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MAO'S 100TH BIRTHDAY



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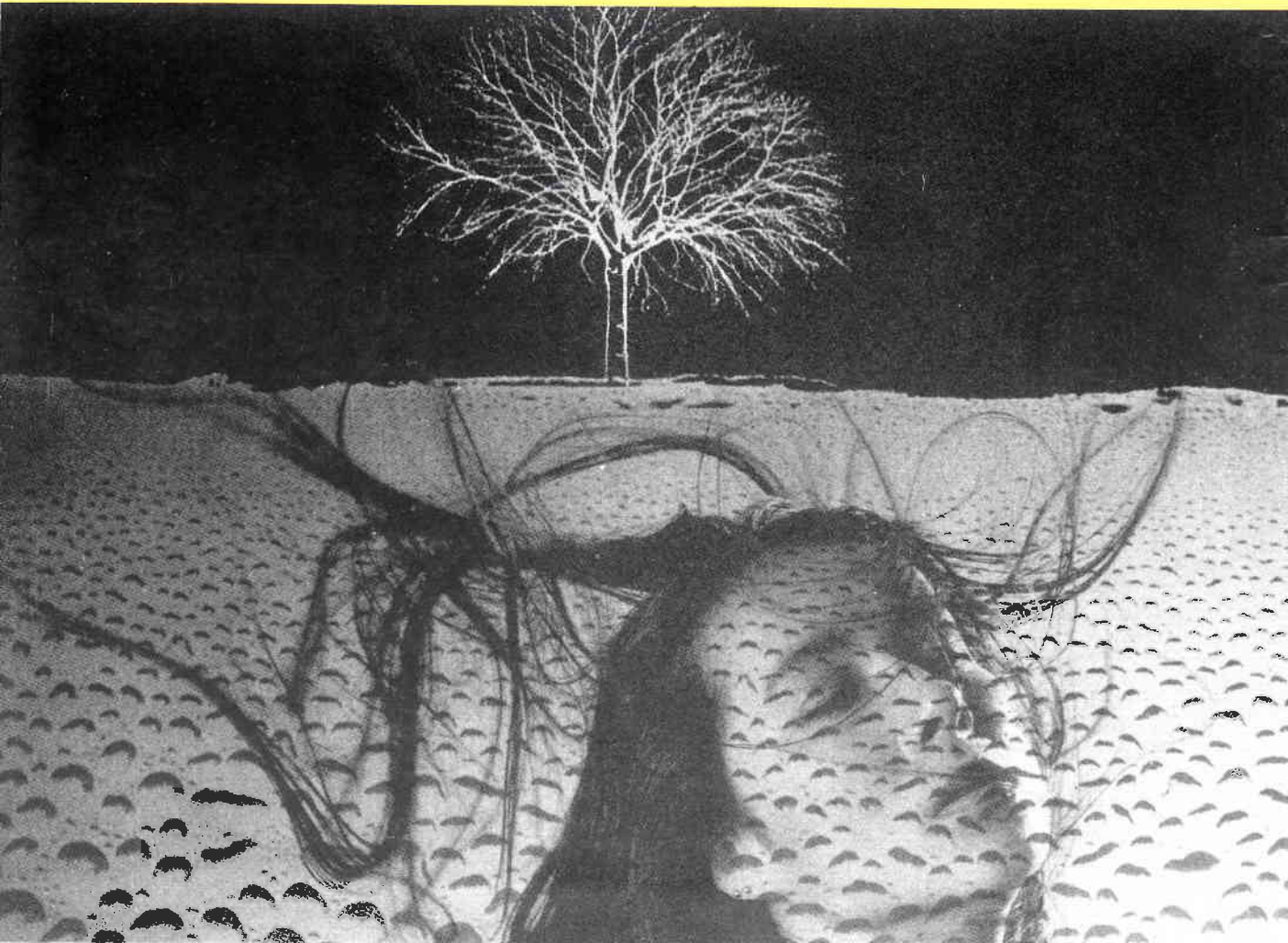
Jiang Advocates New
World Economic Links



Head and tree.

Photo by Yu Xiaoyang

Birthplace of dreams.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Jiang Visits Latin America

□ Chinese President Jiang Zemin made a fruitful week-long Latin American tour in late November after attending the Seattle summit with US President Bill Clinton. During his stay in Cuba, the Chinese president had cordial talks with President Fidel Castro. While in Brazil, Jiang put forward a four-point proposal for the establishment of a new international economic order (p. 4).

Centennial of Birth of Late Chairman Mao

□ The coming December 26 is the centenary of the birth of Mao Zedong. In the past 17 years since Mao's death, China has undergone drastic changes. Mao's lingering influence on modern society, however, is an indispensable reality (p. 12). A *Beijing Review* reporter's recent visit to Shaoshan, Mao's hometown, reveals that the little town has gone from being a stark political shrine to a profit-oriented tourist resort (p. 17).

Huangshi: A New Star Shines on the Yangtze

□ The opening and development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt has propelled Huangshi to the forefront of China's opening effort. Huangshi has taken advantage of the opportunity to promptly readjust its development strategy, develop new ways of thinking and meet the challenges of the opening surge sweeping across the Yangtze River Valley (p. 23).

Foreign Aid Helps Save Cultural Relics

□ Preservation and study of northwest China's remnants of ancient civilization has become a multi-cultural effort under Sino-foreign cooperation during the past several years (p. 7).

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CONTENTS

EVENTS/TRENDS 4-7

Jiang Visits Latin America
Hijackers Urged to Be
Repatriated
Protection of Egg Fossils Urged
Foreign Aid Helps Save Cultural
Relics

INTERNATIONAL

Development Trends of World
Population 12
Performance of Benazir
Government 9
The US Approves NAFTA 10
Burundi Suffers a Calamity 11

CHINA

Mao Zedong in Chinese Eyes 8
Centennial of Birth of Late
Chairman Mao 15
A Journey Back to Mao's
Birthplace 17
Huangshi: A New Star Rises on
the Yangtze 23

FROM THE CHINESE PRESS 27

TOURISM 28

BUSINESS/TRADE 29-30

CULTURE/SCIENCE 31-33

COVER: Shaoshan, the former home of Chairman Mao, and a statue memorial of Mao (inset).

Photos by Lou Linwei and Li Haibo

Jiang Visits Latin America

President Jiang Zemin put forward a four-point proposal for the establishment of a new international economic order during his visit to Brazil.

Jiang began his week-long state visit to Brazil at the invitation of Brazilian President Itamar Franco on November 22 after his stopover visit to Cuba.

At a ceremony on November 24 hosted by the Brazilian Senate and Chamber of Deputies in Jiang's honor, the Chinese President said many developing countries are facing heavy debts, deterioration of trade terms and the backward flow of funds caused by the existing unreasonable international economic order.

"If such a situation is allowed to continue, world peace and development will be out of the

question," Jiang noted.

Four-point proposal. The four-point proposal President Jiang offered for the establishment of a new international economic order is as follows:

- Countries throughout the world, big or small, rich or poor, should respect each other and participate in the handling of international economic affairs equally, and should develop their economic and trade relations under the principles of equality and mutual benefits;

- Each country should have the right to independently choose its own social system, economic pattern and path of development according to its national conditions, and each country has the right to effectively control its own resources and development;

- Efforts be made to enhance

the North-South dialogue and cooperation and make necessary adjustments and reforms in commodity, trade, fund, quality, money, finance and other major fields of the world economy. Developed countries should respect and give consideration to the interests of developing countries and should not attach any political conditions while providing aid; and

- South-South cooperation should be promoted and strengthen consultations and exchanges among developing countries strengthened. These countries should learn from each other and help supply each other's needs so as to seek mutual development.

Visit to Cuba. After attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference and holding talks with US President Bill Clinton in Seattle, President Jiang arrived in Havana, capital of Cuba on November 21 for a stopover visit at the invitation of Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban State Council.

During his stay in Cuba, Jiang held talks with Castro. They exchanged views on bilateral and international issues of mutual concern. Both hoped that Sino-Cuban cooperation will be expanded especially in the fields of trade, technology and culture.

Cuba was the first Latin American country to establish diplomatic relations with China. As the first Chinese president to visit Cuba, Jiang was warmly welcomed by the country and was presented the "Jose Marti" medal, the highest honor of Cuba.

Talks with Brazilian President. During his Brazilian tour, Jiang held talks with Brazilian President Franco. Jiang said that China and Brazil can draw

Cuban President Fidel Castro greets visiting Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

GUO ZHANYING





President Jiang Zemin delivers a speech at a banquet hosted in his honor by Brazilian President Itamar Franco in Brazil.

MA ZHANCHENG

on each other's rich experience gained in economic and technological development.

Jiang pointed out that being respectively the largest developing countries in Asia and Latin America, China and Brazil shoulder the weighty responsibility of safeguarding world peace and promoting the progress of mankind.

The Chinese President made a series of proposals on bilateral cooperation in political, economic, cultural and international affairs. He suggested closer political ties through the existing Sino-Brazilian political-consultation mechanism and more economic and trade cooperation, especially in the areas of science and technology. He also hoped that the two countries will improve coordination in international organizations and on international affairs.

"China sets great store by the development of friendly relations with Brazil and other Latin American countries, regarding it as an important part of the South-South cooperation," Jiang said.

Franco said that Jiang's visit

would create a fruitful phase in bilateral ties when international relations are at a most crucial stage. Economic relations are developing from mere trade to a genuine economic association and effective partnership. "Bilateral relations have entered a new period of continued growth," Franco said.

The two countries signed two agreements on peaceful use of outer-space and China's purchase of Brazilian iron ore.

