad leader Weng Yongping was cited as being conscientious in his work and concerned about others. Of 52 soldiers polled in the No. 1 battery company, 36 admire this kind of Party member.

### News Conference for the Masses

from "ZHONGGUO  
QINGNIAN BAO"  
(China Youth News)

AN entirely new kind of news conference has appeared in

Shenzhen's Shekou Industrial District. The participants are not reporters but ordinary people. These conferences are held twice a month for two- and- a half hours in the evening. Before each meeting pos-



Cartooned by Cui Jianhua

ters are put up welcoming people to participate.

To begin each meeting, the chairman reports on important news in the district and the work situation.

## Party Secretary and His Classmate

from "BAXIAOSHI YIWAI"  
(Leisure Times)

A PRIMARY school classmate of Hu Yaobang wrote a story recalling his reunion with Hu.

After the Spring Festival in 1983 Liu Shaoxi went to Yueyang, Hunan Province, to visit his relatives. During his stay there Liu was really shocked by a telegram which urged him to catch a train up to the provincial capital Changsha to see a classmate of his from Beijing. He knew he had just one classmate in Beijing — Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang. In a letter to Liu, Hu had once promised to look him up. Now he took time out from his busy schedule to invite this ordinary retired worker.

At the gate of Hu's residence Liu and his wife, sister and niece were given a cordial welcome. Looking over his long-parted classmate, many memories flooded Liu.

Sometimes the chairman solicits opinions about projects to be built. Then the people express their views and ask any questions they like of the leaders of 13 departments responsible for the work at Shekou. These leaders must either offer a serious answer on the spot or else bring one the next meeting.

The range of questions covers the district building plan, reform of the wage system, appointments and dismissals, kindergartens and many other subjects. The atmosphere at these meetings is serious but cordial.

These news conferences have three merits. There is full communication between the higher and lower levels. The people have a sense of being the masters of their own affairs. The leaders at all levels accept supervision by the masses.

In the primary school Hu was among the best of the 50 successful ones who were selected from more than 200 candidates. Soon after he entered the school he became known as a topnotch student. Hu's family was very poor then and his father, tightening his belt, borrowed money to pay the entrance fee.

Liu was deeply touched when he found the Party General Secretary knew more about their old classmates than he did. Hu once offered his money to help one of his classmates who was ill. He also helped a classmate's child pay the tuition to go to school. Although they are no more than primary school classmates, Hu's sincerity proves he has never forgotten them, even after dozens of years of separation and vastly different social positions.

Without realizing it, they talked until evening. Hu asked Liu to have supper with him. Upon

learning that Liu's mother will mark her 90th birthday, Hu gave Liu a big basket of oranges and four boxes of pastry as they were leaving.

In a later letter Hu told his old classmate, "The specific historical conditions have given me great responsibility. That is to say, I'm not worthy of the post I am taking. . . . So I hope all my friends will not lavish any praise on me, which does not conform to the reality."

## 5-Year-Old Goes To College

from "GUANGMING RIBAO"  
(Guangming Daily)

LIU Xiaobin, a boy of 5 and a half, was enrolled as a probationary student in the early teenager class of the China University of Science and Technology. He has already mastered Chinese, mathematics, physics and chemistry to the level of junior middle school graduate.

Liu is a native of Donghai County in Jiangsu Province. His father is the headmaster of a primary school and his mother teaches Chinese in a primary school.

When he was only two and a half, Liu began learning Chinese characters with the help of his father. The boy took only three days to learn 293 characters — the first volume of a primary school textbook. After four months of study he had a good command of 3,600 characters and would make phrases and sentences.

Liu began studying mathematics at 4 years old. He spent six nights finishing the first volume of the primary school textbook on mathematics. He studied mathematics, physics and chemistry at the junior middle school level at the same speed, and did exceedingly well in his studies.

## More Money to Import Technology

"The state funds set aside to import technology and equipment in the first half of 1985 will very likely equal or exceed the total amount allocated last year," Cao Jiarui, deputy director of the Technological Import and Export Department of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, said in an interview.

"We predict that the state funds used this year for this purpose will be double those of last year," Cao said.

Cao said that not long ago a contract was signed between China and West Germany on importing a complete set of hot-rolling equipment for the Baoshan Iron and Steel Complex. This contract alone, Cao said, involves US\$470 million.

