

Vol. 28, No. 45

November 11, 1985

# BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS

**How to Assess China's Population Policy**

**Economic Situation South of Sahara**



*Up-and-Coming Sports  
Stars*

## New Things

in the

Sichuan

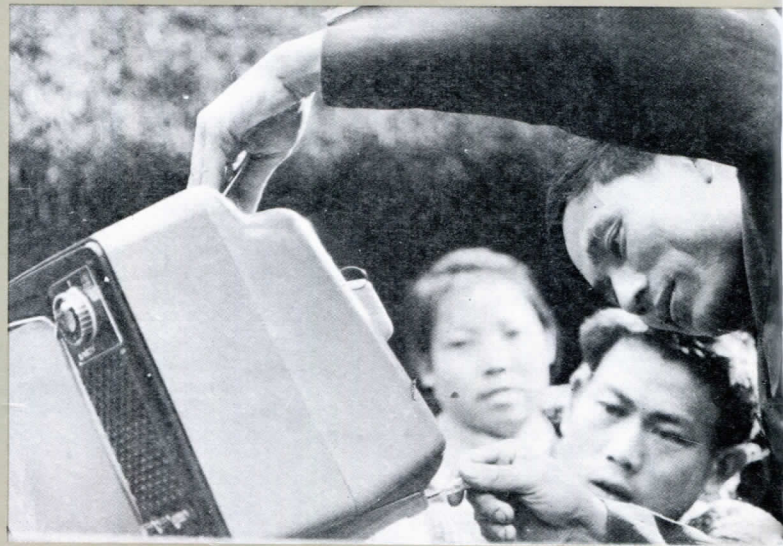
## Countryside

Having mastered clock, watch and TV repair, Zhang Xingde of Shifang County warmly serves the farmers.

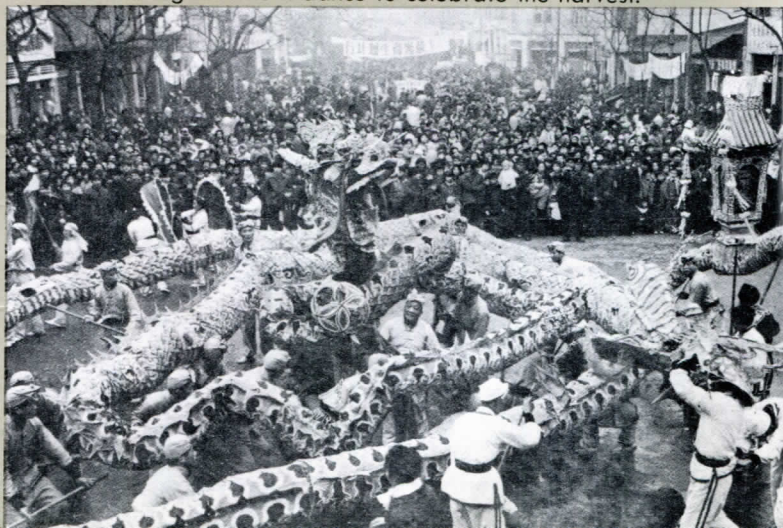


Here, more than 30 young farmers in Weiyuan County, Sichuan Province, who put together a brass band last year, are performing for the peasants.

Pingwu farmers Yan Shengxing and Wei Yuming, crossing a river with projectors on their backs, are heading for a mountain village, where they will entertain the residents with a film.



Peasants in the suburbs of Chongqing perform the dragon lantern dance to celebrate the harvest.



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<b>COVER:</b> Zhang Hongmei giving a "Wushu" performance with a sword. Photo by Huo Jianying	

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### **Family Planning Meets China's Social Needs**

To clear up misunderstanding about China's population policy, Professor Wu Cangping of the China People's University explained why China makes family planning its basic state policy. He pointed out that this decision was based on the reality of China's economy and population, and on a deep understanding of the objective laws governing human progress (p. 15).

### **Zhao's L. America Visit Off to Good Start**

Through the talks between the Chinese premier and the Colombian president in Bogota last month, they discovered identical views on a wide range of world issues. Behind their friendship were eight points China has in common with Latin America expounded by Zhao. This 16-day visit to the continent is still in progress (p. 6).

### **China Introduces Innovative Employment System**

Due to steady economic development, China found jobs for more than 46 million people from 1979 to 1984. Despite the progress, the country still has a long way to go before achieving full employment. China remains, however, confident of its ability to fulfil this task by developing its tertiary industries and its small towns (p. 4).

### **Sub-Saharan Africa Tries to Beat Drought**

Years of severe drought, plus faulty development strategies, have brought the economies of Sub-Saharan African countries to the brink of collapse. Now these countries are taking steps to turn the tide, but their efforts depend on a number of domestic and international factors for success (p. 20).

### **A Chinese Portrait of the American Mosaic**

After a 40-year absence, Chinese writer and former student of the Missouri School of Journalism, Wang Tsomin, returned to the United States to gather material for a literary first — America as seen by a Chinese. Wang condensed her year's worth of impression of America's sunny and seamy sides into her book, "American Kaleidoscope — A Chinese View," a review of which appears in this issue alongside a chapter from the book (p. 33).

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

Distributed by **China International Book Trading Corporation (GUOJI SHUDIAN)**,  
P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

Subscription prices (1 year):  
Australia..... A.\$ 22.00    USA    US\$ 22.00  
New Zealand... NZ.\$ 30.00    UK ..... £12.00  
Canada..... Can. \$21.00

# China Promotes Innovative Jobs Policy

by XIN LIN  
(Social Editor)

Several years ago, a large number of Chinese young people were awaiting jobs. The problem plagued the youths, their parents and the government. Today, however, as a result of an intensive effort by the government to reduce unemployment, many of them have jobs. From 1979 to 1984, 46 million of China's formerly out-of-work people found jobs, decreasing the country's unemployment rate from 6 percent in 1979 to its 1984 level of 1.9 percent.

While unemployment has long been troubling many countries in the world, China has made encouraging progress in this field. The employment of these vast numbers of people has not only improved their individual lives, but has helped promote political stability and unity of the country as a whole.

Of the 46 million people given jobs during that period, most were college graduates, demobilized soldiers and young people awaiting job assignments. Of the 31 million newly employed from the latter group, 15 million were educated youth recently returned from the countryside where they had been sent during the "cultural revolution." The rest were mainly urban middle-school graduates who became new members of the workforce.

China's great achievement in such a short period can be attributed to the increase in work opportunities spurred by the steady and sustained progress of the na-

tional economy, which from 1979 to 1984 grew at an average annual rate of 11 percent.

In some developed countries workers in tertiary industries account for 60 percent to 70 percent of total employment. China's tertiary industry, though underdeveloped, has made significant pro-

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***Although China still has a long way to go before reaching full employment, it is capable and confident of solving the problem by developing tertiary industries and small towns.***

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gress in the last few years. Tertiary industrial workers made up 33.4 percent of the total employment in 1984, as opposed to 23.7 percent in 1978.

In the last few years, China has begun to discard its long-time practice of the state finding jobs for all its eligible urban workers. Instead, it introduced a three-pronged policy of job finding. The first option in the new plan is that the government finds positions for the unemployed based on recommendations from area labour bureaus. Second, unemployed people can now opt to join together in small groups to start up their own businesses. Third, people can operate on an individual basis, such as selling vegetables, repairing bicycles, etc.

The change has been an important one for China's employment

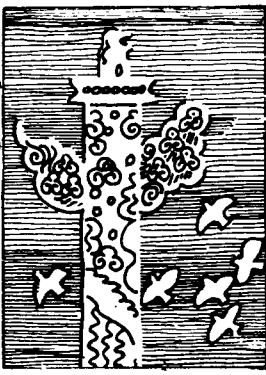
system. The introduction of the policy has overcome the shortcomings of the government's monopoly of employment service and has encouraged initiative on the part of the masses. China's employment system is different from the capitalist free labour market employment system.

The multi-faceted employment policy has been implemented in concert with the structural reform of the economy. At present, there are three kinds of economies in China, the state-owned economy, which occupies the dominant position in China's economy; the socialist collective economy; and the individual economy, which supplements the socialist economy.

The collective and individual economies have developed rapidly in the last few years, and have thereby absorbed a large number of workers. In 1984 the workers employed by the collectively owned enterprises accounted for 50 percent of the total new employment, compared with 43 percent in 1980. That of the privately owned enterprises made up 11 percent in 1984, compared with 6 percent in 1980. By the end of June 1985, there were 4.09 million people working in private sector, 27 times more than in 1978.

The people's attitude towards employment has also changed correspondingly. In the long past, young people preferred to work in state-owned or collectively owned enterprises over the private ones. Now, however, they feel equally as lucky to work in any of three kinds of enterprises.

It is estimated that 6 million new



urban workers will become members of the workforce each year during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1986-90). By 1990, among the 400-million-strong workforce in the countryside, 100 million will be unemployed. Another 10 million workers will be displaced by technology as more and more labour-intensive industries are technologically revamped. These factors indicate China's road to full employment may still be a long one.

China's urban residents are often inconvenienced by the lack of ready goods such as apparel, food and of certain services, such as hair cutting. Improvements in this area would demand a large workforce. Enterprises could establish new production lines or open service centres for their surplus workers, while surplus rural workforce could be employed to develop forestry, livestock breeding, sideline production, fishery, industry and transportation service in the countryside. The numerous small rural towns, which are being developed into political, economic and cultural centres, are also areas that could accommodate large numbers of workers. Whichever course it should take, China is confident of its ability to eventually tackle the problem of unemployment.



### Speech Spurs Hopes for China

After reading Chen Yun's speech in vol. 28, No. 39, I want to congratulate you for publishing it. To me, this speech gave hope for a more complete success of China's modernization programme precisely because it points out the possible pitfalls of that programme.

The speech reflects the wish that I have always held that China values her own past experiences: paying attention to grain production, reviewing experiences before making a new step, and intensifying political education.

Chen Yun also calls attention to China's negative experiences, warning against the "cultural revolutionary" practices of the media, false reporting, setting unrealistically high standards in industrial output, and against the relaxation of Party discipline.

This speech increased my hope in the continued success of the Chinese revolution, not only because of its content, but also because of the fact that there is such open discussion within the Party. To us outsiders, this means a high level of mutual trust among Party members and points to the existence of a democratic element so necessary for lasting success. Such open discussions accompanying the current policies will guarantee greater and more lasting success.

Theresa Chu  
Toronto, Canada

### Business of Interest

*Beijing Review* reports on opening to the world, business and trade, the reforms of the economic structure and the reforms of wages and prices, as well as such related

articles, have interested me the most. The Chinese leaders have had the courage to expose problems and to make a clear-cut policy. We can understand China's developing direction and her actions from these reports.

"Notes From the Editors" is also informative. The article in issue No. 30, "Controlling Industrial Development," which contradicted world's various suppositions about the Chinese economy and pointed out the problems of the reforms, was particularly interesting. After reading this article, the world should feel more able to trust China.

Masuo Arashida  
Asaka, Japan

### Comments on Peng Zhen's Article

The article that particularly interested me was Peng Zhen's "China Pledges to Maintain World Peace" in issue No. 36. From this article I recalled how important a solid leadership and attention to successors can be, and also that a great leader must have intelligence and ability.

One thing should be underlined in this article. Peng Zhen mentioned the Auschwitz death camp, and paid his respects to people who have died because of their race, beliefs or other characteristics. I also welcomed his respect for the Soviet Union, which suffered the most painful ordeal in the war.

I hope every country learns from China. That they think not only of themselves, but also of the contributions of other countries.

G. Weiershaus  
Biedenkopf, FRG

# Zhao in Bogota: Old Friend Comes Home

With its scenic grandeur obscured by a seemingly endless drizzle, mountain-rimmed Bogota is enough to discourage visitors at this time of this year. Yet on October 28, the Colombian capital received the first Chinese premier ever to set foot in Latin America with warm enthusiasm that dried up the rain.

"It happens to be your rainy season, yes, but I feel comfortable all the same," said Premier Zhao Ziyang, who flew there after attending the United Nations' 40th anniversary celebrations in New York. Bogota was the first stop on a 16-day tour that also will take him to Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela.

Zhao's three-day visit went off so well that President Belisario Betancur Cuartas described the meeting between him and Zhao as "love at first sight" and titled his speech at a banquet in Zhao's honour: "An Old Friend Comes Home."

"Despite the vast difference in ideology," Betancur said in his speech, "during our dialogue we have found no big differences but many common, sometimes similar, points."

The new-found friendship between the two leaders prompted Colombia's Minister of Foreign Relations Augusto Ramirez Ocampo to muse aloud. "I still wonder why people should say the Spaniards were the first to discover New America, when actually it was the Chinese who got here first," he said. An equally humorous Zhao replied, "This is because the Chinese came here to make a living rather than to seek gold. They were not as ambitious."

In the same friendly tone, the Chinese premier listed eight points he believes China shares with Latin American countries.

— They have all suffered at the hands of foreign oppressors and their people had to wage prolonged struggle for their independence.

— They all belong to the third world and face the common task of developing their national economy and raising their living standards.

— They have large tracts of territory endowed with rich resources.