President Jiang has winded up his Brazilian visit in the cities of Brasilia, Foz Do Iguacu, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Manaus. Jiang left Manaus, capital city of the Amazon on November 28 for a stopover in Lisbon, Portugal. ■

Hijackers Urged To Be Repatriated

A spokesman from the Chinese Ministry of Public Security (MPS) criticized the Taiwan authorities on November 22 for their refusal to repatriate the mainland hijackers.

There have been a surprising number of passenger airplanes hijacked to Taiwan since April 1993, posing a serious threat to civil aviation and passengers' lives and property. The most recent hijacking occurring on November 12 was the seventh one this year and the third in eight days. The plane, a North China Airlines flight with 82 people on board, was hijacked to Taiwan while on a flight from Changchun, Jilin Province, to Fuzhou, Fujian Province.

Although the mainland has repeatedly urged the relevant Taiwan authorities to repatriate the hijackers as soon as possible so that they can be justly punished as a warning to others, hijackers still remain on the island. The Taiwan authorities have blamed the hijackings on what they claim is an underdeveloped security system in mainland airports.

The MPS official recalled that when Zhuo Changren hijacked a mainland airplane to the Republic of Korea (ROK) in 1983, the Taiwan authorities made every effort to take the criminal to Taiwan and honored him as a "righteous anti-Communist hero." "That was a bad precedent for later fugitives to follow suit. Hijackers were shielded by the Taiwan authorities and that is one of the main reasons such hijackings occur so frequently," he said.

An official from the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) said that the administration has been paying close attention to flight security in order to guarantee normal civil transportation and the safety of the passengers. Stricter precautions against hijacking have been adopted since the beginning of this year. The CAAC invested in advanced safety

devices and equipment, including the universally utilized X-ray checking machines and metal detectors. At the same time, they have enhanced professional training of both on board and on ground security personnel.

"Although these measures have been taken, the Taiwan authorities' refusal to repatriate hijackers has encouraged mainland fugitives to repeatedly defy the law," he said.

Looking at the past seven hijacking, the CAAC official said it is clear that the hijackers did in fact fear the security system used at the mainland airports. Therefore, to "mix the spurious with the genuine" was their novel and major strategem. Instead of taking the risk to carry guns, explosives and knives directly onto the plane, they carried some materials, such as soap disguised as a bomb, and forced the pilots and crew to change destinations by threatening to explode the plane. The CAAC official stressed that because there is no way to detect these fake weapons, the best way to put an end to such hijacking in the future is to give hijackers severe punishment. He said that it is not enough to only strengthen security.

It is universal practice that hijackers are given stern penalties. The international community has made three conventions on curbing illegal interference of civil aviation. Nevertheless, the mainland official said Taiwan seems to have recently become the "shelter" and "paradise" of mainland hijackers because the "philanthropic policy" caters to the hijackers' purpose.

Some of the hijackers are wanted criminals or debt dodgers on the mainland, thus going to Taiwan is one of the best

ways for them to escape from punishment. They usually claim to have suffered from political persecution.

The MPS spokesman pointed out that attempt to shield the criminals can not be tolerated. The mainland hijackings took place on mainland airplanes and within the mainland territory, and the hijackers are mainland citizens. Therefore, the issue should be resolved according to the nationality of the person who commits the crime or the classification of the main place where the crime is committed. Meanwhile, the Jinmen Agreement reached in September 1990 by the Red Cross Organization of both sides between the Taiwan Straits provides another basis for the solution of this issue.

Frequent hijacking to Taiwan and the conniving attitude of the Taiwan authorities have greatly aroused public indignation. Not only the people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits, but also overseas Chinese feel discontented.

Discussions on repatriating the mainland hijackers between the mainland Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) and the Straits Exchange Foundation of Taiwan (SEFT) ended on November 7 in Xiamen, Fujian Province. However, as great disparity exist, no agreement has been achieved between the two sides.

On November 19, ARATS Vice-President Tang Shubei told a Beijing press conference that China called for a non-political solution of hijacker repatriation. He said the two sides should put political differences to one side and deal with the issue as an operational question. It is irrational for the Taiwan authorities to put such disput-

able issues as the scope of "judicial jurisdiction" into the present talks between the two sides. He also revealed that another round of talks will be held in December on hijacker repatriation with the SEFT. ■

Protection of Egg Fossils Urged

The Chinese Academy of Sciences recently called for the prevention of the ongoing rampant smuggling of the country's dinosaur egg fossils.

One hundred and one academy members signed an appeal for the establishment of a scientific institution to protect dinosaur egg fossils and formulation of a fossil protection law and rules for its enforcement.

According to the academy's information office, unlawful fossil excavation, trade and smuggling are now widespread in some areas of China.

China has now unearthed fossilized dinosaur eggs in 14 provinces and autonomous regions. The varieties and quantities of the egg fossils discovered in the Nanxiong Basin of Guangdong Province and the Xixia Basin in Henan Province are believed to be the largest, accounting for 60 percent of the world's total.

As they are well-preserved, these egg fossils are important to studies on the dinosaur's evolution, propagation and extinction, experts noted.

Last spring thousands of dinosaur egg fossils were discovered within 40 square km at the Xixia Basin. During the following few months, several thousand fossils were sold both at home and abroad through overt or covert channels.

Most of these dinosaur eggs are privately owned. An indivi-



Li Guanglin, a farmer from Henan Province, has collected many dinosaur egg fossils during the past decade.

WANG SONG

dual businessmen in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province, has now collected more than 2,000 eggs. Some others were publicly auctioned on international markets.

Officials from the academy said they had received inquiries from museums in Brazil, Germany and the United States about the legality of the sale of dinosaur egg fossils from China on overseas markets.

They pointed out that the excavation and export of dinosaur eggs can only be conducted with the approval of the State Cultural Relics Bureau (SCRB) and after passing an appraisal by the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology under the academy.

The SCRB issued a circular on banning fossil exports without the bureau's special permit. ■

Foreign Aid Helps Save Cultural Relics

Preservation and study of northwest China's remnants of ancient civiliza-

tion has become a multicultural effort under Sino-foreign cooperation during the past several years.

The ancient silk route, which wound through northwest China to link the East with the West almost 2,000 years ago, has left behind a wealth of historical sites and artistic relics.

Shaanxi Province's Xian, once known as Xianyang, was the capital of the Qin and many other feudal dynasties. It boasts one of the great wonders of the world—the excavated army of life-sized terra-cotta warriors near the mausoleum of the first emperor Qin Shihuang.

These and other storehouses of historical treasures in northwest China have been plagued by a lack of funds and advanced techniques for satisfactory preservation.

But now joint actions between domestic and overseas institutes and experts are lending new hope to relics and sites in urgent need of protection and rescue.

Researchers at the Dunhuang Cultural Research Institute in Gansu Province have worked jointly with their American

counterparts on the protection of valuable painted statues and frescoes in the Mogao Grottoes, using advanced equipment provided by the United States.

Since 1990, Germany has provided technical assistance and equipment for the establishment of a relics restoration studio in the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archeology.

Thanks to the studio's work with ultrasonic devices, rust was removed from a valuable gilded copper cane unearthed from the underground palace of the Buddhist temple of Famen to reveal the original 39-word inscription on the cane.

During the past several years, German experts have also joined hands with their Chinese counterparts in preserving the color of Xian's terra-cotta horses and soldiers.

Sino-French and Sino-Japanese archaeological expedition teams have explored and excavated legendary historical sites in the desert region in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Actions have mainly been funded and equipped by the foreign side.

Japan has also provided financial aid to protect the Mogao Grottoes, and Italy to establish a relics restoration center in Xian.

Overseas exhibitions of local historical treasures sponsored by these provinces and autonomous regions further enhance the reputation of the northwest region all over the world.

The advancement of archaeological preservation in northwest China has not only promoted local tourism but promised wide prospects for economic development of the region by bringing in ambitious foreign investors. ■

Development Trends of World Population

by Kong Deyong

Is there a limit to how many people our planet can support? How will population growth affect the lives of people 25 or 50 years from now? Scientists are seeking answers to these and many other questions in an attempt to come to terms with one of the major problems facing the global community in the next century.

The predictions are alarming. If the world population were to reach 1,000 billion, there would be 7,000 people per square meter. Our descendants would have to live on large vessels floating in the oceans, grow crops in artificial environments and drink only purified water. They would have none of the many things we take for granted such as parks, forest land, pastures and the ability to live in and enjoy nature.

This is not a scare-tactic exaggeration. The world population growth rate is accelerating. Since 1830, the world population has increased by one billion in increasingly short intervals of 100, 30, 15 and finally 10 years. In 1982, the French Press Agency released a prediction that by the year 2033, or 50 years from now, the world population will reach 10 billion.

Confronted by such a severe prospect, the United Nations organized experts to put together a global development strategy for the 21st century: "Sustained development" which means seeking the means to meet the resource demands of the current generation under the precondition that it will not endanger the resource demands of its descendants. Thus the discussion of population should be connected with the

strategy of sustained development.

Some experts describe the current population growth as a population explosion. The large population affects resource availability, the environment, and social and economic development.

Resources Depletion

Experts have found that in a modern industrial society, about 25 tons of various materials must be dug up every year from the earth's lithosphere in order to support one person's living. The more the population, the more the resources will be depleted. Of course, this only refers to those living in modern industrial society. The cases are not so serious for those living in underdeveloped economies. In other words, the world resources are consumed mainly by developed countries.