Since China adopted the policy of opening to the world in 1979, much advanced technology and equipment has been imported, the deputy director said (see table).

Prior to 1979 China usually imported complete sets of large equipment. For example, during that period China bought 13 complete sets of chemical fertilizer fac-

tory equipment from other countries.

After 1979 the state readjusted the proportions of imports, shifting its focus to upgrading existing enterprises. More small and medium-sized sets of equipment have been imported. China is also interested in the licensing trade and in importing manufacturing and processing technology.

Under the licensing contracts, the number of machines imported and the amount of money spent increased by 11 times in the period from 1979-84 over those imported and spent in 1973-78.

China is willing to import advanced technologies which are used in other countries and are suitable to China's conditions, because technological imports help push China's socialist modernization programme forward, Cao said.

He added that many foreigners are concerned about their patented technology and this has invited the attention of Chinese government departments concerned. On January 25 the China Patent Bureau published Detailed Regulations for the Implementation of the Patent

Law of the People's Republic of China. Regulations on technological imports are being drawn up by the Technological Import and Export Department. They are expected to be published this year. A confidential clause stipulating that the importer must commit himself not to divulge or spread any technological secrets to any third party in China or abroad within a period agreed upon between the two parties will be added to the regulations.

The economic situation in the Asia-Pacific region is the most promising in the world, Cao said. China's untapped market has attracted many business representatives. Cao said he hopes more industrial, commercial and trade representatives will come for close co-operation with China.

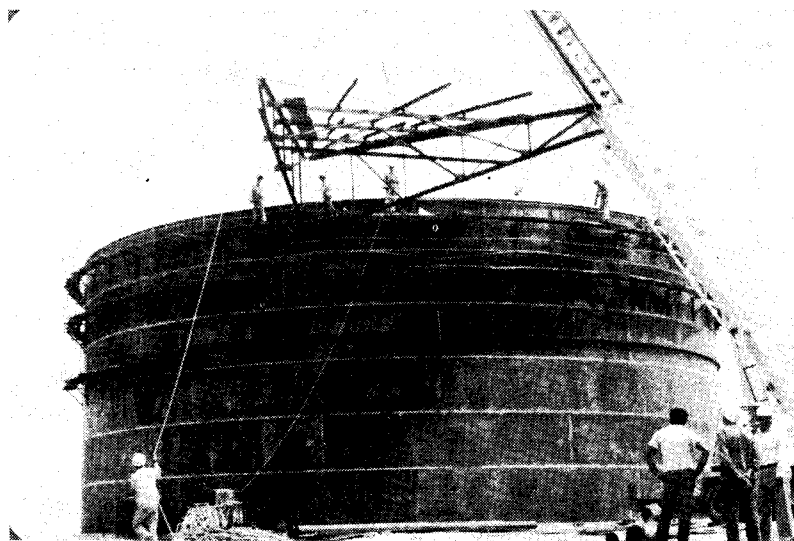
The Technological Import and Export Department was established in September 1979. Its aim is to organize technology imports throughout the country and to create better conditions for contacts among business representatives at home and abroad.

\* \* \*

**China Petroleum Engineering Construction Corp. (CPECC).** "The secret of our success is that the personnel of CPECC are extremely efficient and well-disciplined," said Kang Weiping, vice-president of CPECC. CPECC has constructed two refineries, 20 sets of oil-processing installations and three large oil depots in five European and Asian countries. It has also constructed 180 oil and gas fields, 30 large and medium-sized refineries, petrochemical works and dozens of oil depots and laid some 20,000 km of pipelines. Therefore, said

	No. of Projects	Value (US\$ millions)	Growth Rate (%)
1979	95	2,484	—
1980	115	1,980	-20.29
1981	73	107	-94.6
1982	102	362	+238.6
1983	212	570	+57.3
1984	336	1,000	+75.4

Note: Figures refer only to planned state funds and bank credits. They do not include funds used by local authorities.



CPECC workers build an oil tank.

Kang, the corporation has rich experience in building oilfields and developing the petrochemical industry.

CPECC has done remarkably well in the Middle East. On last November 4 the Al-Yakdha Trading and Electro-Mechanical Contracting Establishment in Wafra, Kuwait, presented a certificate to CPECC officials expressing their complete satisfaction with the quality of tanks installed by CPECC.

CPECC-constructed buildings covering a total floor space of 130,000 square metres in the Jahala II region were praised by a local newspaper as a "good example of housing construction in Jahala."