— They need an international environment of durable peace to eradicate their underdevelopment.

— They cherish their hard-won independence and pursue an independent and non-aligned foreign policy.

— They respect the right to the self-determination of other countries, oppose outside interference, and stand for solving international disputes through peaceful negotiations without resorting to force.

— They work hard to ease the tense international situation and make active efforts to safeguard world peace.

— And they have suffered from the old unfair international economic order, and they now stand for promoting the North-South dialogue, the South-South co-operation, and the establishment of a new international economic order.

"These points in common constitute a solid foundation on which China and Latin American countries can develop their friendship and relations of co-operation," Zhao said.

He said he believed that with these common points, his country could co-operate with those Latin American and Caribbean countries that have no diplomatic ties with China.

"If you have difficulties in establishing diplomatic relations with China, we can start with economic relations and trade," he told some Latin American diplomats during an October 29 meeting at Bogota's San Carlos Palace. Such co-operation could be made to endure, he added, if it was based on peace and friendship, mutual support, equality and mutual benefit.

The debt question was another much talked-about topic among hosts and guests. Speaking at an October 30 press conference Zhao maintained the debt question was no longer a single economic problem, but a prominent international political issue. He urged creditor nations to approach the issue from a long-term point of view. "Otherwise," he warned, "this problem will bring about an inconceivable disaster to the world economy as a whole."

China appreciated the principles adopted at the Latin American Debt Conference held at Cartagena, Colombia earlier this year, the premier said. These principles called for a settlement of the debt problem by cutting tariffs, improving the debtor countries' capacity of repayment, opening the creditor countries' domestic markets and conducting negotiations between the borrowing and lending nations.

"We do not think that the developing countries should be asked to pay their debts at the expense of their economic growth and the

living standards of their people," he said. "Such a practice not only causes economic recession in the developing nations but also hurts the developed countries themselves."

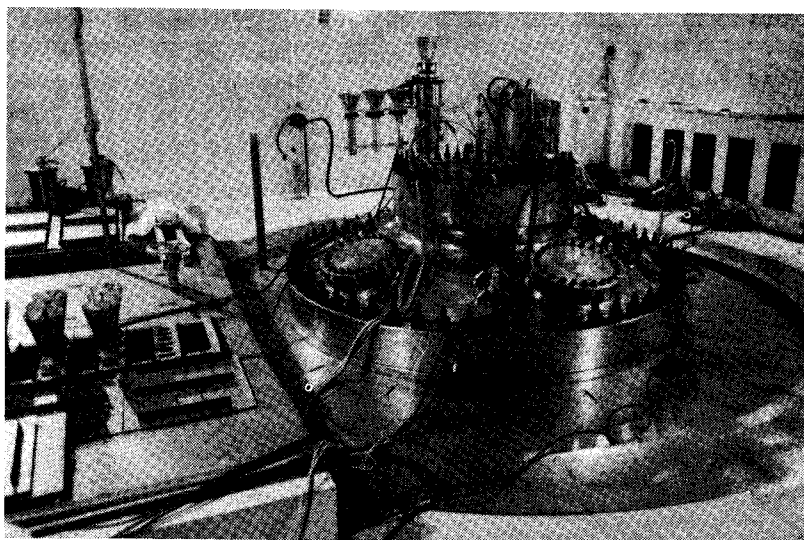
Zhao also urged third world countries to unite and to exert pressure on the developed and creditor nations responsible for the inequitable international economic order, in order to improve relations and find solutions to the debt problem.

The common political viewpoints and enhanced friendship enabled China and Colombia to get down to the business of boosting bilateral economic co-operation. During the premier's three-day visit, the two countries signed two agreements and three documents on economic co-operation. Accordingly the central banks of the two countries will each provide US\$5 million to boost Sino-Colombian trade. The Chinese government will give 400 household electric sewing machines and 20 tailoring machines to a Colombian institute for handicapped people; help Colombia with the techniques for raising freshwater shrimp; and accept three Colombian doctors to come to China for one year of training in acupuncture.

"The signing of these documents has created more favourable conditions for the development of friendly ties and relations of co-operation between our two countries," Zhao said, who left Bogota on October 30 for Brazil to start the second leg of his Latin American trip.

## Nuclear Industry Advances in China

After 30 years of research and development, China has established a fairly sophisticated nuclear science system, an official of the



Designed and constructed in China, southwest China's first high-flux nuclear reactor in full operation.

Ministry of Nuclear Industry announced in Beijing on October 31.

China has mastered the technology to produce atom bombs, hydrogen bombs and reactors for nuclear-powered submarines, and its military forces are now equipped with nuclear weapons.

"The development has helped break the nuclear monopoly of the superpowers, strengthened the country's national defence and will contribute to world peace," said Zhou Ping, vice-minister of the nuclear industry.

He said China had undertaken many different operations, from exploration, mining and refining of uranium deposits, recycling fuel and manufacturing nuclear weapons, to using nuclear energy and techniques in civil industries.

These advances, the official continued, had vastly promoted new technology in nuclear medicine and agriculture, and nuclear tracer and irradiation processing. These techniques have given birth to many new products.

The official said 10 nuclear reactors, nine of which were built in China, had been constructed to serve the needs of the country's science and national defence.

At a symposium attended by

Chinese and Swiss nuclear experts last week, Zhou Ping said that the Chinese government planned to build several nuclear power stations in the more developed regions with larger populations. At present, he said, there were two nuclear power stations under construction in China. The Dayawan Nuclear Power Plant in Guangdong has two generating units each with a designed capacity of 900,000 kw. The other one, the Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant in Zhejiang Province, southeast China, will provide 300,000 kw of electricity per hour when it goes into operation in 1989.

Zhou said China had fairly abundant deposits of uranium and a complete nuclear fuel reprocessing system, as well as an industrial system for manufacturing the special equipment and materials used in the nuclear power industry.

There are now about 4,000 scientists working in nuclear reactor research and designing in China. They have been able to make breakthroughs in some extremely advanced technical areas, the vice-minister said.

"We are willing to co-operate with other countries in building nuclear power plants and promot-

## News in Brief

Installation work began October 25 on China's longest 500,000-volt direct current transmission line, stretching 1,080 km from the Gezhouba Hydropower Station on the middle reaches of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River, to the country's largest industrial city, Shanghai. The line is expected to be commissioned for use in 1988.

The Agricultural Bank of China recently issued bonds totalling 1.5 million yuan, in an effort to raise funds for rural enterprises to boost the production of commodities that currently are in short supply. The bonds, the first of its kind issued to rural enterprises, will last for a term of one year at an annual interest rate of 9 percent.

As of January 1, 1985, China will begin to replace the current market system for weights and measures with the metric system. The Ministry of Commerce will issue food and cooking-oil ration coupons using kilograms and grammes as weight units.

The number of China's military area commands has been cut from the original 11 to seven after a reshuffle of senior military officers. The average age of the new commanding officers has been lowered by eight years. The majority of them are in their 40s and 50s. More than 50 percent of them received college education.

ing the peaceful use of nuclear energy." Zhou said.

## Chinese Brains Reveal Masterwork

An effective snakebite treatment and a computerized radar device for railway were among an eclectic collection of 345 inventions on display at China's first national exhibition of inventions which ended in Beijing last month. Many of the inventions are now being widely used in science and industry. The show epitomized a nation determined to catch up with state-of-the-art science and technology around the world today.

Xiong Yuliang, a Yunnan Institute of Zoology researcher, is unquestionably a forerunner in this endeavour. The secret of the snakebite cure he invented lies in trypsin, a protease which is powerful enough to destroy all the toxic components of snake venom. If injected subcutaneously near the bite, it ensures a more than 90 percent survival rate for snakebitten

patients. Out of about 1,000 patients who received the cure from 1972 to 1983, only two died. By contrast, a patient bitten by a deadly cobra has only a 50 percent chance of survival if treated with an ordinary antidote.

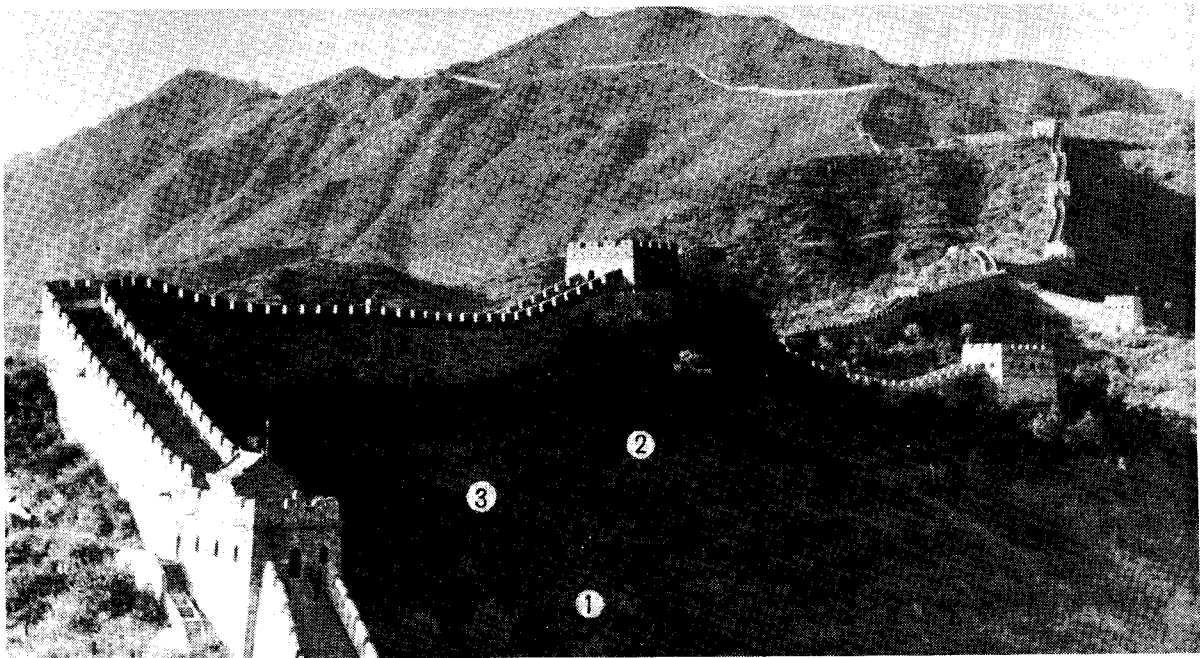
Inexpensive and easy to get and store, the trypsin is effective against a wide variety of venomous snakes and so far the patients have experienced no serious side-effects. If prepared in portable injection packs, it allows prompt and effective first-aid in the field.

Xiong's invention was ignored when it first came out in 1972, however, as China was in the midst of its catastrophic "cultural revolution." It was not until 1978, two years after the decade-long trauma had ended, that trypsin was put to clinical use. In 1984 Xiong was awarded a national gold medal for his invention; he eventually achieved world fame when an essay on the trypsin treatment written by Xiong and his four assistants was published in science and medical magazines in more than 20 countries.

**This is an automatic instrument that synchronizes musical accompaniment with the steps of a dancer. Designed by Beijing Engineer Liu Zhongdu (first left) and his brother, the device is also useful for gymnastics.**







## New Heights to be Scaled Along Great Wall

A new section of the Great Wall, the symbol of China and the only man-made structure that can be seen from the moon, has recently been repaired and opened to tourists. The new tourist spot, Mutianyu, lies just above the already well-known spot, Badaling. This part of the Great Wall is in the northern part of Huairou County of Beijing, and is a two-hour bus ride from the city proper. The numbers on the photo show the relative situation of the two tourist spots to Beijing proper. 1, Beijing proper; 2, Mutianyu; 3, Badaling.

The road to success was not as long for Guo Xiangxi, a researcher at the China Railway Science Research Institute. In 1982, he devised a new car-retarder that has helped raise the level of efficiency at major railway yards in China by 10 percent. Through a computerized radar system, the device can monitor and control the speed and direction of the railway cars when they enter and depart the marshalling yards. Building a new marshalling yard using Guo's invention cuts the cost by more than 200 million yuan. The new device has earned Guo's institute more than 2 million yuan from both sales and service work. In 1983 the car-retarder won a national medal, and a 2,000-yuan grand prize went to its inventors. "The money is not important," said Guo, a 1962 graduate from the pres-

tigious Jiaotong University in Xian. "What is important, and makes me very happy, is that my brainchild has been found so useful in so many places."

Since China introduced a science award system in 1978, some 1,000 inventions have won national prizes, including 32 that have yielded economic returns of more than 100 million yuan. Chinese officials estimate that the country has earned 26 billion yuan through these prize-winning inventions.

Such highly productive brainwork has stirred up national zest for invention. In fact, promoting science and technology has become one of the basic principles for drafting the nation's Seventh Five-Year Plan.

Yet, behind all this is a sobering fact: Developed nations achieve

60 percent of their GNP growth by incorporating scientific and technical results in production, rather than by increases in investment; in China the figure is a meagre 20 percent. The wide gap is shocking, but at least it points out this is where China's potential lies.