According to Western scholar Paul Harrison, due to the pressure of population growth, the consumption of fresh water, energy and mineral resources is accelerating. Freshwater can be reproduced, but is still a limited resource. It is predicted that by 2000, there will be severe shortages of freshwater in parts of South Asia and Central America, and especially in north, east and west Africa. It is possible that some areas may suffer such severe drought that absolutely no water will be available. Oil resources will be exhausted by 2016 if extraction continues at the 1982 rate. Although the discovery of oil reserve may increase along with further exploration, it can by no means catch up with

the speed of exploitation. The period in which we can depend on oil for energy is getting shorter. According to the current speed rate of consumption, coal supplies will last another 1,600 years.

For developing countries, especially agricultural ones, environmental regression is a serious problem. Along with population growth, there has been excessive use of soil which has led to the regression or desertification of large areas of land. Each year, about 6 million hectares of soil become irreversibly desertified, and 20 million hectares of soil fertility is depleted, making it no longer adequate for cultivation or grazing. Moreover, this is a vicious circle: The more the population, the more excessive use of the soil and the severer the soil regression; as a result, the lack of cultivated land leads to even more excessive use of soil and is followed by severer soil regression. The control of population growth is the key to breaking away from this vicious circle.

Social and Economic Development

The relationship between population growth and social conflicts has basically been ignored by researchers. When the growing population is competing for shrinking resources, conflicts will occur. The unfair distribution of resources, no matter if it involves revenue, land or water, will further complicate the relationships. Intense competition and resulting conflicts damage the social structure conducive to the concerted development of society and enlarge the disparity between the rich and the poor and the urban and rural populations.

If zero or negative population growth lasts too long, it will also have negative results. The aging population may cause an onerous burden for young adults.

An excessively high population will increase the burden on cities. Crammed traffic, housing and a huge labor surplus will not only lead to the instability of society but also hinder economic development. It is estimated that one-third of China's annual fiscal revenue will be used for employing the new members of its population and for the support of retirees.

Ecological Protection

The 25 tons of various materials excavated from the lithosphere to support one individual will produce a large amount of waste water and gas in the course of processing. And a large amount of waste is produced after the consumption of manufactured goods. Our planet can no longer tolerate the destruction of the ecology and environment caused by the inflated world population.

Another problem that comes as a result of the huge population is deforestation. Forest are being destroyed at an alarming rate to supply wood for paper and cultivatable land for the grain needed to support the world's high consuming inhabitants.

The population surplus has also caused problems in education. For many developing countries which can not feed their people, it is difficult or impossible to provide facilities for education. Statistics show that in poorer countries with an excessive population and low literacy rate, the low quality of education hinders the effectiveness of policies aimed at adjusting the relations between the population and environment. This is another vicious circle.

All of these problems are caused by the excessively high population. It is imperative for human beings to restrict themselves and control their rate of reproduction. ■

Performance of Benazir Government

by Hu Xiaoming

In the one month since October 19 when she started her second term as prime minister, Benazir Bhutto has made what many observers see as a cautious performance.

Compared with her predecessor Moeen Qureshi's remarkable example of meaningful government action, Benazir, who did not make many impressive economic decisions, has been somewhat lackluster, sources said.

"We don't need an economic package like the caretaker government, we have ample time," V. A. Jefarey, Benazir's advisor on finance and economic affairs, argued.

On the economic front, Benazir's government has given priority to reducing the budgetary deficit, keeping monetary expansion within reasonable limits and bringing inflation under control, the official news agency APP said.

One of the first steps taken by the new government during this period was to set up a number of task forces to deal with social contracts, the energy sector, social security and exports, and usher in an agricultural tax in a bid to implement its manifesto, APP said.

The new government has pledged to continue privatization and deregulation so as to trigger an enthusiastic response from the private sector.

The Karachi stock exchange index has reportedly gained more than 400 points during mid-November, breaking all previous records.

The new government's economic policies have been formed under the guidelines of Qureshi's

economic package, as is made clear by the agreement recently signed between Pakistan and international financial institutions, one analyst noted.

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which threatened to withdraw financial support to Pakistan if the new government stopped Qureshi's economic policies, have agreed to provide aid of approximately US\$1.55 billion to Pakistan in the next three years.

Benazir Bhutto, who vowed time and again to break Pakistan's isolation from the outside world, seems to have focused her attention on diplomacy.

Two days after she assumed office, Benazir attended the Commonwealth summit at Limassol, Cyprus, to mobilize world opinion against India on the Kashmir issue.

With the visit to Pakistan by Robin Raphel, US assistant secretary of state in charge of South Asian affairs, on November 7-9, the United States, which suspended military and economic aid to Pakistan since October 1990, has started high-level contact with Benazir's government as a gesture of support.

Benazir has also passed her first diplomatic challenge by bringing a peaceful end to the siege by Indian forces of the Hazratbal Shrine in India-held Kashmir.

Benazir will visit Iran and Turkey from December 8 to 12 and also visit China in the last week of December.

No doubt, her most impressive performance has been on the political stage.

Apart from an accidental fire

at the parliament building, political events have moved in Benazir's favor with an almost clock-like precision, analysts observed.

After Benazir was elected leader of the House, the installation of governments under her control in Punjab, the largest province, and in Sindh has consolidated her power base.

Farooq Leghari, a staunch supporter of Benazir's Pakistan People's Party, was elected president, virtually removing the Damocles sword, the controversial eighth amendment, which gives the president the power to remove the prime minister from office.

Benazir does not have a hostile environment to blame. This is the time to act, to govern, to administer, to produce results and to prepare the ground for the pro-

cess of nation-building, analyst Ahmed Noor said.

She has to take specific steps to deal with corruption, default, budgetary deficit which is running as high as 7-8 percent of the GNP, a 15-20 percent inflation rate, an estimated unemployment rate of 12 percent and a national debt of about US\$40 billion.

Despite an average annual economic growth rate of more than 5 percent, Pakistan, with a population of 128 million, growing at a rate of 3.1 percent, has a real economic growth rate of only around 2 percent.

After the controversial dismissal of her government in August 1990 and her return to power in October through general elections, the people in Pakistan have high expectations for a more mature Benazir. ■

unions also believe that with the implementation of NAFTA, many US factories will be relocated to Mexico to take advantage of the low cost of labor there, thus worsening domestic unemployment.

Environmental protection organizations have strongly opposed NAFTA on the grounds that when American factories, especially those that produce a large amount of pollution, are shifted to Mexico, which has lower environmental protection standards, the US-Mexican border areas will suffer severe environmental damage.

Under such circumstances, Clinton administration had to demand a supplementary agreement pertaining to labor and environmental protection issues. After five months of hard negotiations, the three countries concluded the supplementary agreement last August, paving the way for its approval in US Congress.

To drive home the agreement, President Bill Clinton has emphasized that it is in the country's long-term interests, helping increase exports to Mexico, one of the United States' major trading partners, and at the same time create more job opportunities.

It is predicted that under NAFTA the United States may transfer its low-technology sectors to Mexico while focusing on high-tech industries. In this way, the United States can accomplish its industrial adjustment and strengthen its international competitiveness.

Clinton has also linked NAFTA with the country's international image, making it a choice between protectionism and free trade. Moreover, the president hopes to expand the scope of the agreement by negotiating with other American nations.

Facing economic regionalization and group-forming tendencies, it is not surprising that Washington took this major move to help the country cope with challenges from a unified Europe and the ever-growing Japan-dominated East Asian economic rim.

Likewise, the international community believes that the approval

The US Approves NAFTA

by Zhang Xiaodong

Leaders of the United States, Canada and Mexico felt relaxed and jubilant as the US Congress finally said yes to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on November 20.

The US move is welcomed by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the European Community, Britain, Japan and some Latin American countries. They called on Washington to work with other Western countries in concluding the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations.

Furthermore, this strategic step by the United States is commonly believed to have given a boost to the country's new image in the post-Cold War era. Its significance goes beyond trade between the three nations.

According to the agreement, in the 15 years following January 1 of next year, the United States, Canada and Mexico will phase out all tariffs on commodities and elimi-

nate non-tariff barriers to form the largest free trade zone in the world, with a population of 360 million and a combined gross national product of US\$6 trillion.

The negotiations on NAFTA were not easy. The concept of establishing a free trade zone in North America was initiated by former US President Ronald Reagan. In 1988, the United States and Canada first signed a free trade accord. Three years later, Mexico followed suit.

Of the three countries, the United States had the most difficulty in getting the agreement passed, coming under heavy criticisms from domestic labor unions, environmental organizations and some Democrats in Congress.

US billionaire Ross Perot, who maintained a high profile in last year's presidential campaign, claimed that NAFTA would cause unemployment, especially in the manufacturing industry. Labor

of NAFTA has increased the possibility of achieving success in the GATT negotiations.

The Mexican government and media believe NAFTA will bring more benefits than disadvantages to the country as more capital and jobs will flow in. Mexican President Carlos Salinas said that NAFTA

will bring jobs and opportunities to the country and serve as a supplement to the country's foreign economic strategy and reform, giving a strong impetus to the economy.

Salinas, however, warned his fellow countrymen that any idea of an economic miracle happening overnight as a result of the free trade agreement is fanciful. ■

Burundi Suffers a Calamity

by Dong Xuebing

On October 21, 1993, army units led by Chief of Staff Colonel Jean Bikomagu and former President Jean Baptiste Bagaza staged a military coup to overthrow Burundi President Melchior Ndadaye. Soldiers arrested and detained Ndadaye on the outskirts of Bujumbura, capital of Burundi. Many other senior officials, including the Parliament speaker, foreign and labor ministers and the head of the country's security services were also held. Later, Ndadaye and six government officials were assassinated by military officers.