Founded in June 1980, CPECC is a state-run, comprehensive enterprise undertaking petroleum exploration, drilling and engineering construction for foreign countries. Its staff includes 12,000 engineers, technicians and managerial personnel and 122,000 skilled workers. Its business scope includes drilling engineering, laying of gas and oil pipelines, and construction of oil and gas fields, refineries, petrochemical works, chemical fertilizer plants, synthetic fibre, natural gas processing plants, civil engineering and other projects.

CPECC can undertake a whole project or do just one part, including surveying, designing, construction, installation, trial-run and personnel training. The corporation can also offer labour or technical services. It is willing to go into business with foreign firms by setting up joint ventures. The corporation has opened offices in Kuwait and Iraq.

Zhang Wenbin, chairman of the board of directors

Shan Yongfu, president  
Address: Liu Pu Kang, Beijing, China

Telephone: 444404  
Cable: 3111 Beijing  
Telex: 20047 CPECC CN

\* \* \*

**More Public Bonds to Be Issued.** A Bank of China spokesman said the bank will issue another set of public bonds worth 20,000 million Japanese yen this March.

The Nomura Securities Co. Ltd. of Japan will act as the representative underwriter and the Bank of Tokyo will handle the sale of the bonds.

The Bank of China specializes in handling foreign currency in China. It has been accredited by Japanese credit organizations. The

Bank of China issued 20,000 million Japanese yen in public bonds last November in Japan. This is the second time the bank has issued public bonds since its founding.

## News In Brief

- The Complexe Sucrier de Lotokila, a sugar refinery in Zaire built with China's assistance, recently began trial operations. The refinery is Zaire's third and has a designed capacity of pressing 1,000 tons of sugarcane daily. It can also turn out 1,200 litres of alcohol per day.

The completion of the sugar refinery will help end a sugar shortage in Haut-Zaire and provide job opportunities for the local people.

- The breeding of 3,000 Chinese freshwater fish has caused a sensation in the Central African Republic. The newly hatched fish were sent to the Central African Republic by air in accordance with a 1976 economic co-operation agreement between the Chinese government and the African country. The survival rate of the fry reached 99.5 percent. Fry of 1-2cm length grew to 250-gramme fish in just four months.

The Central African Republic is among the richest water resources countries in the world, but the local people have never raised fish. Republic President Andre Kolingba said the successful breeding of Chinese fry is of great historic significance and fish breeding method will be popularized throughout the country.

- The Investment Bank of China will continue to use funds extended by the World Bank this year and, at the same time, will adopt multifarious ways of raising funds from abroad so as to expand its scope of loans. By the end of 1984, foreign currency funds borrowed from other countries by the Investment Bank of China had reached US\$245 million.

## Virtuoso's Embroidery Lives On



Two attractive young women, smiling angelically, are so vividly portrayed they seem ready to step off the picture (see above) at one's call.

The stunning lifelike quality was achieved through the skilled hands of embroiderers in the northern Jiangsu city of Nantong. Known as *caijingxiu*, or "many-coloured needlework," this form of art is a new chapter in traditional Chinese embroidery. Viewed from a distance, the landscape and images shine dazzlingly. And at close scrutiny, one sees elaborate floral motifs wrought in coloured silks within equally fine floral patterns, giving a decorative style which never fails to draw oohs and aahs from art lovers.

But *caijingxiu* is not the only valuable branch of Nantong embroidery. Even more prestigious is *fangzhengxiu*, meaning "true-to-life embroidery." In this school, stitches are executed in close-laid rounds to form smooth, bright surfaces. Figures thus portrayed bear a close resemblance to real-life people in everything from skin colour to facial expression. Different methods are used with fluidity and freedom to reproduce the images of animals. When it comes to landscapes, the colouring changes as if by magic, its richness gradually fading into nothingness to bring out the subtlety and depth of the scenery.

Nantong embroiderers owe much of their achievement in *fangzhengxiu* and other schools of embroidery to Shen Shou (1874-1921), a needlework virtuoso whose diligent work helped propel Nantong embroidery to national prominence. Small wonder praises were lavished on Shen not long ago, when the city commemorated her 110th birthday.

Born into an educated yet poor family, Shen developed a penchant for embroidery as a young girl. While learning how to read and write from her father, she sold her embroidery works to help defray family expenses.