Today, Chinese inventors can sell the products of their work like commodities, a step only recently taken by the State Council, hoping to unleash the creative wisdom of the Chinese people, who have contributed brilliantly to world civilization from time immemorial. This new encouragement is a far cry from the recent past, when a man who had earned his country great wealth was often under-paid and in cramped living and working conditions.

A new patent law protects Chinese inventors even further. Since it came into effect last April, the State Patent Administration has received nearly 10,000 applications and the State Science and Technology Commission has forwarded applications for foreign patents on 33 new technological and scientific findings, and has approved 59 items for export.

**Inventors Association.** The new-found national zeal for creativity prompted some 100 noted scientists, inventors and influential patrons of science to publish a letter calling for the establishment of an organization that would back their efforts. From this was born the China Inventors' Association, inaugurated on October 16 in Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

According to association chairman Wu Heng, the main task of the organization is to channel the knowledge and creativity of its members into inventive endeavours, to popularize scientific results, and to promote exchanges with their counterparts in other countries.

Wu announced that the association would set up a foundation to assist inventors, particularly the young, whose financial difficulties are hindering their creative work.

"It is my belief that the association will be instrumental in turning all creative thinking, however transient, into reality and in transferring all inventions into productive forces," Wu said.

For accomplished inventors, to become a member of the association is not merely a personal honour. "I'm happy about becoming a member," said Xiong, the father of the snakebite therapy. "But I treasure all the more the opportunities the association will give me to gain access to information and to swap experiences with

others. I can count on the association for support in my work."

## Mao's Old Friend Commemorated

A commemorative meeting to mark the first anniversary of the death of Professor Li Chenpien, a well-known Chinese-American was held on October 20.

Professor Li, who was born in China, was a famous virologist and bacteriologist, as well as one of the founding members of the US National Association of Chinese-Americans, and the first president of the Washington D.C. chapter of the association.

Li's daughter, Li Jiari, came all from the United States with more than 30 American scholars for the occasion in Changsha, the capital of Hunan Province. Zhang Wenjin and Cai Zemin, former ambassadors to the United States, sent messages in honour of Li.

In his message, Zhang recalled the friendship between Li and the late Chairman Mao Zedong. Li once studied at Xiangya Medical College in Changsha, where he became acquainted with Mao, an active member of the student movements. In 1922, Li went to the United States for further studies and achieved distinction in virology and bacteriology. As a man of high prestige and great influence, he contributed greatly to the founding of Sino-US diplomatic relations, and to the exchange of unofficial medical and technological contacts between the two countries.

**CORRECTION:** In our last issue, p. 9, line 6 of our photo report, the figure "2,378.6 billion km" should read "237.86 million km."

## China & the World

### Deng Backs European Cooperation

Although Eastern and Western Europe belong to two separate blocs, they are not willing to get tied up in the "war strain," said Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, in a meeting with visiting West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher on October 29. In reply, Genscher said he was impressed by Deng's opinion on the importance of European unity and development, and that those who squabble over such matters were mere dwarves by comparison.

### World Bank Loans to China

The World Bank will grant China loans totalling US\$3 billion in the next five years to finance 30 construction projects, according to Vice-Minister of Finance Tian Yinong. Forty percent of these loans will be interest free. The new allotment will boost total World Bank loans to US\$6 billion.

### Peng Meets Swedish Delegation

Peng Zhen, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said competition for overseas markets among the developed countries was intense, but if they all pursued a policy of technology transfer and aid to the third world, the third world itself would grow into a lucrative new market. Peng made the statement when he met with a delegation from the Swedish parliament, led by its speaker, Ingemund Bengtsson, in Beijing on October 31.

## Tanzania

### Nyerere Makes Way for the Young

**By resigning from his presidency, at 63 Julius Nyerere has put an end to life-long presidential tenure, and strengthened the role of the party.**

by MA SHIKUN and  
BAO SHISHAO

**A**LI Hassan Mwinyi, nominated by outgoing Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere as his successor, won a landslide victory with 92 percent of the votes cast by more than 5 million voters on October 27. On November 5 the new president was sworn in and President Nyerere ended his 24-year presidential term, although he will remain chairman of the ruling Tanzanian Revolutionary Party until 1987.

Nyerere is in good health and is full of vigour at 63. Under his leadership the political and economic situations have been stable in Tanzania. He enjoys wide popularity and prestige in his country and throughout the African continent. Even so, Nyerere decided to resign as president, a circumspcct decision that was of great significance.

His decision to abolish life-long presidential tenure was an idea that had been brewing for quite some time in Tanzania. He said society was constantly developing and new situations and tasks required new leaders to take on the most important jobs of the country. And the life-long tenure of the supreme leader of the government could not meet the contemporary needs of the people, he said. Before the presidential elections in 1980 he stated he had no intention of becoming a presidential candidate, but because of the situation

in the country at the time, he continued his tenure for another five years. Last year he reaffirmed his request to resign, and pointed out the real meaning of his decision was to make a public statement about the abolition of life-long tenure. On his initiative, the Constitution, revised last year, clearly stipulates that a president's term cannot be more than 10 years.

Nyerere had been studying the long road from leadership to the peaceful transfer of power, especially since his transfer would be a trial and an attempt to set an example.

As a statesman with great wisdom about his country, Nyerere understood the importance of the political party in winning state independence and in building up the economy. In January 1961, six weeks after Tanzania won independence, Nyerere resigned as head of the government to engage himself in the building and strengthen-

ing of his party. Today the Tanzanian Revolutionary Party has nearly 3 million members. After his resignation, Nyerere continues to be the Party's chairman. Thus the Party which was built on a reliable foundation among the masses will be stronger than before under the guidance of Nyerere.

Nyerere pledged that the new president would be given all the power vested in him by the Constitution. As chairman of the Party, Nyerere has the responsibility to guarantee that the president is worthy of the title, and he calls on the members of the Tanzanian Revolutionary Party to support the new president in his position of power.

The Tanzanian people have called Nyerere, their leader for the last two and a half decades, "mwalim," which means "teacher." Nyerere himself cherishes the memories of his days as a teacher, and loves this simple name. Even though he has resigned from the presidency, the people of Tanzania will not forget his noble characteristics: loyalty to the motherland, faithfulness in his duties, closeness to the people and a simple way of life.

## Brazil

### Economic Boom Gained at a Price

**An open-door policy pursued by Brazil since the 1960s has delivered the country a strong economy, yet has caused some major problems as well.**

by DUAN ZHIQI

**B**RAZIL'S economy took off in the late 1960s and continued to grow during most of the reces-

sion-plagued 1970s, making the South American country a rising economic power in the world.

The success, or "miracle," as some people have described it, is

attributed to an open policy that has drawn massive foreign capital and advanced technology to Brazil and has prompted an all-out effort to boost the country's foreign trade.

Funding began to flood into Brazil in the late 1960s, with direct foreign investment soaring from US\$1.6 billion in 1966 to US\$22.3 billion in 1983. Simultaneously, advanced foreign technology began to enter the country.

In 1968, Brazil earned an energetic gross national product growth rate of 11 percent, in contrast to the pre-boom years when the country's gross national product rose by only 4 percent or 5 percent annually. The rate was sustained at 7 percent from 1974 to 1980, quite remarkable when considering this was during a period when an economic slump fell on the world and granted the developed countries the poor rate of 3 percent.

Domestic industries are prospering in the overall national economic growth. In the past decade, a number of sizeable industrial projects went into operation. Crude steel output in 1984 totalled 18.5 million tons, and Brazil's car-building capability reached 1.5 million units a year. Furthermore, the petrochemical, arms, aircraft, shipbuilding and electronic industries are expanding. Industrial output in Brazil today makes up 34 percent of the country's total production.

Brazil also has put itself behind efforts to develop foreign export and gain more international markets. The country's total turnover for exports and imports in 1981 was 18 times that of 1964.

However, there is a gloomy side to the country's inspiring economy. Mistakes and misplanning have caused some serious problems. In the 20 years from 1963 to 1983, foreign loans that Brazil managed to obtain increased 33 times. As a result of over-borrowing, Brazil

now has a debt of US\$100.2 billion to shoulder, accounting for nearly one-third of the Latin American total. Repayment of the enormous principal and interest has robbed the country of 85 percent of its 1983 export earnings. The repayment schedule has beset the country with a capital shortage, closure of factories and inflation.

On top of that, in its impatience

## *The Netherlands*

# Mixed Reaction to Cruise Treaty

**The Dutch government recently approved the deployment of American cruise missiles in the Netherlands. This move may delight its NATO allies, but has angered the Soviets and Dutch opposition parties.**

by XIN PING

The October 31 approval on the deployment of 48 American cruise missiles in the Netherlands, along with the Dutch government's seal on a Dutch-American draft accord on the terms of deployment and use of the missiles, came after a heated six-year nationwide debate on the matter.

According to a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) decision in December 1979, the United States would deploy its medium-range Pershing and cruise missiles in its five European allied countries — Britain, West Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands — to counter the Soviet Union's deployment of the West European-targeted SS-20 missiles. American missiles already have been deployed in all designated countries but the Netherlands.

Under the fierce fire of the opposition Labour Party and the peace movement in the country, the Dutch government decided in June 1984 to delay the deployment

for economic success, Brazil has undertaken too many projects, projects whose costs are beyond its capacity. The Itaipu nuclear power station and petrochemical projects have cost US\$70 billion, more than the country could afford between 1974 and 1983. And the shortage of funds and lack of short-term returns have forced Brazil to ask for even more credit.

of the cruise missiles. But it pledged to its NATO allies that it would accept deployment if by Nov. 1, 1985, the number of Soviet SS-20 missiles in the Soviet European and Asian zones had exceeded the June 1984 level (378), and if the two superpowers had failed to reach an agreement on nuclear arms reduction.

As the number of Soviet SS-20 missiles approached 441, the Dutch government prepared to go ahead with its decision, and public debate intensified.

A nationwide anti-cruise missile petition campaign was begun this September. With the growing peace movement, which culminated at a mass rally at the Hague on October 27, a petition resulted with 3.7 million signatures. It was delivered to Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers and the speakers of both houses of the parliament.

During the on-going parliamentary session on the 1986 state budget, Labour and other opposition parties submitted one mo-

tion after another against the missile deployment.

They first asked the government to postpone its November 1 decision until after the Soviet-US summit in Geneva this month. Some said the proposal on arms reduction put forward by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Paris was "remarkable" and that there would be a "breakthrough" at the summit meeting.

They also demanded that the deployment decision be approved by a two-thirds majority in the parliament, accompanied by a written guarantee from the United States that the missiles would not be launched without Dutch approval.

The motions, however, were all defeated. Instead, parliament approved on October 25 the draft accord between the Dutch and US governments.

The Soviet Union, eager to see the US missile deployment in the Netherlands squelched, said in September that the number of Soviet SS-20 missiles in its "European zone" stood at 234, lower than last June's level. It also proposed a prime-minister-level discussion between the Hague and Moscow on the condition that the Dutch government postponed its final deployment decision.

However, Lubbers and his central-right coalition government rejected the Soviet invitation and its testament to missile numbers, which Lubbers said were unbelievable because the rockets had simply been moved to Asia, and that their threat to NATO remained unchanged.

Earlier, in speeches to the parliament, Lubbers said, "Since the Soviet Union is apparently unwilling to restrict the number of deployed SS-20 missiles in an acceptable response to the Dutch suggestion of June 1984, our decision to deploy the cruise missiles is inevit-

able, no matter how sorrowful this may be."

He said a further postponement of the decision "would not only blur the now clear Dutch position, but it would also mean for Gorbachev that he would bag the first results of his talks with America even before the Geneva meeting was staged."

The Dutch government's decision has surely angered the Kremlin, which, only hours before the Dutch decision was announced, again declared that the number of SS-20 missiles deployed on Soviet territory was fewer than 441.

But it has so far been greeted with relief by its NATO allies and the Dutch believe the decision confirms their unity in face of a Soviet nuclear threat.

In the past few days, the opposition Labour Party has threatened to call for a referendum on the mis-

sile issue and has pledged to scrap the Dutch-American treaty if it wins in the forthcoming general election.

The members of the peace movement have also declared that they do not see the government's decision as the "last chapter" in their campaign, and that they will continue to work on post-deployment, anti-nuclear "strategies."

In Washington, as expected, the Dutch decision was hailed immediately after it was announced. State Department spokesman Pete Martinez said, "The Dutch have demonstrated their continued adherence to the fundamental principles underlying the alliance."

Observers in the Hague believe the Dutch government's decision will very likely spark months of unrest in the Netherlands and may even affect its general elections next May.

## *Middle East*

# **Peace Process Stalled by the West**

**The adverse current against the Palestinians that has existed in the Middle East peace process from the very beginning is bearing down even harder on the PLO.**

by **ZHAO ZHONG**

**A**FTER having agreed to meet Palestinian representatives, the United States last August contradicted itself by refusing to meet representatives from the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). It maintained the PLO's public and definitive recognition of Israel was a precondition that must be met before the US would parley with a joint Jordan-Palestinian delegation.

On October 1, Israeli warplanes razed the headquarters of the PLO in Tunis in an attempt to violently wipe out the leading mainstay of

the PLO. Later, on October 14, after the Jordan-Palestinian delegation arrived in London, Sir Geoffrey Howe, British foreign secretary, cancelled his session with the delegation just one hour before the scheduled meeting time. Although the British government gave various excuses, observers believe that Britain yielded to pressure from the United States and Israel.