Ndadaye, 40, became the first elected president in June 1993, the first non-military president since 1962 and the first head of state from the Hutu tribe, which makes up about 85 percent of the population.

Burundi is a tiny central African country with a population of 5.6 million. The country has been suffering from repeated ethnic conflicts and military coups since independence from Belgium in 1962. The minority Tutsi tribe, which makes up about 14 percent of the population, had been controlling the government and army.

Since 1966, the country has had many governments ushered in and out of office by repeated military upsets. Fighting between the Hutus and the Tutsis in 1965, 1969, 1972 and 1988 resulted in thousands of people being killed, with hundreds of thousands more seeking refuge in neighboring countries.

In 1987, Pierre Buyoya, a member of the Tutsi tribe, came to pow-

er. The new government made great efforts to put down tribal riots and unify the nation. In 1991, the Burundian people adopted the Constitution of National Unity.

In June, 1993, a multi-party presidential election was held in Burundi. Pierre Buyoya was defeated and handed over power to Ndadaye, first head of state coming from the Hutu tribe. He appointed Sylvie Kinigi from the Tutsi tribe as Prime Minister of the country. The army, which was composed and controlled mainly by the Tutsis, was a threat to President Ndadaye. In an effort to strike a more even balance of power, Ndadaye issued a bill stating that soldiers should be recruited from all the tribes in the country. This act ignited the military coup that finally caused his death.

The coup aroused the world's attention. The UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali condemned the military coup. Some African nations denounced the coup and some Western countries such as the United States, Britain, France and Belgium suspended their aid to Burundi. The civilians in Bujumbura took to the streets to protest the military coup. Jean Minani, Burundi's Health Minister appealed in the neighboring country of Rwanda for foreign countries to take all necessary measures, especially in the form of an economic blockade, to help Burundi to restore peace and democracy.

On October 23, Jean Bikomagu said in a broadcast that soldiers who overthrew President Nda-

daye's elected government were ready to surrender power in return for amnesty. He also claimed that he had not participated in the coup. Meanwhile, Rancois Ngeze, head of Burundi's self-styled National Salvation Committee, said that he was ready to hand over power to democratic institutions.

On October 26, Prime Minister Sylvie Kinigi, who was taking refuge in the French Embassy in Bujumbura, rejected the coup leaders' demand for amnesty and announced the lifting of a night curfew.

The military coup was a catastrophe. The streets of Bujumbura became the theater of tribal conflicts where some demonstrated to urge international troops to intervene and hold a national funeral for President Ndadaye while others marched against them. Ethnic hostilities provoked by the president's death were widespread in the country and there was serious violence in some cities. Thousands of people were massacred in Burundi in tribal wars between the majority Hutus and minority Tutsis, who have been fighting for power for generations.

Scared Burundians continued to flee the country and refugees, most of whom were women and children, kept pouring into the neighboring countries of Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire.

On October 28, the Burundian government announced that the military rebels were under complete control. The four senior officials who assassinated President Ndadaye have been arrested. The putschists, the core of the coup troops, have been dismissed. Some of those who plotted the coup have fled to other countries.

Since the 1980s, the Western countries have tried hard to practice multi-party system in Africa. Many African countries were forced to follow Western democracy. The unique social structure of Africa is based upon tribal relations. Even if a multi-party system is carried out in African countries, the tribe still acts as the basis of the parties. The parties' struggle for power sooner or later deteriorates into tribal conflicts. ■

Mao Zedong In Chinese Eyes

by Qi Bing

In China today, photos of the late Chairman Mao Zedong (1893-1976) dangle at front windscreens beside drivers in almost all motor vehicles shuttling through bustling cities or speeding across vast rural spaces. Many feature a photo of Mao in a Red Army cap taken by American journalist Edgar Snow in Yanan during the revolutionary years on one side and on the other side a picture of the post-revolutionary Mao. Some of these two-faceted photos include a photo of Mao on one side and a group photo of Mao and Zhou Enlai (1898-1976), the late premier of the State Council, on the other. These postcard-size objects are mostly plastic ones, commanding unique workmanship.

Interestingly, carrying of Mao photos is not an act enforced by officialdom in China. It is a spontaneous mass movement, arising out of high respect for Mao Zedong. Drivers buy these photos themselves.

Mao Badge Craze

While motorists hang Mao photos in their cabs, many government employees, school teachers and enterprise workers turn to metal or plastic Mao Zedong badges

made nowadays or during the chaotic "cultural revolution" (1966-76).

In a shopping center in Wanxian City, Sichuan Province, several dozen varieties of 18-k gold alloy Mao badges are on sale alongside 99.99 percent pure gold jewelry.

"Mao badges are much-coveted here," one saleswoman said. "Those who have bought the badges pin them on their chests right away."

The availability of Mao Zedong badges whets the appetite of collectors. Ardent fans even

pay extravagantly high prices to satisfy their desire. Zhang Benji, a retired worker of the Xuantanmiao Construction Team of Chongqing, Sichuan Province, has amassed some 40,000 Mao Zedong badges made of a score of different materials.

Wang Anyan is another Mao badge collector. Apprenticed to a carpenter at age 12, Wang cherishes so deep a love for Mao that he makes furniture in exchange for Mao badges rather than cash. He even quit drinking so as to save money for the badges. Every little bit adds up. Wang

Mao Zedong, Zhu De and Zhou Enlai (right to left) in 1955.





Mao Zedong (first right) visiting the Nanjing Radio Factory in 1956.

has over the years collected 15,000 Mao badges in 2,000 varieties. These badges were made throughout China and many were produced by various military areas of the People's Liberation Army of China. The man has turned a 20-square-meter room in his home into a display space for his incredible collection. Its uniqueness has earned him considerable fame and mention in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

According to *China Youth News*, there are 2,000-odd serious Mao badge collectors in the country. Some have founded the Mao Zedong Badge Collection and Research Society. With Wang Anyan as its president and Gu Yue, who stars as Mao Zedong in many movies, as its honorary president, the society has

500 or more members hailing from both at home and abroad.

'Red Sun'

While Mao Zedong badge collection gains momentum in China, the singing of lyrics in praise of Mao Zedong becomes more fashionable with each passing day. It occurs not only in concerts but also at Karaoke parties. Cashing in on this optimum opportunity, cassette producers have been turning out large batches of Mao songs cassettes and Karaoke tapes. They sell like hot cakes and in some localities are in short supply.

Recent years have also seen rapid rise in the number of visitors to the Chairman Mao Memorial Hall located in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. The

memorial hall holds the embalmed body of the late chairman for the public to file past and pay homage. On a chilly December 26 (Mao's birthday) in 1988, some 10,000 people gathered in front of the building. As the long line waited with excitement, respect and patience for their turn to enter, a plump woman among the crowd was recognized as Li Na, daughter of Mao Zedong. "You are Li Na, aren't you?" said a memorial hall worker, hurrying forward to shake hands with her. "You don't have to line up here. We have stipulations that you may enter through the other gate."

This revelation astounded people there. Many left the orderly queues to shake hands with Li and ask after her life. Such warmth filled the staunch Li



Photos by XINHUA

Mao Zedong plays table tennis in Shanghai in 1963.

with elation and she finally burst into tears.

Public love for the late chairman is readily felt nationwide. Although Mao's planned economic system has made way for Deng's socialist market economic system, resulting in many changes in China since the great statesman's death in 1976, Mao remains and will continue to be the Red Sun in the eyes of the Chinese.

Ideological Food

Dong Huqiu, now a worker for a petroleum company, has engaged in copious reading and found it correct for historical records to cite Emperor Qin Shihuang of the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC), Emperor Wudi of the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD), Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and Emperor Gaozu of the Song Dynasty (960-1279) as the four most accomplished emperors in feudal China.

"But none can match Mao Ze-

dong in accomplishments," Dong said. "Mao made unmatched contributions to the progress of Chinese society."

Blessed with only six years of schooling, Dong has become a noted writer after repeated setbacks. Several hundred of his works have been published in 70 journals, Chinese and foreign, as well as national and local newspapers. He is especially famous for writing on burning issues in China.

Talking about his success, Dong Huqiu said he owed much to Mao Zedong. "Without the encouragement which I get from Mao Zedong's works, I would most probably accomplish nothing at all."

Indeed, there are many in China today who, just like Dong Huqiu, worship Mao and get philosophical sustenance from Mao's works. Some copy down quotations from the great man and leave them on their office or home desks as mottos, and others hang scrolls bearing Mao's characters and poetry which show the determined will of the late chairman in their sitting rooms.

Profound Thoughts

In the past 17 years since Mao Zedong passed away, China has undergone drastic changes in its economy, sense of values, environment and ideological sphere. However, despite the transformations that have taken place in the country, Mao's lingering influence on modern society is an indispensable reality.

The great man lifted China out of the bitter sea through revolution, but threw the country into

chaos during the "cultural revolution." Many citizens who suffered from the notorious "revolution" are still alive and the "cultural revolution" is often mentioned by the mass media as a disaster for New China. So why is it that Mao is still held in great esteem today?

The first answer lies in the fact that the Mao-led revolution put an end to an era in which the Chinese nation groaned under the "three big mountains" of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. After the founding of New China, the Chinese people, under Mao's leadership, worked with might and main to build up their nation and China finally gained an important position in the international community.

What is more important is that had it not been for Mao Zedong, China's communist movement would not be of unique feature and different from the communist movement in many other countries.

Mao did make mistakes in his late years. But he is still a superman in modern Chinese history. His thinking is deeply rooted among the broad masses of the Chinese. The Chinese, in particular the farmers who make up the bulk of the Chinese population, think Mao was their great liberator, from whom they gained their land for subsistence.