Her life took a drastic turn when she married a rich, successful Qing Dynasty scholar who was also an art lover. With her husband's support, she turned embroidery from a mere means of living into a branch of art. Improving and refining the art was her crusade for the rest of her life.

Shen's good fortune continued in 1904, when the Empress Dowager, pleased with Shen's gift for her 70th birthday, *Birthday Greetings from the Eight Immortals*, arranged a visit to Japan for Shen and her husband. That tour proved an immensely rewarding experience, enabling Shen to draw on the lighting and colouring techniques from Western sketches, oil paintings and photography to found a new school of Chinese embroidery.

In 1906, Shen's embroidered picture of an Italian empress won a prize for outstanding work at a world's fair held in Turin, Italy. Later the Qing court presented this masterpiece to the Italian emperor. Nine years later she won a first-

class award for her embroidered portrait of Jesus Christ. Her swan song, a picture of a famous American singer, surprised art lovers with its superb craftsmanship. When the work was shown in the United States, the singer tried to buy it for US\$5,000. But to her disappointment, the offer was turned down flat.

Shen worked for a while as a teacher in the imperial embroidery school. Later she was invited by Zhang Jian, a famous patriotic entrepreneur, to preside over the Nantong Embroidery Training School. Zhang regarded Shen's works of Jesus Christ and the American singer as invaluable museum pieces, which could be admired but never sold. Unfortunately both pieces were lost during the wars which followed.

Once a master of art dies, more often than not, his or her skills also vanish. But that is not the case with Shen. She passed her expertise to many students, and what was more, during her last days she dictated all her experiences to Zhang. The result was a manual of embroidery, which has been dearly treasured by posterity.



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**CORRECTION:** In issue No. 4, the second paragraph in the third column on page 8 should read: "A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on January 17 that China is paying close attention to the case."

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## China's Badminton Battlers Flex Muscles

Chinese shuttlers cemented their image as badminton powers when they collected three out of the five titles up for grabs at the Hongkong Open Badminton Championship last month.

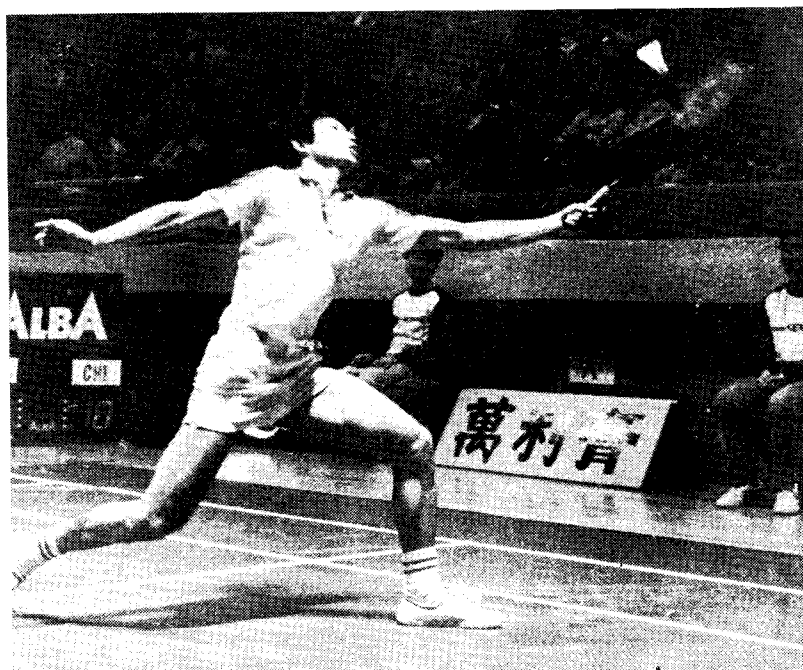
China's Yang Yang outplayed 1984 Grand Prix champion Morten Frost of Denmark, 15-10, 15-11, in the finals to win the men's singles title. With the victory, Yang takes the lead in the competition for this year's 18-leg Grand Prix championship, of which the Hongkong tourney was the opener.

Han Aiping and Zheng Yuli of China finished one-two in the women's singles event. And Han and her teammate Xu Rong paired off to win the women's doubles title by defeating Chinese teammates Wu Dixi and Lin Ying.

Men's doubles and mixed doubles titles went to the Danes and the British respectively.