The United States, always in the supporting role for Israel, continued its harassment against the PLO, which it tagged a "terrorist" organization, by sending out warplanes to intercept the Egyptian airliner that carried the

Palestinian hijackers of the Italian cruise ship, *Achille Lauro*. It claimed it would lead to the arrest of Mohamed Abbas, the leader of a PLO faction, the Palestine Liberation Front, who is said to have masterminded the hijacking.

Meanwhile, the Reagan administration put pressure on the United Nations General Assembly session, forcing the UN to turn away PLO leader Yasser Arafat from the commemorative activities on its 40th anniversary.

The United States also attempted to divide the joint action of Jordan and the PLO. On October 21, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres brought out a new seven-point proposal for settling the Mideast issue, claiming it would unconditionally negotiate with Jordan and other Arab countries except the Palestinians, to say nothing of the PLO.

This all leads to one key point: Israel and the United States will not allow the PLO to exist as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinians, therefore ignoring any national rights deserved by the Palestinian people.

But this only strengthens the will of the Palestinians. Recovering their right to be recognized as a nation is a passion of the Palestinians that cannot be suppressed. To peacefully settle the Mideast issue is the fundamental interest of the 140 million Arabs.

The Palestinians and the PLO both confront great pressure, even from within the Arab countries and the interior of the PLO. But as long as a Palestinian homeland is not recovered, and until they are able to live and work in peace and to prosper on their own land, the Palestinian issue will not be resolved. The attempt to remove Palestine from the map by the United States and Israel will only stir up more resistance from the Palestinians.

## Viet Nam

# Economy Suffers Despite Reforms

**The Vietnamese dong is devalued by a large margin this year, but the root cause of the economic trouble is untouched.**

by HUANG YONG

**A**LTHOUGH Viet Nam has introduced major monetary reforms, the economic situation in the country remains depressed, characterized by high prices and shortages of daily necessities.

On September 14, Hanoi announced the circulation of a new currency to take the place of the dong. One new dong is equivalent to 10 of the old dongs.

Following the announcement, most stores, schools and factories closed down for the day and armed police patrolled the deserted streets. The Vietnamese authorities also shut down the Hanoi international airport and suspended all communication with the outside world.

Why all the security measures? And why were the Hanoi authorities so nervous when they introduced a new currency, a practice that is fairly common in other countries?

According to experts in Indochinese affairs, such measures were taken to deal with possible unrest among a people who are already leading a difficult life.

Since its occupation of Kampuchea seven years ago, Viet Nam has made little progress in industrial and agricultural production. Production in some industrial sectors, especially in the coal industry, has dropped drastically. While its deficit has been increasing year after year, Viet Nam's inflation rate has gone up between 70 percent and 80 percent. Since 1983

Viet Nam has accumulated US\$6 billion in foreign debt.

Prior to the currency changeover, Hanoi had replaced workers' subsidized rations with cash salaries in an effort to appease the people and stabilize the domestic markets.

This is the third time Viet Nam has changed its currency since 1978 in a bid to get rid of its economic stagnation. But it has proved ineffective, as the standard of living is dropping while prices continue to climb. The Vietnamese state bank admitted it was difficult for the administration to withdraw large amounts of currency from circulation. As a result, it has had to print more money to deal with the situation, setting off a vicious cycle.

Opinions vary among Vietnamese officials and economic experts as to the root cause of the ailing economy. Some put the blame on the bureaucracy, others ascribe it to the mismanagement of state-run enterprises. Still others claim the problem stems from lack of co-ordination between the various branches of the government.

It seems nobody wants to face the real cause: the invasion of Kampuchea, which has swallowed up more than half of the country's annual budget in the past seven years. Meanwhile, aid from and trade with Western and third world countries have declined dramatically. Just as it has become isolated in the international political arena, Viet Nam now faces alienation from the world's marketplace as well.

# Family Planning Meets Social Progress

Is China's one-child-per-family policy imposed on an unwilling people? Or, is it a programme that meets the needs of the state, the family and the individual?

by WU CANGPING

IN recent years, there have been a handful of Americans who know little about China and have attacked China's family planning policy, claiming it as coerced, and saying that China's attempt to solve its population and economic problems through family planning will come to no avail.

## China's Views on Population

With regard to the relation between population and socio-economic development, China holds that the economy is the decisive factor. According to the historical materialist point of view, the size and speed of growth of a population are not the main forces that determine social development. It is the constant development of social productive forces and the readjustment of the corresponding relations of production that constitute the main force. The size, the speed of growth, and the quality of a population will either propel or retard the development of the social economy. Given this, the Chinese government always has opposed the view that a country's poverty and slow development are primarily due to its large and growing population. For the same reason, China never believed all the problems could be easily

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solved once the population growth was brought under control.

Before the founding of New China in 1949, the population was 540 million. The economy was extremely backward and the people lived in dire poverty. Even then, Chinese revolutionaries already had rejected and criticized views that attributed China's problems to its large population.

On the eve of the founding of the People's Republic, Dean Acheson, then US secretary of state, analysed the impetus behind China's revolution. He attributed it to China's overpopulation and the lack of enough food for so many people to eat. Mao Zedong, in his article entitled *The Bankruptcy of the Idealist Conception of History*, refuted Acheson's theory and said that revolution plus production could solve the problem of feeding the population.

## Basis for Practising Family Planning

In the period after the founding of the People's Republic of China, the country's population swelled quickly, despite outside criticism, and today China's population has doubled to more than 1 billion. In 1979 China instated a one-child-per-family policy among the majority Han population.

After reviewing the positive and negative experiences in dealing with the population, China's leaders have discovered that the

main solution to the problems of feeding the people and dealing with unemployment, education and housing is to step up production and, simultaneously, make family planning a basic state policy. This decision did not come from any individual's subjective desire, but was based on the reality of China's economy and its size of population and on a deep understanding of the objective laws governing human development. This was a decision based on science, and the application has so far proved successful.

Birth control is a method that promotes continuous progress in contemporary society. With the current natural birth rate and average life expectancy, the world population could increase several times within the next century, which would be unacceptable to modern society. Therefore, it was inevitable for humans themselves to restrict their own growth rate. Currently, in almost all the developed countries, birth control is practised by each individual family. Whether a country openly announces family planning as its policy, however, is a question relating to its own sovereignty. Given the fact that China's population has already topped 1 billion and that its population density has tripled that of the world average and quadrupled that of the United States, the Chinese government had no choice but to make family planning its state policy. This is the only way it can more effectively organize and mobilize its

people to consciously practise family planning and participate in population control, thereby improving the quality of the entire population. Even though, China still believes the growth of production is the best way to improve living standards.

Family planning is also an objective need of China's modernization drive. It is inconceivable that, as China heads for modernization in all fields, its population remains at a high birth rate and poor level of health. Reproduction must also be modernized — to achieve a low birth rate, a low mortality rate, a low or zero natural growth rate and higher quality of physical and mental health. The purpose of our population policy is to control population and ensure the births of healthy children.

Furthermore, from a long-term point of view, practising birth control is conducive to balancing China's ecological environment. Although China abounds with natural resources, its per-capita average of natural resources is lower than the world's level. For instance, the amount of land for each person in China is only one-

third of the world's average (one-third of the cultivated land, one-fourth of the pastureland, one-ninth of the forests and one-fourth of the freshwater surface). China's average per-capita cultivated land and forests is only one-eighth and one-tenth of that of the United States. With China's current productive forces and scientific and technical levels, if its population grows too fast, an increased pressure will definitely be placed on its environment and natural resources, and the low per-capita level of resources will hinder the improvement of living standards. Family planning should help to reduce the factors that directly or indirectly threaten the balance of environment (these factors include the excessive reclamation of wasteland, the overuse of grassland and farmland, one-crop yields and failing to let organic materials return to the fields). It also will help create conditions for a balanced environmental circulation. In essence, like farmland and vegetation protection, water and soil conservation and afforestation, birth control has an important bearing on the fundamental interests of the coming generations.

Because population growth has cyclical differences, it is natural for a country to set different population policies for different historical periods. The policy, "one couple, one child," was raised as a special policy for a certain period in China.

### Special Policy for a Particular Period

Beginning in 1962, a "baby boom" swept through China, with more than 20 million babies born a year. This rate continued for more than a dozen years. And during that period, there were a decade in which more than 25 million babies were born each year. This generation will join the ranks of the child-bearing-age population this year to the end of the century. According to the 1982 national census, the number of people between the ages of 5 and 19 totals 368 million. Even if all the people of this generation have only an average of 2.2 children per couple, they still would give birth to another 368 million babies before the end of this century. Confronted with this enormous child-bearing potential China has every reason to require that this generation lower its birth rate. Furthermore the one-child-per-couple policy does not necessarily mean that every couple, without exception, can have just one child. For example, couples who bear physically disabled children, or divorced couples and widows are allowed to have another child if their new spouses have no children.

### Mistakes of the Attackers

China's birth control is carried out in a country with 1 billion people — one-fourth of the world's total population — and 520 million of that population are at the child-bearing age. Therefore, negligence is inevitable, as are mistakes in certain places over

China has always given priority to birth control education. Xiao Kang (second from left), deputy head of the Lanzhou city family planning committee, explaining the significance of family planning to a group of women.





short periods of time. By airing these shortcomings and mistakes through our media, the government is letting people know that these cases are against China's population policies. It is groundless to make conclusions that China's birth control is coerced and opposed by the masses. Facts have proved that birth control meets the objective needs of our country's social development and reflects the desires of the majority of people.

China's current child-bearing-age population totals 520 million, twice as much as the entire population of the United States. The number of people between the ages of 20 and 34 — the most active child-bearing age group — is 240 million, about equal to today's US population. Can anyone imagine that we could, just by coercion, bring down the average number of children for each couple from five to a bit more than two in only 10 years? No such a force could compel hundreds of millions of people to do something they are unwilling to do. Unbiased people can see that China's family planning policy would not work without the understanding, support and co-operation of the broad masses of child-bearing-age people.

Furthermore, those of the child-bearing age make up the generation behind China's main force of production. If family planning was enforced against their will, their enthusiasm for work and production would be greatly dampened. But facts show that the years in which China's family planning achieved marked successes were the same as those during which China's economy developed most rapidly, enthusiasm for production was unprecedentedly high, and living standards were markedly improved. Thus, the majority of people, including the broad masses of peasants, have realized that the interests of the state, family

and individuals are identical in terms of family planning, and they have consciously linked it to the growth of production and better living standards.

Economic development and social change throughout the past 30 years have created social conditions that have helped people to review their ideas on having big families. Such factors include the plunging infant mortality rate, the universalization of

of people involved in family planning work and the number of organizations set up for the purpose are beyond the awareness of many people at home and abroad. To work more efficiently, China has set up many information centres that offer free advice and publications. Demographic departments have been established in many institutes of higher learning; family planning management colleges have been founded; population education classes have



While practising family planning, efforts also have been made to help cure infertility. Li Yuehua (second from left), a textile worker in Fujian Province, is one of many being cured.

education and the development of production and industry mechanization. The general improvement in living standards along with the development of the nuclear family, the heightening of women's social status and their employment, the lesser influence of feudal ideas and the people's increasing desire to learn more new things have also had significant impact on changing family planning views. The state's free supply of contraceptives, too, has encouraged a drop in the birth rate.

The successes of China's family planning work in the past decade is in great part due to the increase in educational work. The number

been taught in some secondary schools; more than 30 specialized demographic research institutes have been set up in some universities and colleges and at the Academy of Social Sciences; five magazines on demography are published; and demographic and family planning associations have been founded in all the provinces and municipalities.

The unprecedented efforts China has made to publicize family planning indicate China's success in family planning is not accidental and that China has always given priority to the education and health of its people when considering birth control. □

# Population Workers Refute Slanders

*At the end of September, the US Agency for International Development (AID), basing itself on the slander by a few people against China's population policy, announced its decision to withhold US\$10 million of its 1986 pledged contribution of US\$46 million to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Many family planners have voiced their protest by refuting the slanderous charge. The following are two contributions to "Beijing Review." — Ed.*

## Family Planning: Fair and Reasonable

by CUI PEIHUA

I am a rural population worker. Through my 13 years' work I have come to realize that family planning is highly necessary for a country as populous as China. Also in these 13 years I have seen how welcome family planning is in my village. Recently I learnt that a handful of people in the United States were accusing the Chinese government of imposing birth control on Chinese people and that the policy was facing strong resistance from the masses. In my opinion their accusations are absurd.

I would like to take this opportunity to say something about my village.

Located by the Yellow Sea, Nanche is a small village in the eastern part of Shandong Province. With 256 families it has 887 people who share only 24 hectares of arable land — or one hectare for every 37 people. If the population were allowed to grow naturally unchecked, how would it be possible for so little land to feed so many? How could the standard of living ever improve when the econ-

The author is a population worker in Nanche Village, Rongcheng County, Shandong Province.

omy was not developed? Confronted with such a reality, the villagers have been willing to co-operate with the government's population policy.