While people applaud Deng Xiaoping, the chief architect of the ongoing reform program, they tend to think that the achievements of the Mao era laid good material, cultural and ideological foundations for the present success.

In a nutshell, the position Mao Zedong holds in the minds of the Chinese is so paramount that he is seen as having become synonymous with the Chinese nation.

Centennial of Birth of Late Chairman Mao

A century ago, Mao Zedong (1893-1976) was born to a well-off peasant family of Shaoshan in Hunan Province. One of the founders of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Mao attended the First CPC National Congress in 1921 in Shanghai. When the Kuomintang turned reactionary and anti-revolutionary in 1927, Mao led the troops formed in the Autumn Harvest Uprising to the Jinggangshan Mountain area in Jiangxi Province and built the first rural revolutionary base there. After the Zunyi Meeting in 1935, Mao became the core of the Party's first-generation leading group.

Through 22 years of painstaking struggle, the Chinese Communists, with Mao as their leader, led the Chinese people to ov-

erthrow the rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism and finally established the People's Republic in 1949. During the initial post-liberation period, the Party adopted a policy which laid equal stress on both socialist industrialization and transformation, finding its own way to build a socialist system in China—then an Oriental giant with a huge population plus economic and cultural backwardness. The practice also laid a solid foundation for the country's further progress and economic expansion.

Therefore, it is a common belief among the Chinese people that without Mao Zedong, there would have been no New China. Deng Xiaoping once said the Chinese revolution might not have achieved success if it had

lacked Mao's outstanding guidance, and the Party might still have been exploring and struggling hard in the darkness.

Although Mao made some serious mistakes in his later years, he can still be regarded as a great man of his era. His historical contributions, his intellectual works and his correct ideology etched deep marks in the hearts of hundreds of millions of people.

The coming December 26 is the centenary of the birth of Mao Zedong. At present, various activities commemorating the late chairman are being held nationwide. They display not only the respect the Chinese people hold for Mao but also their determination to continue their efforts in the current economic reform and opening to the outside world so as to build socialism with Chinese characteristics. ■

Mao Zedong with his uncle, his father Mao Shunsheng and his brother Mao Zetan (from right to left) in October 1919.





Mao Zedong with other state leaders in 1962.



Hand in hand, Mao and his childhood teacher Mao Yuju tread the field path in his hometown in 1959.



Mao and Yanan peasants in cordial conversation in 1939.



Mao meets Edgar Snow, a famous American journalist, in January 1965.

A Journey Back to Mao's Birthplace

by Our Staff Reporter Li Haibo

With the centenary of Mao Zedong's birth (December 26) approaching, a "Beijing Review" reporter recently revisited Shaoshan, the birthplace of the late chairman. Compared with the first visit 27 years ago, the little town has gone from being a stark political shrine to become a profit-oriented tourist resort.

Getting off the bus at the side of the main road that passes by Shaoshan, Mao Zedong's hometown in Hunan Province, I stopped a small local truck, hoping to catch a ride downtown. "I can give you a ride, but it's going to cost you," said the driver. "It's a long way, but I'll take you for five yuan." I snapped up his offer and jumped up into the cab of the truck. The journey, however, turned out to be a three-minute ride. Obviously he had taken me, a stranger, for a ride in more ways than one. For five yuan I could have gone by train all the way back to Changsha, capital of the province, some 100 km away. No use haggling. I had expected as much.

When travelling, one has to be prepared to encounter tourist traps. Moreover, the desire to make money is so prevalent in this country that one should not expect to find an exception even here in Shaoshan, the one-time holy town which made itself famous as the birthplace of Mao Zedong. Many years ago when I first visited this little town, the place had been wrapped in a shroud of "politics overriding everything." Nobody had cared about economy, money, or profit. Now, that attitude has disap-

peared.

I first came to Shaoshan early in the winter of 1966, when the 10-year "cultural revolution" had just been launched by Mao, the supreme leader of the nation, to reputidate what he called "those in authority taking the capitalist road" and "reactionary bourgeois academic authorities"—who later turned out to be the majority of the high Party and government officials and intellectuals. Mao called on college and middle school students to spread the fiery political movement, encouraging them to "build a great revolutionary alliance,"—to travel across the country and carry out his radical ideology, as well as to learn and do anything they thought was revolutionary. As a result, schools were closed. Students left school and home to haunt Beijing and other places considered sacred to the Chinese revolution, especially towns and cities where Mao had once lived and worked, including, of course, Shaoshan.

At that time I was a junior high school student in southwestern Sichuan Province. Late one evening in October that year, I left my parents for the first time to throw in my lot with the newly-formed "great revolutionary alliance." With 0.20 yuan in

my pocket, enough to buy a cup of tea nowadays, I made a pilgrimage of several thousand km, all transportation and accommodations being free. I first went up north to Beijing, then down south to Changsha, all by train. From Changsha, the local People's Liberation Army (PLA) units sent trucks to take me and thousands of other young pilgrims to Shaoshan. As I did not have a camera with me—it was quite a luxury item at that time—I asked a local professional photographer to take a picture for me as I posed carefully in front of Mao's old house. The photographing was free too.

I still keep that timely, faded, black-and-white picture in my album. The schoolboy in the photo holds clutched to his breast a "little red book"—*Quotations From Chairman Mao Zedong*. Wearing a faded army cap, patched cotton jacket and trousers, as well as a pair of frazzled *jiefang* (liberation) shoes—fashionable military sneakers of the 1960s vintage, I can barely recognize myself. All the stuff, I bet, wouldn't cost more than what the truck driver charged me. That was the typical student image of that time: penniless, simply dressed, but full of political ideals and revolutionary



LOU LINWEI

Shaoshan Railway Station, Hunan Province, sees many visitors on their way to Mao's first home.

No visitors to Shaoshan, for example, dress as I did 27 years ago. Many are dressed in fashionable, Western clothes and have high-tech Japanese cameras hanging from their necks, some even tote camcorders. Color film has replaced black-and-white, and there is no more free photograph service. The spot where I had my picture taken in 1966 is now an exclusive area controlled by local professional photographers. If you want to get into that "concession" to take pictures, even with your own camera, you have to pay a half yuan.

My first Shaoshan tour left three impressions on me:

Mao's old house, dirt roads and a roofless "latrine"—actually a big night soil pit. The pit had several bamboo rods across it so people could go in and take a squat. The hanging straw mattress hardly separated the men's side from the women's. When the john was jammed full, I always worried that the bamboo rods would break at any moment and the young pilgrims would fall into the stinking hole.

Today, Shaoshan is not what it used to be, except for Mao's old house, which, with some signs of renovation here and there, remains for the most part un-

zeal.

Twenty-seven years have passed since then. China has been swept by trials and change. During this period, Mao passed away; the chaotic "cultural revolution" came to an end; Deng

Xiaoping returned to the center of China's political arena, launching a real revolution—the drive to modernize China.

The most notable change to come out of Deng's revolution is the increase in people's wealth.

The author in front of Mao's old house in 1966 (left) and in 1993.



changed. Traffic facilities have been greatly improved. There are large tar-paved roads linking Shaoshan to the cities and counties nearby. Mini-buses are available to and from every tourist spot in the area. The bus fee is one yuan regardless of distance, a reasonable price. Dirt roads and footpaths still exist, but not within the tourist area, where tar-paved, stone-plate or cobble thoroughfares have taken place of the old dirt trails.

Manure pits and open urine channels have also disappeared. I intentionally looked for their substitutes and found two. One is a typical Chinese public facility, no toilets, but a drain with water constantly flushing through. Though not comfortable, it looked clean and acceptable, with little odor. The other is quite modern, with flush toilets and ceramic tiles on the ground and walls. It is a pay toilet, costing 0.20 yuan for admission. The price is almost nothing, but it still stops many Chinese tourists, who don't think it necessary to pay for their personal excretion. They prefer to urinate or move their bowels in a free latrine, whether it stinks or not. They may even simply tromp into the woods, and tuck themselves away in a corner—places like that are easy to find in Shaoshan.

Perhaps this is a reflection of one aspect of a Chinese culture. Traditionally, the Chinese people, especially farmers who make up 80 percent of the total population, do not pay too much unnecessary attention to bodily functions. Thus, they do not waste unnecessary time and effort when building a lavatory. When a farmer builds a new house, for instance, he may not design a convenient washroom attached to his bedroom. Instead, he may put it in a small corner, or in a separate shed, like an outhouse, with little or no modern equipment and articles.



LOU LINWEI

More "Mao-fever"—Mao's hometown is full of stalls selling souvenirs of the late chairman.



LI HAIBO

A good way to make money—selling souvenirs along the road right in front of Mao's old home.

Many urban residents still have the same attitude. Some urban public conveniences, such as those around a train station, stink so terribly that one can easily find them by smell instead of by sight.

This reminds me of what I once heard from a foreign friend: "Your Chinese food and restaurants are excellent indeed, but your lavatories are terrible. You place a great value on 'import' (eating), which we appreciate, but do not pay enough at-

ention to 'export' (excretion), that disappoints us foreign visitors." His rather humorous comment is to the point, I think. More and more people in this country have realized that they need modernization in this regard too. Things have improved as one can see here in Shaoshan and other places. Nevertheless, in view of public hygiene, much more work needs to be done before we can reach a satisfactory level in lavatory building and management.



LOU LINWEI

One of the most popular forms of entertainment in Mao's hometown today.

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Shaoshan had been for generations an unknown hilly hamlet until the end of last century when it became the birthplace of the great leader Mao Zedong.