China's women's badminton team was the team to beat in the 12 international tourneys last year in which it participated. The women players displayed better stamina, speed, footwork and skills. They won 11 of the 12 women's singles titles and top players Lin Ying and Wu Dixi never lost a match. China entered its women's team in the Uber Cup championship for the first time in 1984 and they easily breezed through the tournament, taking the cup without losing a single match.

In comparison, China's men's team is still building. The squad is in a period of transition, as veterans bow out and greenhorns ready themselves for big-time contests. Last year's major international badminton clashes proved



Yang Yang in action.

most seeded players were playing neck-and-neck games, with only Denmark's Frost dominating his matches.

In the wake of their Thomas Cup loss to the Indonesians last May, the Chinese men have been training hard to ready their young reserves, especially in the men's doubles event. They are emphasizing basic strokes and fast and aggressive tactics. The team's up-and-coming shuttlers are fleet-footed, hard-smashing and versatile.

Yang, who finished second in last year's Thomas Cup men's singles event, and Scottish Open champion Zhao Jianhua will pose threats against top-ranked Frost, while the Indonesians are not to be dismissed as top challengers.

Chinese players from the Hongkong tournament, joined by last year's All-England women's sin-

gles champion Li Lingwei, last week participated in the Japan Open Badminton Championship, the Yonex Cup.

The squad faces a full schedule this year. This month they will compete in the Malaysian Asian Intercity Badminton Championship. They then travel to West Germany, Denmark and Sweden to tune up for the annual All-England Championship in March. Other outings will include the Asian Badminton Championship in Malaysia in April; the bi-annual World Badminton Championship in Canada in June; the international open championships in Malaysia and Indonesia in July; the fifth World Cup Badminton Championship in September; the Scandinavia Open and the British Grand Prix in October; the Poland international tourney in November and the 1985 Grand Prix finale in December.

## Blind Author Writes With Clear Vision

To write a novel is hard work, even for a seasoned writer. What enormous difficulties then would a blind person have to overcome to write a novel? It is hard to imagine.

*The Story of "Pipa"* (in Chinese) is the first novel of Zheng Rongchen, a blind man living in Tianjin. Though unable to see, Zheng shows his readers a moving, dramatic world, vividly described.

The novel recounts the life of a blind musician, Lu Yang, son of a poor teacher. He loses his eyesight as a child because his father does not have the money to take him to a doctor when Lu falls ill.

It is before liberation. With the help of his father and friends, Lu grows into a simple, intelligent, good-hearted young man.

Determined to devote himself to music, he puts all his efforts into learning the *pipa* (a plucked string instrument with a fretted fingerboard) and the techniques of folk singing and storytelling. His talent

and kindness win the heart of Lin Ju, his teacher's daughter. They get married, and soon a child is expected.

Later, Zhang Feihu, a local villain, has Lu's teacher murdered and then takes Lin Ju away by force. Left by himself, Lu throws himself into a river. But he is saved by an old worker who is an underground Communist Party member. Lu joins the revolution.

After liberation, with the concern of the Party, Lu receives medical treatment and his vision is restored. The Party sends him to a music institute. Upon graduation he is made head of the traditional Chinese music department.

Because his views differ from those of the Party general branch secretary, Lu is designated a "rightist" during the anti-rightist campaign in 1957 and is sent to a mountain village to do manual labour.

Lu also adopts the son of a man

who died for the revolution. He names the boy Lu Yuchun. For the sake of the child's health, Lu gives most of his meagre food to the boy. Soon his health breaks down and he goes blind again.

After the label of "rightist" is removed, Lu returns to Tianjin where he works in a factory for the blind. From time to time the image of Lin Ju flashes across his heart. He heard that Lin had hung herself after she was taken away. But in fact, Lin is still alive. She escaped with her daughter, Xiao Ju, to her hometown in the south and has lived there since.

After the "cultural revolution" breaks out in 1966, Xiao Ju is sent to work in Heilongjiang Province. There she meets Lu Yuchun, Lu's adopted son. Similar experiences and interests bring them together. They fall in love and give each other a gift. Lu Yuchun gives Xiao Ju a small *pipa* made of jade, which she later brings home with her. When her mother sees the small *pipa*, she is overwhelmed by her feelings.

Later, as the young couple get happily married, Lu and Lin are also reunited after 30 years of suffering.

The author expresses the deep feelings of two generations of characters through the *pipa*. This literary device, is a traditional Chinese technique applied in many classical novels.