In 13 years, proceeding from the interests of the villagers, population workers have emphasized not only slowing population growth, but also improve the physical and intellectual quality of the population. I am happy to see that, through our hard work, the rapid growth of population in our village has been kept under control, and economic development has been accelerated. The average per-capita income of the village, for example, increased from 140 yuan in 1979 to 1,068 yuan in 1984, while in that same period the population only increased 2.4 percent. Because of the economic development, the village's 21 senior citizens, who either had no children to support them or who could no longer work, received annual pensions of up to 660 yuan last year.

The villagers have benefited from the population programme since it began in 1972, and recently no women in the village have been willing to have more than two children. As a result of child-bearing women's use of various contraceptive methods, the village's annual ratio between deliveries and

abortions was 1:0.18 in 1984 and is expected to be reduced to 1:0.12 in 1985. This year we have persuaded some one-child families with specific difficulties — such as those who have only one but handicapped child or both parents come from one-child family — to have another child.

For those women who find it difficult to conceive, we have done our best to help them get pregnant. Wang Shuli, for example, a woman in her 30s, could not bear children. After I learnt this, I went all over looking for a physician to help her conceive. At last Wang became pregnant, and she now has a lovely child.

Some women whose contraceptive methods failed have asked for abortions. I always accompany these women to the hospital. After their operations, I help them with their housework and other chores. Wang Jianhong, for example, had an abortion, I helped her recuperate by doing chores around the house. At the time her husband, who works for a fish company, was at sea fishing. When he learnt of my care, he was very pleased. "You did a better job than I could have done in taking care of my wife," he said.

Another couple could not agree on whether to have a second child. The wife said she did not want another. Her husband, however, did want another. Through my persuasion, the wife decided to respect her husband's will. Now both are delighted with their second child.

I am always trying to improve my work, which my fellow villagers support. Once I ran a temperature of 40 degrees Celsius, and was bedridden for three days. Vil-

lagers called on me everyday. One morning more than 20 of them came to see me. My three rooms, it seemed, were overflowing with visitors. Their sincerity touched me so deeply that tears welled in my eyes.

## Family Planners Work With the People

by TAN YULING

I STARTED doing family planning work in 1979. Since my first day in the job I have served the people according to the requirements of our Party and government. In the last six years I have more than once visited all the 1,600 child-bearing women in our township. During these visits I never felt any hostility from any of them. They have been most willing to chat with me, tell me their thoughts and ask me to do things in their favour.

One of these women was Wang Yulian who lives in Xinkai Village with her four children. Wang said she wanted to have a tubal ligation because she was suffering from complications from child birth and wanted no more children. She asked me to accompany her to the hospital on the day she was to have the operation. I persuaded her, however, to postpone the surgery and to treat her problems first with medicine. She agreed. In the following days, I found doctors for her and helped her with her household chores. And, because her family was poor, I asked the township government to pay for her medicine. Not long after, Wang was feeling better and later opted to have the operation. When she was hospitalized, I went to see her frequently. Several months after her operation, her husband opened a blacksmith's shop, and

The author is an assistant in the family planning office in Chengqiang Township, Hunjiang City, Jilin Province.

Here I want to ask those who distort and attack China's population policy only one question. If China's population policy was implemented by force, could such sincere emotions exist between my fellow villagers and me?

on the opening day, Wang made a special trip to invite me to dinner with her family as an indication of her gratitude to me.

Birth control work in the rural areas involves contact with the people. To do my job well, I must serve the people faithfully and work with their interests in mind. I have always worked according to this line of thought. Once I organized a general check-up for the elderly who lived alone, for 360 young women and 280 children from single-child families in the township. I have also helped women who after several years of marriage remain childless find treatment. In addition, I have meticulously introduced methods of contraception to them. One woman from Ailin Village, for example, found she was not suited to an in-

trauterine device, so she came to me for advice. I told her I would recommend a ligation. But, because she was afraid of the idea of surgery, she refused. I told her of other contraceptive methods. None of these suited her either, however. Finally, after discussing the operation with women who had had a tubal ligation, this woman chose that course. However, because she was still worried about surgery, I took her to visit a physician who explained the procedure to her. After their discussion, she consented happily to the operation.

I have genuine concern for these women, and they reciprocate by showing me their friendship. When I was pregnant, villagers sent me strawberries. After I gave birth, they came to see me and brought along with them millet, black sugar and eggs. We all get along well together. I sincerely welcome visits to our township by foreigners who genuinely want to understand family planning in China. I also would like to receive those who think cadres like me are "unwelcome" people. They may come and see for themselves how wrong they are.

Tan Yuling (first from right), author of the article, explaining family planning to a young couple.



# Economic Situation South of Sahara

The Sub-Saharan African countries experienced their hardest time in the first five years of the 1980s, for a multitude of reasons. If they continue their present efforts by readjusting their economic policies and upholding the principle of collective self-reliance, the economic development in the latter half of the decade is expected to improve.

by WANG HEXING

**A**LTHOUGH the developing countries as a whole began to take a turn for the economic better in 1984, the situation south of the Sahara\* remained grim. Above all, long years of drought have further aggravated the region's precarious economic situation.

**Economic Growth Declines.** According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Africa south of the Sahara managed an average economic growth rate of 2.8 percent from 1975-80. The figure dropped to 0.4 percent in 1981, and negative rates of -0.5 percent and -0.7 percent were recorded in 1982 and 1983. Although the rate of 2.2 percent estimated for 1984 is the highest since the beginning of the decade, it was still lower than the growth in the region's population, which swelled by about 3 percent a year.

The per-capita gross domestic product (GDP) south of the Sahara has also decreased annually. Average per-capita income has dropped by about 11 percent in the last three years. According to United Nations standards, 25 of the 36 least developed Asian, African and Latin American countries are located south of the Sahara\*\*. The per-capita GDP of these 25 African countries was only US\$300 in 1982, far below the US\$1,003 of the developing countries. At present,

60 percent of all Africans live below the poverty line, with average incomes of less than US\$135. And the majority of the continent's poor live south of the Sahara.

**Shortage of Development Funds.** In the early 1980s, the developed countries faced a serious economic recession. International demand for primary products fell, and the prices of agricultural and mineral products dropped. The export volume of the countries south of the Sahara shrank from US\$35 billion in 1982 to US\$31.9 billion in 1984. With decreasing export income and worsening trade conditions, the region was plagued with consecutive years of deficits — US\$16.3 billion in 1982, US\$14.9 billion in 1983 and US\$13.1 billion in 1984.

For Africa south of the Sahara, the debt problem is different from that of the other developing countries. Although the region's debt (not including Nigeria) is not especially high, reaching US\$56 billion in 1982, it represents a great percentage of the debtor countries' GDPs. The figure exceeds 50 percent in some 20 countries, and runs as high as 147.1 percent and 103.5 percent in Mauritania and Togo. The problem is further aggravated by the fact that few countries in the region have the ability to repay.

A dearth of development funds and industries that operate far below capacity — the utilization rate is only 25 percent in some

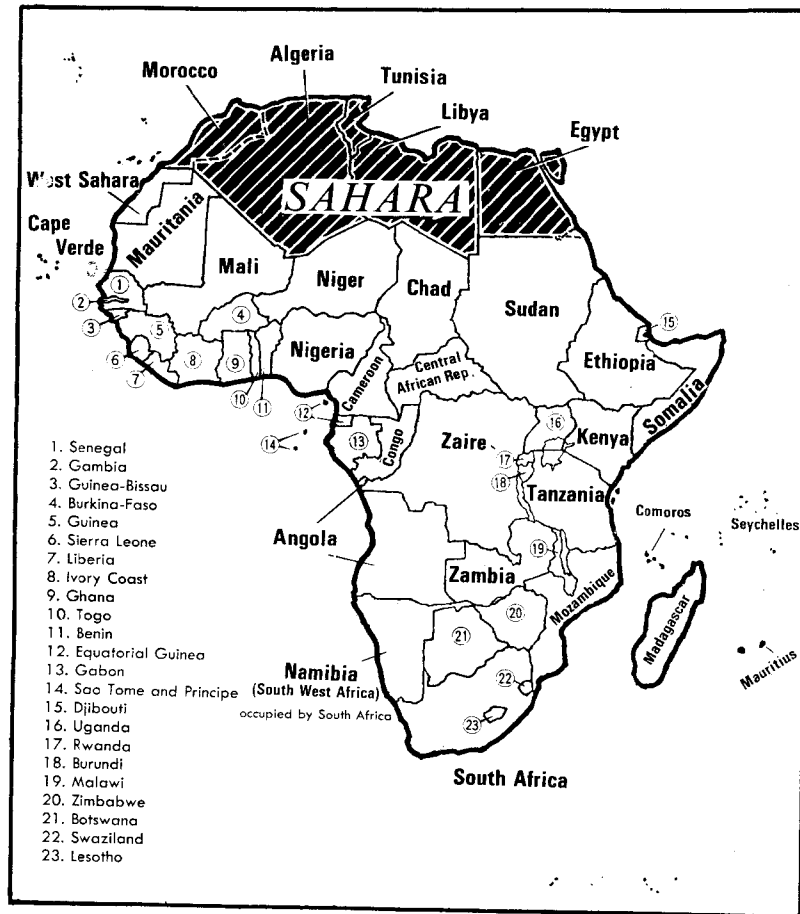
countries — have pushed unemployment to highs of 40 percent around the region.

**Worst Drought.** The current African drought affects an area stretching across the continent from the Arabian Sea to Cape Verde and Senegal along the Atlantic coast, and from the Sahara down to South Africa. Even Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, which are located in tropical areas and normally have more rainfall, were stricken. The drought affected a total of 34 African countries, over 44 percent of the continent. Its estimated 150 million victims account for about one-third of Africa's total population. Ethiopia, Chad, Mali, Niger, Mauritania and Mozambique are among the hardest hit. In eight countries in the Sahel region, the catastrophe has continued for 15 years.

**Acute Grain Shortage.** According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Africa's total grain output in 1984 was 46 million tons, less than the 54 million tons reaped in 1972, the year of worst drought.

\* This refers to all the African countries except for Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.

\*\* The 25 countries are Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Togo, Uganda, and Tanzania.



erosion and damaged vegetation. This, coupled with backward farming methods and shortages of fertilizer, has steadily shortened the amount of time in which farmers can let their land lie fallow, posing an increasingly grave problem of decreasing fertility of farmland. Tsetse fly infestation has set up insuperable obstacles to the exploitation of vast areas where the soil is fertile and rainfall is abundant, and hampered the development of livestock breeding. Rinderpest, under control for many years, recurred in West Africa in 1982 and the first half of 1983, later spreading to Central and East Africa. This cattle plague added to Africa's economic difficulties. The deteriorating ecology and declining grain production were the immediate causes of the African famine.

### Reduced Aid and Falling Exports.

The African countries have adopted various development strategies and worked hard to industrialize since winning independence. Certain achievements have been made, but the evil consequences of colonial rule remain, and, under the current inequitable international economic order, most countries still rely on their single-product economies. The countries south of the Sahara generally export only one or two agricultural or mineral products, and import expensive manufactured goods. Farm produce and mineral exports account for 95 percent of their total export value. In the early 1980s, because of the economic recession in the West, the developed countries generally adopted austerity policies and strengthened trade protectionism, thus weakening international trade. The resulting sharp drop in the demand for raw materials and plummeting prices of primary products hit the African countries hardest. In 1982, earnings from the export of agricultural products could buy only half as

In 1984, 15 African countries were plagued by acute grain shortages; by early this year the number increased to 21, and 10 more countries were threatened. Thirty million people needed urgent help, one-third of whom were forced to leave their homes to search for food and potable water.

### Root of the Problem

In the first half of the 1980s, the countries south of the Sahara have been in their worst economic decline since independence. The causes are complex, and involve both the international environment and faulty domestic policies. **Damaged Ecology.** Although tropical rain forests cover 16 percent of the African continent, the deserts and semi-arid areas account for 40 percent of its total

area. Because of predatory logging operations, the destruction of forests to reclaim farmland, the rain forests are shrinking steadily, with 6 million hectares turning into desert every year. Large areas of forest have been transformed into semi-arid grassland, thus changing climatic conditions over a large area.

The southward expansion of the Sahara Desert poses a serious ecological problem. For the past 50 years, the desert has been expanding by 6-7 kilometres a year. About 410 million hectares of arable land have been engulfed by the spreading sands. The desert has taken over 750 million hectares in the Sahel region, the scene of the continent's most catastrophic droughts.

Indiscriminate land reclamation and tree felling have caused soil



# USA — Labor Day & Labor Movement

*A Chinese woman journalist, Wang Tsomin, visits New York City on labor day and learns some interesting things about the American labor movement. This is a chapter from her newly published book "The American Kaleidoscope — Society, Landscape and People." (See review on p. 33.)*

by Wang Tsomin

**T**HE first Monday of September is Labor Day in the US, falling on September 5 in 1982, while I am in New York City. On that day I find West 42nd Street, where I live, turned into something like a country fair. Milling crowds of holiday-makers pick their way through an endless row of street stalls. Food vendors sell, in addition to the ordinary run of hot dogs and soft drinks, specialties like broiled beef. Big chunks of meat sizzle on iron racks over charcoal fires, turning brown, oozing fat and smelling good.