Mao was born on December 26, 1893 to a farmer family. During his childhood, Mao's father gradually raised himself from the position of a middle peasant to a prosperous grain merchant. Mao did not inherit his father's business but instead chose to be a professional revolutionary. He later became a chief founder and leader of the Communist Party of China (1921), the PLA (1927) and the People's Republic of China (1949). He died on September 9, 1976. His remains have since rested in the colonnaded mausoleum in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. No matter how people comment on Mao, he is widely believed to be the greatest Chinese hero with international fame after Confucius (551-479 BC) and Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925).

After Mao achieved greatness, the little village was no longer tranquil. It was something of a national shrine, visited by chains of people from other parts of the

country and abroad. At the height of the chairman's personality cult, namely, during the "cultural revolution," Shaoshan was the "Bethlehem" or "Mecca" of China, and hundreds of thousands of the faithful flocked there every year. It grew very quickly from a small village, with a few dozen households, into a large district. In 1990 it turned into a city, with 100,000 people. A railway, the first in its history, was built in 1967. This was in the second year of the "cultural revolution," during which any economic achievement was regarded as "a great victory of Mao Zedong Thought." So, it then seemed to have more political than economic significance. Today, however, most people value the iron artery from an economic point of view.

The area surrounding the station at the end of this branch of the railway line that ends in downtown Shaoshan, about five km from Mao's old house, has been gradually built and expanded. With its long tree-lined roads and its handsome new architecture, the tiny city is getting more and more attractive. Its street-

side stalls are full of food, clothes, housewares, souvenirs and electric household appliances. Loudspeakers outside stores bellow forth pop songs sung by famous Hong Kong and Taiwan singers, along with historic songs that chant Mao praises set to the rhythm of contemporary disco or pop.

People's ideology has changed too. They no longer live by political catchwords and cant. They are pragmatic businessmen pursuing profit. Consequently, the city is now throbbing with the pulse of all industries, especially tourism. Since early 1980s, about 25 million Chinese and foreign visitors have poured into Shaoshan. Restaurants and hotels, whether they are state-owned, collective or private, are booming. Strolling in the street, I was often stopped by pairs of women who kept asking me, "Wanna eat something?" "Need a hotel?" They are so insistent that they always succeed in "capturing" some customers into their restaurants or hotels, all part of the local mushrooming individual economy, a taboo during the Mao era.

I myself was persuaded by a young woman to stay in her private inn. It was a typical flop-house of two stories, with five beds upstairs. There were no TV sets, carpeting or air conditioners in the rooms, and no facilities except for a one-person latrine cell downstairs. Since most visitors are not rich, dives like this have their market.

The hostess, named Hu Shuli, has never seen Mao, as she was born the very year Mao died. "But I have grown up along with Mao's reputation," Hu said. "My parents have told me a lot about Chairman Mao. I'm proud of him. He is such a great man, otherwise why would so many people come here?" she asked.

Not only this 17-year-old girl cherishes that feeling, all the lo-

cal people I met are proud of Mao. For them, Mao is a sage, a peerless leader. He brings them dignity, happiness, and not least of all, money.

* * *

In June 1959, Mao traced his roots to the town he hadn't seen since 1927. One day the chairman dropped by a house opposite his own and met a few fellow villagers. Mao had his picture taken with the local farmers while chatting with them, and the picture has been famous in this country since (see photo, next page). Tang Ruiren and Mao Xiasheng, two of the farmers who met with Mao, are alive and doing the same business—running restaurants.

Tang's restaurant, named "Maojia Restaurant" (Mao Family Restaurant), is about 50 meters opposite the chairman's old house, so she is regarded as Mao's closest neighbor. This cap-

able woman started her business with only 1.70 yuan in 1984 by selling candies and rice gruel. Three years later she gained enough capital to open a restaurant. Luckily Tang obtained an advantageous location, so her dining room is always full of customers who find it a convenient place to have dinner after visiting Mao's old house. They also enjoy hearing Tang's dramatic story about her meeting with the great leader many years ago. After receiving an average of 100 customers a day during the past five years, Tang has grown into a rich restaurateur and her name has become well-known. But she seemed to have no immediate plans for expansion. She donated money to local infrastructure projects and other public undertakings, turning herself into a philanthropist and social activist.

Tang, 64, still called me "a guest of Chairman Mao," as I was called 27 years ago by the local people. "But for Chairman Mao, you wouldn't come here," she said to me. "Being Mao's neighbor, I always give priority to satisfying my customers like you," Tang added.

I asked how much money she had made. "Money? Not very much. Making money is not my purpose. I just want to serve Chairman Mao's guests, that's all. My prices are the cheapest in this area. It's true that we are well-off now, but I attribute this success to Mao," Tang replied.

Mao Xiasheng was not so fortunate as Tang. He is older, less

capable and sociable, and the location of his restaurant, "Mao Xiasheng Restaurant," is not as good as Tang's—farther from the late chairman's house and other tourist spots. So, his customers are much fewer and the dining room is always empty.

He was sitting in front of his house as I walked by, trying to solicit customers by showing that famous picture of himself with the supreme leader. The old farmer, now 79, appeared to be jealous of Tang's luck and success.

"Let me tell you, young man, Tang Ruiren lined her pockets using that picture," he said to me. "As a matter of fact, Chairman Mao had that picture taken in my house, not hers, as she claimed. It's in my house, understand? She now has 2 million yuan, a real millionairess, and she has clout in our neighborhood. She really boasts money and power," the old man grumbled.

Tang later told me, however, that Mao Xiasheng was wrong about the spot where that historic picture was taken 34 years ago. "The photo was not taken in his house, nor mine. It's in a public canteen in which I was a cook. You know, at that time we all belonged to a people's commune. All communes had their common canteens," explained the old lady.

* * *

Mao Xiasheng's jealousy is understandable. People can not all get rich simultaneously. Some, as the government permits and encourages, will get rich first. The target of the country's modernization drive is common wealth. So far, however, we are far from that target. While people as a whole here in Shaoshan, as well as in other parts of China, are much wealthier than they were 27 years ago, the individual income disparity has become larger also.

Fifty-eight-year-old Mao Zefu is a member of the Mao clan and of the same generation as the late chairman. While their son runs a profitable restaurant, he and his wife are enjoying family life without any financial headaches.

LOU LINWEI



I visited one man, who was not as well-off as the others, 80-year-old Mao Zelian, Chairman Mao's only living cousin. His flat, earthy house seemed as old as its owner, in contrast to those newly built two-story brick houses nearby which make up one third of the local residential houses. Nothing valuable can be seen in his living room, bedroom and kitchen. All the furniture is outdated. No refrigerator, washing machine or common appliances one sees in many other farmers' houses. There is a time-worn radio set on the dining table, something of little worth. He has a TV set, probably the most valuable thing in his home, now

locked in his wife's room. "I am almost blind, I never watch TV. My wife does. Since she is now in the hospital, I lock her room with the TV set inside, for fear that someone might sneak in and steal it," he said.

At present he and his wife receive a government allowance of only 70 yuan a month. With that meager amount I doubted they could eke out a scanty livelihood. "You are right, we certainly couldn't live on that money alone," the old man said to me. "We sell vegetables we plant in our garden and eggs at the free market. Once in a while, my children give us some money. Life has been hard for me, but

we can handle it. Let me put it this way: we fall short of the best but are better than the worst," he said.

He talked in a relatively relaxed way, looking optimistic, but I left his house with a rather heavy heart. While some of the nouveaux riches in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen spend money like water, people like Mao Zelian are using every effort to make a decent life for themselves. Needless to say, to help the poor is still, and will be for a long time, one of the country's major obligations.

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Shaoshan is making progress, so is China; Shaoshan has a bright future, so does the country. Meanwhile, problems, old or new, present or potential, keep us from sitting back and relaxing.

One example is the threat of what I call the "M-cults." The first time I went to Shaoshan the M-cult—"Mao cult" was in full swing. The cult, as it turned out later, brought disasters to the nation. Now, when I made this most recent journey back to Mao's hometown, I found, while people are more aware of the importance of economic effects and profit, that the second M-cult, a "money-cult," is gaining impetus. It is, to some extent, a phenomenon to counter the puritan socialism, equalitarianism and dogma of putting politics above all, which was prevalent during the Mao-fever period. Fortunately, unlike the first M-cult which was then overwhelmingly welcomed across the land, the current M-cult has been criticized by the authorities, the press and people of insight. Now, China is taking measures to fight against corruption which comes as a result of money worship. At the same time, some experts suggest that relative laws be enacted. Based on this, we may say that the campaign to curb the spread of the "money-cult" is hopeful. ■

Chairman Mao Zedong at his birthplace with his fellow villagers Tang Ruiren (holding her boy) and Mao Xiasheng (seated barefoot) in 1959 (upper left). Today, as a locally famous restaurateur, Tang often tells customers of her dramatic meeting with the leader (below center). Mao Xiasheng now sells souvenirs while managing a restaurant (upper right).

HOU BO, LOU LINWEI



Huangshi: A New Star Rises on the Yangtze

by Our Staff Reporter Li Ming

The opening and development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt, which centers on the development of the Shanghai Pudong New Area and the Three Gorges project, has elevated Huangshi in Hubei Province to the forefront of the opening effort. History once again smiled on the city in February 1993 when the State Council approved it as one of the open cities along the Yangtze River and granted it the same preferential policies for open coastal cities.