I must confess that I was completely overwhelmed by the novel when I read it. I burned with anger, rejoiced and was choked with tears. And that a blind man could make me see so much makes it all the more wonderful.

— by Wang Hongmo

Zheng Rongchen (left) with Deng Pufang, deputy director of the China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped.

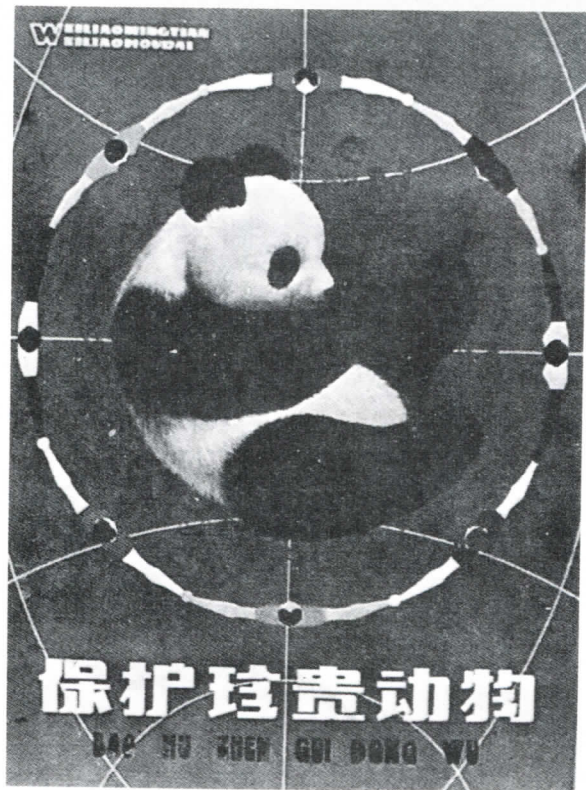
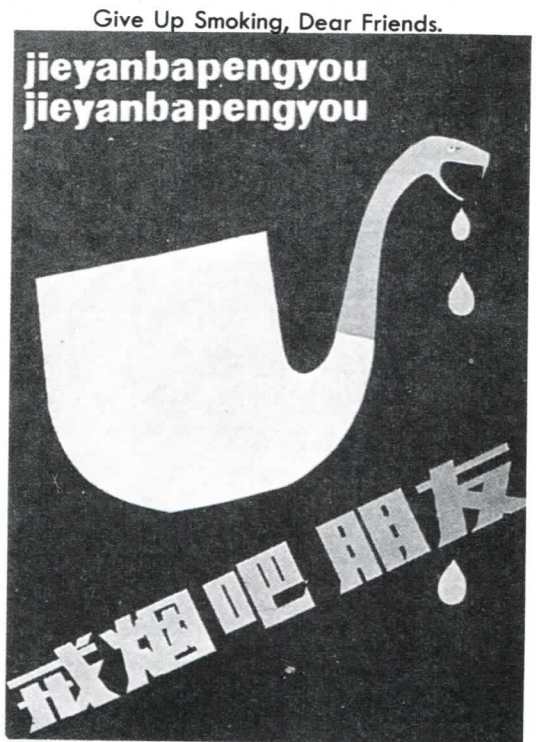




Welcome to Shanghai for Economic Co-operation.

## China's Picture Posters

With various artistic techniques, China's posters carry strong themes through ingenious images. Viewers are immediately impressed by their visual impact.



Protect Endangered Wildlife.



Put an End to the Long and Painful Separation.

=ART PAGE=

Coming Out Soon!

## Two Volumes of Current Interest



*The Hongkong Solution* (No. 6 of the "China & the World" series) will help readers understand the "one country, two systems" concept and its application to Hongkong.

In addition to the full text of the Joint Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Question of Hongkong, the book includes the elaboration by the Chinese government on its basic policies regarding Hongkong and speeches made by the Chinese and British heads of government. It also contains talks and articles by Chinese leaders and famous experts on the "one country, two systems" concept, on the establishment of the Hongkong Administrative Region and maintenance of Hongkong's economic prosperity and social stability. Background information about the region is also given.

A second book *Open Policy at Work* (No. 10 of the "China Today" series) will feature speeches by Chinese leaders and carry articles by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade about principles and policies on use of foreign funds, technology import, contracting foreign projects, providing labour services, extending aid to foreign countries and accepting international aid.

The book will feature background materials and regulations relevant to economic relations with other countries.

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