Many others sell an array of ordinary clothing including blue jeans and rubber-soled canvas shoes, some similar to Chinese tennis shoes and others with tilted tips and fancy patterns of white, red and blue bands. There are also stalls selling miscellaneous things, even curios or imitation artwork. The scene reminds me vividly of the bazaars thriving at Beijing's Longfu Temple and Shanghai's Town God's Temple half a century ago. It is doubly strange to see all these near modern Times Square and the plush Rockefeller Center.

A number of stalls sell books. One of them specializes in "revolutionary literature." I find there English translations of many works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Mao Zedong, including the well-known "little red book," *Quotations From Chairman Mao*. Print-

ed portraits and photographs of Marx, Lenin and other revolutionary teachers are pinned to the draperies, with price tags. While I am attentively leafing through some volumes, the stall keeper leans forward and asks: "Are you from the People's Republic of China?" I nod. He asks further, "Why aren't you selling Mao's quotations any more?" He follows this up with more questions about China's foreign policy, particularly Sino-American relations, in a way that can hardly conceal his disapproval.

No doubt he is a leftist. The encounter reminds me of a comment made by a Chinese-American friend on the American Left. There is a saying in China: "four-way division and five-way disintegration" to describe grave disunity. My friend said sorrowfully that the phrase can literally apply to

major American left organizations if you change "four" to "three" and "five" to "four." The three-way division means the mutual estrangement of the old US Communist Party which is pro-Soviet, the Progressive Labor Party which regards no one but its own members as genuinely revolutionary and socialist, and the Revolutionary Communist Party, which used to be pro-Chinese. The three-way division became a four-way rift when the Revolutionary Communist Party split after the overthrow of the Gang of Four in China. Those for the overthrow quit and formed a new organization while those against remained. This is a very broad generalization, my friend stressed, and the whole situation is very complex.

The book-seller sounds like one who has remained, because he apparently esteems the "little red book," a hallmark of the "cultural revolution" which supporters of the Gang of Four still hanker after. The book has fallen out of use in China. We have discarded

May Day origins: Explosion at Haymarket meeting (1886) in Chicago



it because, quoting Mao out of context, it has proved to be an instrument of dogmatism.

Nonetheless I feel grateful to the book-seller for his interest in China and I don't blame him at all for his ignorance of the real facts of life in a faraway country. No. 1 don't blame him. Instead, I have misgiving about his safety for his radical views. I have in my hand a taöloid bought a few minutes earlier for 25 cents which contains a report on how thugs have smashed a store selling revolutionary books. Hooligans and their behind-the-scenes bosses don't care which faction you belong to if you are against the Establishment.

I think of citing my personal experiences in the "cultural revolution" by way of explanation to the book-seller. But a bustling market is certainly no place for a serious political discussion. I can only smile to him and walk on to the next stall.

There a woman, clad in a bright red shirtwaist and beaming with smiles, comes up and gives me a leaflet. "Vote for me, please," she says and hurries away. The leaflet, slightly larger than a postcard, shows her picture with the words "FRAN SCLAFANI for Attorney General." On the opposite side are her biographical notes and the kind of catch-phrases we in China would see only in commercial advertisements. For instance, "New York State needs Fran Sclafani" and "Fran Sclafani will be an Attorney General that New Yorkers can be proud of—for she will truly serve ALL OF THE PEOPLE." I guess all politicians running for public office in the coming November mid-term election are out today electioneering in the crowds.

I move through four crowded blocks and get to Eighth Avenue, which looks even more festive. There are makeshift stages on platform trucks where people beat

drums, blow trumpets, play music, sing behind microphones, play rock and roll, or twist and grimace like circus clowns. Spectators often join in the spree, rock-n-rolling "like mad" to my Chinese eyes.

I walk on to Fifth Avenue. This thoroughfare running through the middle of Manhattan is the east-west dividing line. It is the equivalent of Wangfujing in Beijing and Nanking Road in Shanghai, and at 42nd Street it's a commercial centre much more garish than its Chinese counterparts. The Labor Day parade proceeds on Fifth Avenue from 26th to 52nd Street. Newspapers have predicted a turnout of 500,000 marchers and 100,000 spectators. There will be "hobos" selling apples along the line of march (reminders of the unemployed workers who tried to make a living that way during the Great Depression), for the theme this year is "unemployment." There will be more than 150 bands and 125 floats in the parade.

### Unseemly Origins

Having watched the fanfare, I cannot help asking an American friend, a veteran trade unionist, how the US Labor Day originated and why it has evolved into this sort of merry-go-around. For us Chinese and most people of the world, May 1 is labor day, a militant day of working-class solidarity. And it is widely known that May Day's origin goes back to the American workers' demonstration for an eight-hour workday in Chicago in 1886 and the general strike staged in other parts of the country.

The friend, who has for years worked in meat-packing unions, gives me a book called *Haymarket Revisited*\*. You will find the answer there, he says. Here are a few passages:

In 1894, Grover Cleveland



A glimpse at the present: Interviewing administrators of a public housing project at Los Angeles

[the 24th US President] suddenly announced that the first Monday in September would be Labour Day in America, and he signed a bill to make this a national holiday. Peter McQuire [a trade union leader] and other trade unions had been lobbying for this bill since 1882, and now, perhaps as a way of calming the American labour movement's enthusiasm for May Day, Cleveland gave in to the September date. Beginning in the 1950s, the American Bar Association sought to have May Day referred to as "Law Day" in the United States.

Today only Canada and the United States use the September date, while the rest of the world uses May Day as the workers' day. The French Canadians have rebelled against the September day in the last few years and have begun to use May Day. In recent years it has become increasingly evident that the September date is not a purely union workers' day, but also a holiday for businessmen, bankers, lawyers, and stockbrokers.

\* *Haymarket Revisited* by William Adelman, Published by Illinois Labour History Society, Chicago, 1976.



The following sequence of events will further clarify the question:

— May 1, 1886: "Eight-Hour Day Movement" began as workers in Chicago marched up Michigan Avenue while 340,000 laid down their tools across the country.

— May 4: "Haymarket Massacre" occurred in Chicago when police attacked workers. Four died and dozens were wounded.

— 1889: A delegate of the American Federation of Labor to the International Labor Congress in Paris asked that May Day be adopted as an International Labor Day. Workers would march on this date for the eight-hour day, for democracy and the right of workers to organize. This day would also be a memorial to the "Martyrs of Chicago."

— 1892: At an international socialist conference in Geneva, a delegate from the American Knights of Labor made a similar resolution and it was adopted. Founded in 1869, the Knights of Labor was a fast-growing and powerful union at the time, drawing no color lines.

— 1894: President Cleveland made the first Monday of September Labor Day and a national holiday.

The whys and wherefores are clearer in retrospect. We have a saying in China — *tou liang huan zhu*, "stealing away with the beam and pillar to topple the house." It might well be used as the heading of the story. If May Day, which American workers had shed their blood to establish, is eventually proclaimed "Law Day," as the American Bar Association wishes, the ingeniously-devised metamorphosis will be complete. And three cheers for the Establishment!

American labour has had a glorious and militant tradition. But unionists I have met admit

that the movement is getting weaker. Why? I sought enlightenment from Professor Philip Foner, a progressive historian I met in China and again in Maine. He made the following points:

### **Present Labor Movement**

First, many giant American corporations are transnationals with subsidiaries in Europe and Third World countries. They transfer capital to places where labor is cheap, to reduce costs. A sizeable proportion of what they produce overseas is then shipped back to the American market. In the process they have closed many plants in the country and deprived a lot of workers of their jobs.

Second, traditional industrial areas in the northeastern and mid-western states are losing their dominance to the southern and western states (often called the Sun Belt). Unions are stronger in the old industrial bases but weak or non-existent in the south.

Third, the heavily unionized steel and auto industries are in serious trouble. An important reason is the stiff competition from Japan and Federal Germany where equipment has been updated in the postwar years. America is technologically capable of restructuring the industries, but many profit-minded capitalists resist that.

Fourth, the use of robots is increasing in the mills. They work 24 hours a day, do not organize and never strike. And robotics is fast reaching out into new fields.

Fifth, the numbers of workers in strongly unionized basic industries — steel, auto and rubber for instance — are decreasing while the much less unionized service industries have been expanding fast. Union membership in retail trades — shops, supermarkets, fast-food industries, etc. — constitutes only 7 percent of the total workforce

compared with 45 percent of the total in steel, auto and other basic industries. Increasing employment by service industries coupled with decline of basic industries means a falling percentage of union members in the overall work force.

Sixth, more and more illegal immigrants are entering the labor market. They are paid far less than the \$3.25-per-hour minimum wage prescribed by the US government and will accept the heaviest and dirtiest jobs. Union membership is out of the question for these people who are always wary of deportation:

Seventh, employers have new means to sabotage unionization. In the past, they hired thugs and hoodligans to prevent workers from organizing by brute force. Now a new business called "management consultancy" has appeared and is booming. College-educated "specialists" and "psychologists" make intensive studies to devise union-busting tactics.

Back in my hotel after watching the celebrations, which are ironically gay against the background of a recession-mired economy and 10-percent unemployment, I read in the day's *New York Times* a lengthy analysis entitled "Frustrated and Wary Labor Marks Its Day." The article says: "Their [the union leaders'] anxieties are fed by the proliferation in recent years of management consultants specializing in sophisticated methods to persuade workers there is nothing a union can do for them that the boss is not doing better. These services have revived, on this centennial of Labour Day, an age-old anxiety in the minds of many top unionists about whether the bulk of the nation's businessmen are reconciled to the existence of unions and want them to survive at all." The article also

(Continued on p. 34.)

# Teenage Olympic Hopefuls Flex Muscles

by LIU BIN  
(Our Correspondent)

**T**HE First National Junior Games, held in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, from October 6 to 18, showed off a gathering of promising teenage stars who could become tomorrow's Olympic gold medal winners.

Zhong Shitong, chairman of the All-China Athletic Federation and the China Olympic Committee, remarked at the games that China hoped to be a major sports power by the year 2000. So the four Olympic Games in the remaining 15 years should offer today's teenagers good incentive to assert themselves.

## A Myriad of Talent

The games saw intense competition in all 17 events including football, basketball, volleyball, track and field, fencing and gymnastics. Weight-lifting, wrestling and judo were also performed, as well as cycling, shooting, archery, swimming, diving, rowing, canoeing, and yachting.

In the track and field event, 18-year-old Jin Ling, a female high jumper from Liaoning Province, cleared 1.82m with a powerful approach and a strong take-off for a preliminary heat. Her teammate Cao Zhongping cleared 1.85m in May, but failed to live up to expectations because she was defaulted for arm twists. Nevertheless, she had already proved herself to be promising, a girl to watch in the next few years.

In the men's high jump event, Beijing's high jumper Ni Tao, 15-year-old son of Ni Zhiqin, the world high jumping champion in the 1970s, won much acclaim from the audience and judges. He had

previously cleared 2.10m in September, but failed to meet his record this time. Nevertheless, he is believed to have great potential.

Hebei Province's 19-year-old Yang Yanqin showed her specialty in co-ordinated movements and bounce in shot-putting. She had already broken the world's record at the 1982 World Middle School Students Games with a throw of 17.35m. This time she broke her own record by distancing another 0.15m, raising her score to 17.50m.

China's gymnastic team is acclaimed to be among the best in the world, especially the men's, and many world gymnastic experts have kept a watchful eye on China's reserve of gymnasts. At the Zhengzhou games, gymnasts made up the youngest group of athletes, with the oldest being only 16 years old, while the youngest was 10. They are extremely well accomplished in basic skills and physical agility. Some could even perform what internationally are believed to be the most intricate and difficult movements, such as double layouts, backward somersaults and backward flips with three turns before hitting the floor.

China's football team had suffered major setbacks at several preliminaries at the world's major games in recent years. But the Zhengzhou's competitions rekindled hope for a good swift kick at the world soccer field in the future. The more than 100 soccer players averaged 18 years old and 1.77m tall, much taller than their adult counterparts, and about 30 players were taller than 1.80m.

China's basketball players showed up by the scores at the Zhengzhou games. In the 16 teams that participated in the contests, 42 girls were taller than 1.80m and two even taller than 2m. Sixty-four boys were taller than 1.90m,

with nine taller than 2m — a real boost in playing against international teams. Many of the young dribblers possess the speed and dexterity needed to take them to the top.