Although relatively new as a city, Huangshi, nonetheless, has a brilliant history. Soon after it was selected as an open city, Mayor Chen Jiajie, a deputy to the Eighth National People's Congress held last March, talked of the city's history. Huangshi, the birthplace of China's Bronze Culture some 3,000 to 4,000 years ago, helped sustain prosperity in central China during ancient times with its abundant resources and advanced excavating and smelting technologies. Some 100 years

ago, its vast mineral resources attracted the attention of the founders of the Westernization Movement who endeavored to enrich China and strengthen its military power. They built railways and wharfs, opened mines and iron plants, and established the Hanyeping Co.—China's first iron and steel complex, thereby making Huangshi a cradle of modern heavy industry. In the 1950s, Huangshi was listed as one of the nation's key investment sites, and numerous large and medium-sized enterprises

were built or expanded. The city was thus transformed into a famous mineral and metallurgical center and an important raw materials base centered on its mining, smelting and building materials industries.

Huangshi took advantage of the historical opportunity and promptly readjusted its development strategy and developed new ways of thinking to meet the challenges of the opening surge sweeping across the Yangtze River Valley.

Downtown Huangshi.

ZHANG CHENG



Following Pudong and Serving Three Gorges

Huangshi plans to link itself closely with the opening and overall development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt and to realize self-development by serving the belt, particularly Pudong, the so-called "dragon head," and the massive Three Gorges project.

—Huangshi, located in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, is 814 km from Yichang, the dam site for the Three Gorges project. The city is also 982 km from Pudong in the lower reaches of the river and 70 km from Wuhan, the provincial capital. It is a key city and major commercial center in eastern Hubei Province, and will be directly involved in development of remote areas in Hubei, Henan, Jiangxi and Anhui provinces.

—Huangshi abounds in mineral products and is known as "a treasure bowl in south China." The city has enjoyed many unique advantages which allow it to stand out amongst cities along the Yangtze River, and thus it has a vast development potential.

—Its industrial output value ranks eighth amongst the 24 cities along the Yangtze River, and its total economic strength ranks second behind Wuhan. In addition, Huangshi has a number of key enterprises including the Daye Iron Ore Plant, one of the country's 10 strategic iron ore plants; the Daye Steelworks, one of the country's 10 special steel producers; the Daye Non-Ferrous Metals Co., one of the nation's six copper bases; and the Huaxin Cement Plant. These plants are an important source of raw materials for the Yangtze River Economic Belt.

—Huangshi has a highly skilled scientific and technological work force working within a technologically advanced system. The 80,000-odd professional technicians in various sectors ac-



A foreign trade dock at the Huangshi Harbor.

XU KUANFANG

count for some 23 percent of the city's total work force.

—Construction of the Huangshi Economic and Technological Development Zone began last year, and over 200 million yuan has been invested to build infrastructure facilities and transform the old urban area into an area with favorable investment environment. Thus far, the zone has attracted 54 ventures involving total investments of over 992 million yuan, and including 24 foreign-funded enterprises with total investments of US\$45 million. In terms of investment scale, 14 enterprises required investments of over 30 million yuan each, with investments in 27 enterprises reaching 10 million each. At present, six of the enterprises have an annual output value of well over 100 million yuan each. While a large number of the enterprise are operational, others are under construction.

—Huangshi has taken full advantage of the 10,000-ton berthing capability of the Yangtze River Waterway to open shipping routes to Japan, Southeast Asian countries, Hong Kong and Macao. The city is the juncture of six trunk railways, with the Beijing-Guangzhou line passing to the west and the Hangzhou-Nanchang line to the east. A

number of major highways also provide easy access to the city, with Wuhan being located a short 50 minute ride away on the Wuhan-Huangshi Super Highway. The Huangshi Yangtze River Bridge, which is currently under construction, will connect the city more closely to central China. The city also has convenient telecommunications facilities, including computer controlled telephone exchanges, fax services, and radio and mobile telephone services.

Chen Jiajie said that developing Huangshi by depending on the Yangtze River, following the New Pudong Area and serving the Three Gorges is both necessary and feasible. He said Huangshi will use its advantage as a raw materials base to meet the extensive needs of developing and opening the Yangtze River Economic Belt. The city will promote the transformation of operational mechanisms of its large and medium-sized state-owned enterprises, thereby invigorating the strength of its old industrial base.

Transformation to a Shareholding System

In May of this year, relevant departments of Hubei Province and Merrill Lynch Securities Co.

of the United States co-sponsored an International Symposium on Renovation and Listing of Enterprise Shareholding Systems. Following a briefing by Fu Benyi, director of the Huaxin Cement Plant, participants unanimously agreed that the Huaxin Cement Plant was a standard model of a large state-owned enterprise suitable for implementing a shareholding system. According to Fu, "The major advantage our plant has for changing to a shareholding system is its rapid progress. It is therefore very appealing to potential shareholders."

In 1979, the Huaxin Cement Plant won state gold medals for its Five-Ram and Fort brands of cement. The plant has long been known for its reliable high-quality products which are exempt from customs examinations in Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea and in Southeast Asian countries. In 1992, the plant's profits and taxes were 30 percent

higher than other companies in its particular sector. In the past, the plant made great contributions to the construction of key state projects, including the Great Hall of the People, the Asian Games Village, the Gezouba project, the Shenzhen World Trade Center, the Wuhan, Huangshi and Tongling Yangtze River bridges. However, faced with the development of the New Pudong Area and an expanded market in the Yangtze River Economic Belt, the plant has drafted new development plans. The plant will expand its extra kiln decomposition production line and increase production of cement clinkers to 2,000 tons per day. It will cooperate with Nantong City, Jiangsu Province, to establish the Huaxin Nantong Cement Co. which will manufacture 700,000 tons of cement annually to serve Pudong and areas in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River. It will also open a cement plant in Zhicheng, Hubei Province, to provide direct service to the Three Gorges project.

Under the plan, the new Huaxin Group will manufacture over 5 million tons of cement annually. At the same time, the effort to transform the Huaxin Cement Plant into a shareholding system unit will follow the principle of a "high starting point, high quality, high criteria and standardization." In line with the plan, Huaxin will institute the following policies:

—Strict adherence to standard production. Several consultants, including Merrill Lynch Securities

Co. of the United States, have been invited to conduct comprehensive, objective and strict investigations, expositions, assessments and audits;

—Effective readjustment of internal departments. Huaxin will separate its cement production department from other departments which deal in living services and public welfare, and will establish a system of separate staffed departments for those areas, as well as an independent asset management department.

—Guaranteed retirement benefits.

—Feasibility study submissions regarding the establishment of a shareholding company and issue of listed stocks both at home and abroad. Shares will be listed as soon as the plan is approved and the transformation is completed.

Technology Renovation

Huangshi, an old industrial base, is home to a number of enterprises, which like the Huaxin Cement Plant, have vast potential, but operate with outdated equipment. With this in mind, the State Council gave Huangshi the green light to undertake industrial technological renovation. In particular, the Written Reply on the Further Opening of Huangshi stresses that all imported equipment Huangshi needs for technological renovation projects are exempt from import and value-added taxes before the end of 1995, as long as they are in line with the government's industrial policy.

Huangshi is currently making every effort to propel its concentrated large and medium-sized enterprises to the forefront of the opening effort. Such enterprises will take full advantage of preferential policies, give play to the superiorities of their fixed assets and scientific and technological strength, and import high tech-

A Yangtze River highway bridge in Huangshi under construction.
ZHANG CHENG





LIU WENDA

Kangsai-brand T-shirts have won a state gold medal.

nology, advanced equipment and management expertise. They will enter into various forms of cooperative ventures, including joint ventures, both within the city itself and in the new development zone. The older enterprises will thus be able to radiate their newly acquired vigor and vitality.

Cooperative ventures already in place or in the negotiation stages include the following:

—The Huangshi Forging Press Lathe Factory established the Huangshi Forging Press Lathe Co. Ltd in cooperation with foreign partners.

—The Huangshi Cable Plant which used foreign funds to establish the Huangshi Yulong Electronics Co. Ltd.

—The Xialu Iron and Steel Plant which is currently negotiating with a company from the United States to form a new venture with a total investment of US\$180 million and will produce 500,000 tons of steel annually.

—The Daye Non-Ferrous Me-

als Co. plans to import production lines for copper tubing, wire rod, wire and cable.

Striving for Fashion Fame

The Huangshi municipal government decided to use this unique opportunity to make a decisive step. Over the next ten-odd years it plans to turn the industrial city into an open, multi-functional and modern industrial and trade city. It will establish close links with the overall Yangtze River Economic Belt, using the rapid development of tertiary sectors as the

bond. However, one of the most important steps will be to transform Huangshi into a renowned garment city.

Recent statistics revealed that five of every 100 Western-style suits on the Japanese market was manufactured in Huangshi. In recent years, Huangshi has used its raw materials base to surge to the forefront of the domestic garment industry. The city has also entered the international market and is now renowned globally as a garment city.

According to 1992 survey conducted by the China Garment Industrial Corp. concerning the status of the garment manufacturing sector in China's 36 major cities, the profit volume from Huangshi's garment industry ranked third in the country, while its per-capita profits ranked number one. Huangshi has evolved into a modern enterprise group which operates with state-of-the-art equipment and management expertise, and can

manufacture 10 million outfits of clothing per year, including Western-style suits, jackets, T-shirts, the latest fashions and blue jeans.