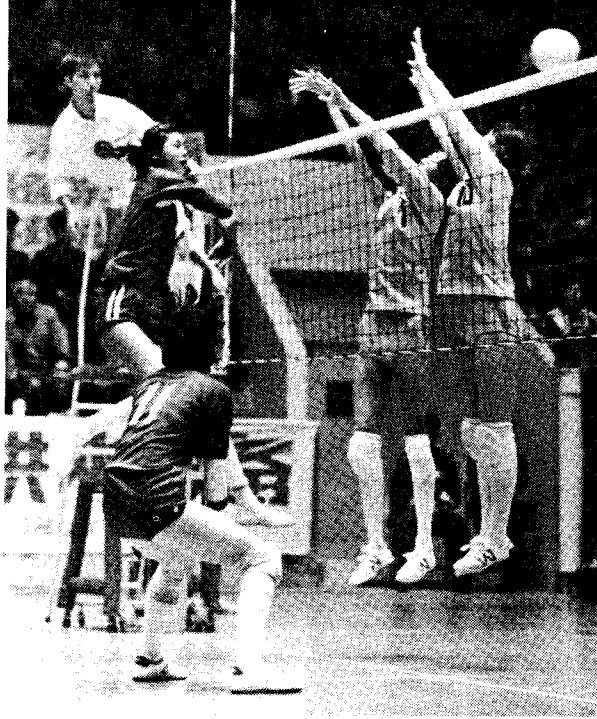
Weight lifters also carried their own this time around. Guangdong's 18-year-old He Zhubqiang in the 48kg group defeated Zeng Guoqiang, the champion at the 23rd Olympic Games, with a three-lift totalling 235kg. Guangxi's Huang Xiliang chalked up the national youth record in the first match of the 50kg group. Though failing to reach the world record, he tied with this year's third-ranked world weight-lifting champion in the three-lift total. In the 60kg group, Shandong's Wei Qingshan lifted 125kg in a snatch and Guangdong's He Xinghui cleared 260kg in three-lift total. These young weight lifters have had to mature to fill the void left by Chen Weiqiang, who retired after winning last year's Olympic champion. Liaoning's weight lifter, Yang Bo, chalked up the national 100kg-class record by pumping up 157.5kg.

At the shooting range, Jin Ying, a 15-year-old shooting girl from Shanghai, scored 589 points within 60 rounds in pistol shooting, blasting away the world juvenile record by 3 points. Champions in other shooting events mostly equalled the records of the top six Olympic shooters.

## Training Superstars

More than 80 percent of the athletes at the recent games were coached at spare-time athletic training schools.

China's first such athletic training school was set up in 1955. Today there are 2,968 such schools throughout the country, with more



Beijing volleyball team smasher, Yao Hong (the girl jumping to attack on the left), is the tallest at 1.89m. The People's Liberation Army team (in black) averages 18.9 years old and 1.95m tall.

than 230,000 students trained by 15,000 coaches.

Guangdong's team carried away 40 gold medals at the Zhengzhou games. The chairman of the Provincial Physical Culture and Sports Commission said an important reason for the success was the existence of a provincial training network for teenagers to turn to in their spare time. Physical training at regular and part-time sports schools has a pyramid-like training system that turns out one group of talented teenagers after another.

To enable children to develop morally, intellectually and physically, educational officials have decided that students can attend athletic schools only after they have finished their primary and junior middle school courses. Students who attend these part-time sports schools have seven to eight hours of coaching each week.

Many of these schools have developed their own styles. Dalian is known for its football training; Sichuan for its table tennis; Guangdong for its weight-lifting, swimming and diving; Guangxi for

its gymnastics and Fujian for its track and field sports.

### Scientific Training

In the past, traditional training techniques were applied by many coaches. However, many of their young proteges' sports lives were shortened because they were pushed too hard at a young age. More recently coaches have begun to realize that successful athletic training requires scientific techniques.

The Shanghai Physical Culture Research Institute has accumulated valuable information on the scientific selection of potential superstars. Its deputy director, Zeng Fanhui, said that in the past when they selected track and field athletes they only considered their scores and basic skills. As a result, many athletes progressed at the beginning, but went just as quickly downhill. Now they select potential stars with good physical builds, stable nervous system and strong bone structures. The result proves satisfactory.

Ni Zhiqin is one coach who used these scientific techniques on his

own son, Ni Tao. When he discovered his 5-year-old son was interested in high jump, he took him to the playground to familiarize him with all track and field events. He coached his son in the basic track and field skills for eight years and his son rapidly progressed in running, broad jumping and high jumping. He never pushed his son so hard that he became physically exhausted, and taught his son sports psychology to outwit his opponents and never lose complete concentration. His guidance proved fruitful. Ni Tao cleared 1.70m in 1983, 1.90m in 1984 and 2.05m in the high jump at the Zhengzhou games' preliminaries in June. Three months later, he cleared 2.10m, overshadowing the world high jump champion, Zhu Jianhua, when he was at the same age.

China set up its first physical culture research institute in 1958. It now has 27 such organizations staffed with more than 500 scientists. In the past three decades, they have achieved good results in more than 100 research projects, paving the way for tomorrow's sports greats. □

## Fighting for Consumer Rights

from "LIAOWANG"  
(Outlook Weekly)

**I**N 1981, a Guangzhou woman bought a "Five Rams" brand wristwatch from the Guangzhou Foreign Trade Central Market. Two months later that watch stopped working. When she tried to return the watch to the dealer, she was told the broken watch was the responsibility of the Guangzhou Light Industrial Products Import and Export Corporation. However, when she presented her watch to Guangzhou Light, the woman was told the broken watch was not their problem, but that of the Guangzhou Wristwatch Plant.

For three and a half years, these three units told the frustrated consumer that her defective purchase was someone else's problem. After these years, she was ready to give up trying to get either her money back or a new watch. In September 1984, however, as a last ditch effort, the woman went to the newly-established Guangzhou Consumers' Commission and pleaded her case. A few weeks later, she had a new watch.

The China Consumer Commission, with branches in major cities throughout the country, was set up in 1984 as a vehicle for promoting and protecting consumer rights. Li Yanshou, director of the association, said in helping consumers, the association is also helping manufacturers.

"Producers, traders and consumers all have common interests — good products," Li said. "It is the job of the association to ensure a standard of quality." Li said evaluating consumer com-

plaints was an important part of the association's task. After a complaint is lodged, he said, the association will investigate the allegations and, based on its findings, the association will then offer criticism and advice to the departments concerned.

The association will also undertake projects aimed at eliminating sub-standard products from the market before consumers have a chance of getting at them. In 1985, for example, the association assisted the government in checking the quality of cold drinks. The results of the examination showed that the fungus content in some of the beverages, particularly the soft-packaged drinks, exceeded the state's standard limits. Based on the findings, some managers' licenses were revoked, and plants were ordered closed until they brought their products up to standard. The association then publicized their conclusions, alerting the consu-

mers to the potential hazards of buying particular soft drinks.

Director Li said providing consumers with information on new commodities and on purchasing these new products is another of the association's tasks. With the changes in the consuming structure, and with the vast production of more and more goods, many consumers have been at a loss as to how to go about selecting quality goods. The association, therefore, took it upon itself to teach some of the skills needed to make intelligent consumer choices.

Li said he feels strongly that consumer rights should be protected by law, which as yet they are not in China. At the Third Plenary Session of the Sixth National People's Congress in Beijing last spring, delegates to the congress proposed on protecting consumer rights by legal means. Li said he and his associates are now at work assisting the various departments in drawing up laws and regulations that will further cement consumer rights in China.

## Problems on China's Administration

from "ZHONGGUO  
XINGZHENG GUANLI"  
(China's Administration)

**V**ICE-PREMIER Tian Jiyun recently said reform of China's civil service system was "necessary and urgent."

In a conversation with representatives from 16 countries who were in Beijing attending the U.N. International Seminar on Reform of Civil Service Systems, Tian said the reform of China's administrative system was not keeping with

the country's economic reforms. If the situation continued, Tian said, China's economic development would be adversely affected.

Tian said the five drawbacks of China's administrative system were: redundant organizations, ambiguous departmental responsibility, overstaffing, inefficiency, and lack of strict regulations for evaluating performance, promotion and retirement.

The vice-premier said the Chinese government was studying ways to tackle these problems.



Shooting "kungfu" film.

Cartoon by Jin Jianchu  
(Reprinted from "Cartoon" monthly)



## An Esperanto Enthusiast

from "NONGMIN RIBAO"  
(Peasants' Daily)

WHEN he was 18 years old, Li Quanzhen, a 58-year-old farmer and barber in Nianzhang village of Pixian County, Jiangsu Province, met a non-native who encouraged him to study Esperanto. With the instruction of his new friend, in addition to learning Esperanto's alphabet, Li learnt how Esperanto aimed at unifying the world's languages and promoting society's progress. Unfortunately, Li's friend left three days later, bringing his study to a premature and abrupt halt.

One day in late 1976, however, Li Quanzhen came across an article in *People's Daily* that mentioned popularity of Esperanto in some West European countries. This article was written by Ye Junjian, a secretary for the Chinese Writers' Association and a permanent member of the All-China Esperanto Association. The report prompted Li to

write Ye for further instruction in the international language. Ye responded quickly and sent along some reference materials on Esperanto to help Li with his studies. Later as he became more and more an Esperanto enthusiast, Li sold his watch and bicycle to pay for two journeys to Beijing to talk with Ye.

Li devoted eight years to studying Esperanto text books and copying nearly 80,000 words in notes.

In August 1980, the Xinhua Esperanto Correspondence School, which was sponsored by the All-China Esperanto Association, began recruiting students nationwide. Li was among their chosen students.

Soon afterwards, Li started two Esperanto class in his hometown and instructed more than 130 students, many of whom now speak and write the language. Two of his former students have been admitted to college for further

Esperanto study.

In the past few years, Li Quanzhen has popularized Esperanto in more than 10 provinces and cities at his own expense. His income from cutting hair and selling pigs has all gone to studying and promoting Esperanto. Neither he nor his family has regretted his passion for the language.

"I just want to devote myself to Esperanto and to do something beneficial for China and its people," Li said. "The sacrifice is nothing, compared to my conviction."



### Launching Satellite Service

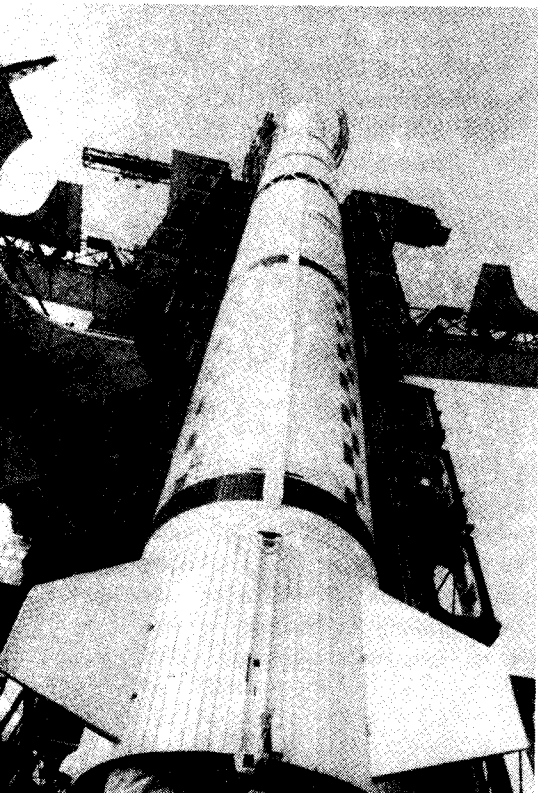
After exploratory satellite launched on October 21 was successfully recovered five days later, Li Xue, Minister of Astronautics, announced China plans to sell the service of its two types of satellite launches, "Long March-2" and "Long March-3."

Minister Li said the "Long March-2," which launched the now recovered satellite, is a large two-stage liquid rocket developed in the 1970s and can project a two-ton satellite into near-earth orbit. The October 21 launching by the "Long March-2" was the seventh successive time when a "Long March-2" sent a satellite into precise orbit.

The "Long March-3" rocket has in the past successfully launched China's experimental telecommunications satellite into geostationary orbit.

China's two launching stations

One of China's satellite-bearing rockets on the launching pad.



—in Jiuquan, Gansu Province, for launching satellites into near-earth orbit, and in Xichang, Sichuan Province, for geostationary orbit satellites — can also provide early stage support service for the satellites.

China also has established a measuring and controlling network in Xian, including telemeter control vessels, which provides satellite-launching and support and orbit control services.

Minister Li said China will provide preferential treatment for foreign launch customers and will be responsible for training the client's technical personnel. The People's Insurance Company of China, he said, will also provide insurance for launch customers. If the launch fails, Li said, the insurance company will compensate for losses according to the stipulations of the contract.

### Chinese Ventures Set Up Abroad

While extensively absorbing foreign capital, China is also intensifying its efforts to set up successful businesses abroad. To date, with an investment of US\$239 million, China has opened 144 joint ventures or solely Chinese-owned businesses in 34 countries and regions. In addition, Chinese officials are also discussing 300 more joint projects with foreign firms.

Focusing on developing resources that China lacks, in the past few years China has set up 13 enterprises involving forestry, fishery and mining industry. In October 1984, the Chinese Ministry

of Forestry set up a plywood mill in Brazil. That mill, with an annual production capacity of 10,000 cubic metres, is proceeding smoothly, and in the first half of 1985, the ministry shipped to China more than 500,000 cubic metres of logs produced by the enterprises set up in Brazil and the United States.

In addition, the work of mining iron, copper, diamond and gold in co-operation with Australia and Canada is being stepped up. Some of these projects are expected to yield results next year.

Among China's other overseas investments are 19 international engineering corporations, set up with foreign firms for construction projects. In the past few years, China has contracted to build overseas projects valued at several hundred million US dollars.

China also has established a number of Chinese restaurants with partners and alone, in more than ten countries.

About 90 percent of the Chinese joint ventures abroad have reported sound economic returns and are playing a vital role in importing advanced technologies to China and promoting its export.

During the Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1986-90), the focus of China's joint ventures abroad will be on the development of resources, the import of advanced technologies and equipment, and the promotion of goods and labour service.

### Foreign Firms Expand in China

Attracted by China's billion-person market, 67 foreign enterprises and firms from 14 countries and

## News in Brief



Members of the United Overseas Bank Group during the opening ceremony of the group's Beijing office, which was held last May.

• Representatives of the Huating Hotel, wholly owned by the Shanghai Municipal Tourism Bureau, and to be managed by the Sheraton Corp., on October 16 signed an agreement on the operation of the hotel, the second of its kind to be operated by the same corp. in China. It is expected that the hotel will open its doors in April 1986. Sheraton took over the management of its first hotel in China—the 1,007-room Great Wall Sheraton Hotel-Beijing—in March this year.

The Sheraton Corp. has 480 hotels operating in 56 countries and regions around the world with 33 in the Pacific region. Seven others including the 1,000-room Huating Sheraton are under construction in Asia. The Huating Sheraton Hotel-Shanghai, to be built with an investment of US\$70 million, will house six restaurants and 21 banquet halls.

• The Friendship Stadium, a China-aided project built for Senegal, opened last September after a construction period of two years and eight months.

Covering an area of 50,468 square metres, the stadium is equipped with plastic tracks, colour TV equipment and electronic score-boards and timers, making it the largest and most advanced sports facility in West Africa.

• On October 8 in Beijing, the China International Trust and Investment Corporation signed an agreement to buy 10 percent of the shares in an aluminium smelting plant in Portland, Australia. The final decision on investment will be made after a group from the Chinese department concerned conducts an on-the-spot study and economic analysis of the project.

regions have set up permanent offices in China since the beginning of this year.

Of these newly established offices, 20 are from Japan, 17 are from Hongkong and Macao, 27 are from Europe and the United States, two are from Singapore and one is from Brazil.

The following are the main features of these representative offices:

— Those from Europe and America are on the increase. Nine of the offices are American, four are British, three are from the Federal Republic of Germany, two from Switzerland and one each from France, Denmark, Austria and Belgium.

— More large Japanese firms, and especially some noted automobile companies have opened offices in China.

— The business scope of the newly established permanent representative offices is broader than

those offices set up earlier in China. These enterprises now cover textile and light industries, cereals, edible oils and foodstuffs, machinery, energy, transportation, shipbuilding, aeronautics, petroleum, coal mines, telecommunications, non-ferrous metals, precision instruments and other advanced technological fields.

With the further absorption of foreign capital and introduction of new technologies, more and more firms from overseas and Hongkong and Macao have set up factories and joint ventures in various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in the country.

From 1980 to the first half of this year, with the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, 607 permanent representative offices from 20 countries and regions were set up in 15 Chinese cities. Of these, 73 percent are stationed in Beijing; 15 percent in Shanghai and 12 percent in other Chinese cities.

# Wildlife Protection Urged in Tibet



An Jifeng (right), a woman of the Korean nationality, has raised five baby tigers for the People's Park in Yanji, Jilin Province.

Zoologists recently recommended that more nature reserves be set up in northern Tibet to protect the endangered animals that inhabit the area.

Funded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a 10-member-team from the Shaanxi Zoology Institute toured the northern Tibetan plateau from May to July to conduct the area's first comprehensive zoological survey.

Standing at more than 4,500 metres above sea level, the northern Tibetan plateau covers 600,000 square kilometres, or about half of Tibet's total area. It has been a natural wildlife sanctuary for centuries because of its remote location.

According to the scientists, 12 animal and bird species indigenous to northern Tibet are listed as endangered. Among these animals

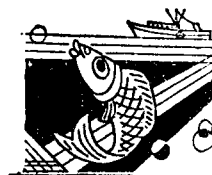
are the wild yak, the Asian wild donkey, the snow leopard and the black-necked crane.

The black-necked crane, the most recently discovered of the world's 15 types of cranes, is often referred to as the "panda bird," because of its rarity and potential extinction. The eggs of the black-necked crane taste like chicken eggs, and area residents often eat them, accounting for the sharp decrease of the cranes to about 1,000.

The survey showed most of the other rare animals, with the exception of the Asian wild donkey, are also on the decrease. The donkey is doing better than the others because Tibetans do not eat its meat.

According to the scientists, wildlife protection will promote Tibetan economic development by boosting Tibet's export and tourism in the long run. Without control, however, the centuries-old sanctuary could disappear rapidly, they said.

The team intends to produce a film about their survey in order to publicize the importance of wildlife protection. Tibet has already designated five areas as nature reserves and is planning to invite zoologists from other parts of China to conduct more surveys and a comprehensive wildlife census.





## USA Through Chinese Eyes

**American Kaleidoscope: Society, Landscape and People**

Written by Wang Tsomin

In 1979, at a gathering of Chinese economists and their hosts from five top American universities, the idea was put forth that an interesting book about the United States might be written by a Chinese writer, for a Chinese audience. The proposal came at a time when China and the US were seeking to understand each other after their 30-year estrangement.

All participants agreed that such a project was worthwhile, and Prof. Richard D. Robinson, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was entrusted by M.I.T. President Paul E. Gray to be in charge. Eighteen months of preparation and fund raising followed; finally, Prof. Robinson was able to write Ma Hong, who later became president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, to say that a Chinese writer could be chosen and sent. He described the purpose: "What we envision is not a dull scholarly analysis, but rather

a lively, semi-popular account of life in the US as seen by the writer." So that the resulting book should not be biased in any way, he added, "Naturally he/she will be free to write whatever seems appropriate."

It was Wang Tsomin who was awarded the responsibility, the work and sometimes the pleasure of traveling for a whole year through the United States, and producing a book about it. She met all kinds of people, inquiring into their personal lives, seeing how they work and live, and living among them, and incidentally served as a very informal ambassador of friendship. Then she had to sift through all these experiences and interpret for her Chinese audience what often seemed a very strange way of life. The book that came out of those travels, *American Kaleidoscope: Society, Landscape and People*, has just been published by the China Social Sciences Publishing House, Beijing, for Chinese readers. Then, because of the natural curiosity of

people about what somebody else is saying about them, an English translation of the volume is being prepared under a slightly different title *American Kaleidoscope — A Chinese View*.

Wang Tsomin was uniquely qualified for her task. She had studied at the University of Missouri's prestigious School of Journalism in the 1940s, and married her Chinese classmate Duan Liancheng there. She was not only able to view the contrasts between American life and Chinese life then, but to observe the changes over the last forty years — a period in which she had lived through immense change in China itself. Thus her book has a four-dimensional quality, rediscovering two cultures in two major periods of their history.

Wang recalls that during the turmoil of the "cultural revolution" in China, "many basic facts of life were ignored in the midst of super-revolutionary rhetoric and the people were made to believe that there was nothing good whatsoever in Western capitalist society."

But then the axiom *shi shi qiu shi* (seeking truth from facts) was revived, and she was able to report on America "without tarnishing or varnishing." As she says in her preface, "It was also my conviction that only in this way could the book promote genuine understanding and friendship between the Chinese and American people."

Wang's purpose in her travels and writing, however, are even more objective than it would seem from this statement. Friendly she is indeed, but she is not afraid to criticize American society, even to

Envoy of friendship: Learning to dance the Tlingit way at party given by Indians of Alaska





American hospitality: Wang as house guest of farmer Roger Wheeler of Iowa

her American friends. It makes for some lively conversations in the book, and such a reporter uncovers more different points of view than one who merely admired everything she looked upon. "Neither the sunny side nor the seamy side alone is the true China," writes Wang, "and this is equally true of America."

The English edition of *American Kaleidoscope*, skillfully translated by Duan Liancheng, brings Wang Tsomin's observations into the comfortable American idiom. It also contains some minor additions to the Chinese version, made with the aim of explaining certain Chinese things to which she refers. As the author says, "I often 'measure American corn with a Chinese bushel' and a few words about the

'Chinese bushel' seem in order here and there to make my comments more easily comprehensible."

In her year in America, which was completed in 1983, Wang Tsomin saw more of the land than most Americans ever see, from the West Coast to New York City, from Alaska to Florida, from the Sun Belt to the Corn Belt. She visited high schools, prisons, libraries, senior centres, Disneyworld, Harlem and Houston. She talked with the elderly, children, young adults and, like herself, the middle-aged. She met social workers, educators, taxi drivers, farmers, domestic workers, scientists, housewives, laborers, Chinese-Americans, blacks; spent time with the wealthy, the middle-class and the poor and ill; got into discussions with Republicans, Democrats and socialists — and found herself having to explain again and again to politically romantic Americans that China's so-called "cultural revolution" was utter chaos, but that socialism is not dead and does not mean poverty, it simply means "let's get down to work to modernize the country and earn a decent livelihood" for all. But her book is by no means a platform for her own political views. It is a reasoned examination of those of others.

Americans learn a lot about themselves in Wang's sharp mirror of their land and people. Where it is relevant, she presents a concise report on American history, old and recent, about which she

knows more than the average American. And she finds the warm hospitality for which the Deep South is noted, attends a traditional New England town meeting, at which a nuclear freeze resolution is debated, and makes some observations on abortion and school prayer — and the ultra-conservative "New Right."

Wang examines the American Dream, especially in conjunction with her visit to pay homage at the grave of Martin Luther King Jr., which leads to her research on the history of black people in America. The Chicago mayoral race between Democrat Harold Washington and Republican Bernard Epton happened to be taking place at the time of her visit there. Through meticulous investigation and conversations with many kinds of people, Wang reports accurately and fully on all the implications of such an election.

The world is shrinking, Wang Tsomin observes as she travels halfway around the globe in a matter of hours and recalls the days of her ocean voyage in the 1940s. Quick transportation and communication have made the earth "a global village," with "China and America the biggest 'households'" in the village. It is urgent that we of both households become acquainted with each other. Wang Tsomin has contributed greatly to that acquaintance and the friendship that cannot help but follow.

— by Frances Chastain

北京周报英文版第四十五期（一九八五年十一月十一日出版）邮政代号二一九二二·北京市期刊登记证第七三三三号

## USA — Labor Day & Labor Movement

(Continued from p. 25.)  
reveals that unionized workers now make up only 20 percent of the labor force. I remember that the percentage in 1947 was 35. A sharp drop of 15 percent in 35

years is indeed a serious challenge to American labor.

Will the American labor movement continue to decline? Professor Foner and many other Americans believe it won't.

Wherever there is oppression, there is resistance, as we often say in China. If and when an economic crisis gets out of hand and workers find it impossible to carry on, there will be a blow-up. Labor Day then will probably not be the kind of gala fair blessed by Big Business. □

## Sketches by Li Baolin

Li Baolin, an artist born in 1936 in Siping, Jilin Province, is now serving in the navy. The following works were selected from Li's sketchbook.



Mending a Fishing Net.



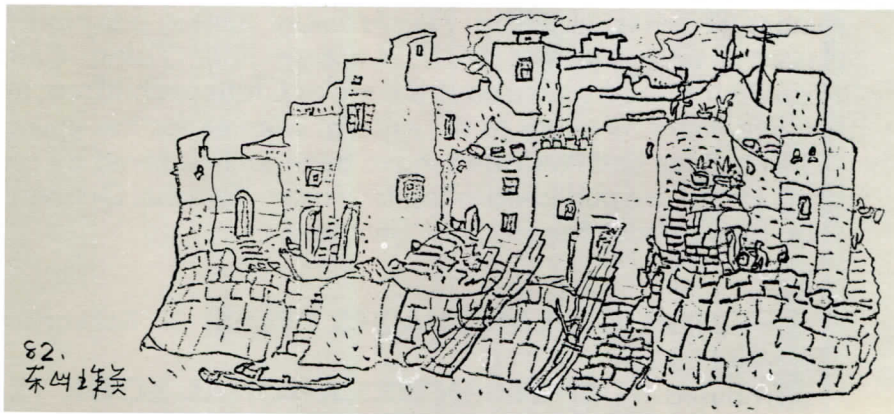
A Young Farmer.



A Night School Teacher.

## ART PAGE

A Fishing Village.



# Picture Storybooks for Children



In the last 30 years the Foreign Languages Press, Beijing, China, has published a variety of books for children and teenagers. The selection includes a number of series, including *The Monkey Series*, adapted from the Chinese classic *Journey to the West*; *Chinese Folk Tales*; *Chinese Fairy Tales*; *Preschool Book Series* about the life of Chinese children; and *Science Stories for Beginners*, a guide to the natural sciences for the young. All of the books, vividly written and illustrated, have been well-received by readers at home and abroad and are published in English, French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Arabic, Thai, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali and Sinhalese.

Published by **FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS**, 24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing, China

Distributed by **CHINA INTERNATIONAL BOOK TRADING CORP.**  
(**GUOJI SHUDIAN**), P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China