Over the past three years; Huangshi has allocated over 300 million yuan for the technical renovation of its garment industry, and has absorbed some 60 million yuan in foreign capital. Some 90 percent of its garment enterprises have cooperated with foreign businessmen. For example, the Kangsai Group Co. Ltd. has 12 branch companies, eight of which are joint ventures. Kangsai has become a large garment conglomerate with 60 million yuan in fixed assets and over 2,000 advanced industrial sewing machines. The group manufactures 3.5 million garments per year, some 30 percent of which are for export. At present, the Mailyard Textiles & Garments Industry Group has nine joint venture enterprises and three overseas enterprises. The group, which has registered capital of US\$20 million and an annual output value of 250 million yuan, manufactures 600,000 Western-style suits each year, some 80 percent of which are exported to Japan. Today Mailyard accounts for over 26 percent of China's total export volume of Western-style suits.

Huangshi is accelerating the technological renovation of five garment categories—cotton spinning, knitting, linen and wool. It is also expanding its production capability for garment materials and supplementary materials, and is gradually establishing streamlined production which integrates spinning, dyeing and actual production. In order to become an even more renowned international garment city, Huangshi plans to accelerate the development of joint ventures with a focus on manufacturing Western-style suits, T-shirts and the latest fashions. ■

New Consumer Patterns for Farmers

XINMIN WANBAO
(Xinmin Evening News)

According to a statistical breakdown, improvements in the living conditions of Chinese farming households have involved greater optimization of their living expenses and consumer structure.

In 1992, Chinese farmers allocated living expenses along the following lines: 56.8 percent for foodstuffs, 11.8 percent for consumer goods, 10.3 percent for housing, 8.7 percent for services, 8 percent for clothing and 4.4 percent for fuel.

In 1978, the year before China introduced the policy of reform and opening up, the corresponding figures were: 67.7 percent for foodstuffs, 12.7 percent for clothing, 7.1 percent for fuel, 6.6 percent for daily necessities, 3.2 percent for housing and 2.7 percent for service. It is quite evident that the proportion of basic necessities such as sustenance, garments and fuel, has dropped year by year, while the share of housing, personal and service items has increasingly expanded.

Food. Nutrition levels have improved noticeably. Per-capita annual grain consumption among

farming families is 250 kg, with flour and rice making up 80 percent. Per-capita daily intake of calories exceeds the basic standard 2,400 kilocalories recommended by nutrition and public health departments. Protein and calorie absorption are close to the average world level of the early 80s.

Clothing. This features high quality and new styles. Per-capita annual consumption among farming households amounts to 0.8 meters of cotton cloth and 1.9 meters of synthetic textiles. Some 97 percent of garments are bought from markets.

Housing. Space is increasing and the grade is rising. Per-capita living area is about 20 square meters. More than 85 percent of new houses are built with wood, bricks and reinforced concrete and over 30 percent have two or more storeys. Nowadays, 66 percent of farming residences are made with the aforementioned materials.

Personal goods. Chinese farmers have plunged into substantial purchases of durable consumer goods. On average each farming household has more than two timepieces and one bike. There is one sewing machine and one radio for every two households. Some 61 percent of families own televisions, while 60 percent have electric fans and 21 percent own radio-cassette recorders.

(October 14, 1993)

'Odd-job Fever' on Campuses

XINMIN WANBAO
(Xinmin Evening News)

"Odd-job fever" is spreading quickly on collegiate campuses in China. Disappointed by the poor service provided by temporary workers hired from the general populace, a restaurant turned to institutions of higher learning, seeking 15 recruits. When its notice was put up at a university, the prospective employers worried that students would set high demands and lack enthusiasm. However, the results far exceeded their expectations since 300 students put down their names.

Not long ago, Shanghai twice sponsored professional personnel markets for university students engaged in work-study programs. A total of 17,000 students participated, demonstrating the momentum behind part-time employment for co-eds.

Some students perform manual work, acting as attendants for hotels, restaurants and shops or looking after stalls for private business house-

holds, or washing cars in front of hotels. Most, however, draw on their brains in fields such as accounting or computers, translation of information, marketing surveys, sales promotion of new products or graphic design. Thus, highly technical pursuits are a salient feature in this craze.

Remuneration is not low. Students can earn at least 200-300 yuan a month and some take in as much as 600-700 yuan. In the summer vacation, one individual returned to his hometown to run a class for unsuccessful takers of college entrance examinations. The tuition was well received and the student also earned a handsome income.

Most students who tackle temporary jobs are interested in combining study and work. There are two reasons behind this: First, they can gain earnings which can be used for their books and tuition and daily needs. Second, the knowledge and ability they obtain will help promote their special knowledge while their contact with society can help adjust them to its reality and make graduation decisions.

(September 27, 1993)

Tourist Information

New Sino-Nepalese border routes. Yali, Korqag and Xide passages were recently opened to tourists and business travellers, supplementing the sole existing Zham passage crossing between China and Nepal. In 1992, cross-border travellers shot up to more than 100,000.

Sino-Vietnamese border posts open. After a hiatus of 14 years, the two state-level ports of Hekou in China and Laokay in Viet Nam recommenced operations recently. Holders of diplomatic or service passports or ordinary passports on official business do not need visas to enter or leave either country. Active visas are essential for those holding tourist passports. Both sides cater for nationals from third states with appropriate visas.

More Muslim tourist attractions. Major tourist cities in China are qualified to promote the Muslim tourist market. The State Administration for Tourism is organizing local development of Muslim tourist appeal in an effort to turn China into a major tourist resort for Muslims worldwide.

New East China air routes. Ningbo (Zhejiang Province)-Changsha (Hunan Province), 830 km; Nantong (Jiangsu Province)-Beijing, 1,080 km; Nantong-Nanjing (Jiangsu Province), 150 km; Yantai (Shandong Province)-Xian (Shaanxi Province), 1,250 km; Hefei (Anhui Province)-Xian; Hefei-Harbin (Heilongjiang Province); Hefei-Fuzhou (Fujian Province); and Xiamen (Fujian Province)-Luoyang (Henan Province).

New Guilin airport. Recently, the state approved investment of 900 million yuan to construct the Liangjiang Airport in Guilin, the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The passenger handling capacity is designed to reach 5 million people by 2005 and 2,500 people per hour at peak times. ■

The Guiyang-Huangguoshu Route

Southwest China's Guizhou Province boasts many beautiful natural sights. Among these, well-known state scenic spots are the Huangguoshu Falls, Dragon Palace, Hongfeng Lake, Zhijin Karst Cave and Wuyang River. The following itinerary can take visitors to most of these places:

Day one: Qianling Park, northern suburbs of Guiyang City. Qianling Mountain, known as the premier peak in south Guizhou, is topped by the famous Hongfu Temple. At the foot of the green mountains nestles the Qianling Lake. Huaxi, a good outing spot 17 km southwest of the park, has bridges, streams, fountains, flowers and bird choruses.

Day two: Hongfeng Lake. This largest man-made lake in Guizhou offers vistas of slopes, trees and caves. Nearby are local Dong and Miao folk vil-

lages established as tourist attractions.

Day three: Zhijin Karst Cave. It is said to be one of the biggest, most comprehensive, eerie and beautiful lava caves so far developed for tourism anywhere on the earth. Colorful stalactites, incandescent as white marble, shine brightly when caught by flashlight.

Day four: Huangguoshu Falls, Tianxingqiao (Heavenly Star Bridge) and Dragon Palace in Anshun.

The Huangguoshu Falls, 81 meters wide and 74 meters high, are the largest in China and rank fourth in the world. Rushing torrents drop down into the Xiniu (Rhinoceros) Pool and dash on the rocks below. The amazing crescendo can be heard several miles away. The cliff behind the cascade has a natural cave that enables visitors to cross behind the falls, holding umbrellas to protect themselves from the spray.

Tianxingqiao is located 6 km down from the falls. The valley resembles a gallery of landscape paintings, providing a picturesque walking path.

The 15-km Dragon Palace conjures up visions of the gorgeous Crystal Palace of the Dragon King of legends. An 800-meter length from the Tianchi (Heavenly) Pool to Bangyan (Oyster) Rock is now open to sightseers.

During this trip, travellers can buy local products such as Anshun batik, Huaxi Pear Wine, Chinese medicinal herbs such as *Gastrodia elata* and *Eucommia ulmoides* as well as ethnic handicrafts.

by Kou Zhengling

Tourism in Brief

● **Silk Road Park for Xian:** A 28.4-hectare park is to be built to recreate the Silk Road in miniature in the city. The park will include four sections: a garden with scenery typical of the route, Zuchi Garden, a trade hall and a children's garden. Total required investment is 260 million yuan. At present the project is attracting foreign capital.

● **Crocodile Lake:** Located in Xiadu Forest Farm 5 km from Xuanzhou City in southern Anhui Province, the Yangtze River Crocodile Breeding Research Center covers an area of 100 hectares. The picturesque center has 20 man-made pools that contain over 4,000 crocodiles. It has become a new scenic spot for tourists.

● **Lushun Snake Island:** The island was partially opened to overseas and domestic tourists recently. Situated in the Bohai Bay, 25 km sea miles northwest of Lushun in Liaoning Province, the island covers a total area of 0.73 square km. With steep slopes and deep gullies overgrown with grass, plants and trees, the island is home to over 15,000 pallas pit vipers. In 1990, it was listed as a state-level nature reserve. ■

Ad Trade Links With Global Market

Efforts are being made to link China's advertising sector with the international market at the earliest possible date. In early November, the Advertisement Department of the State Administration of Industry and Commerce (SAIC), the China Entrepreneurs Association, the China International Advertisement Co., and Dentsu, Young and Rubicam jointly sponsored the '93 China High-Grade Advertisement Symposium in Beijing. The symposium provided participants with the opportunity to probe the development of international advertising and its markets.

Liu Baofu, director of the SAIC Advertisement Department, provided an introduction on the current status of China's ad industry and ideas for reform. He said that China's ad industry has taken shape over the past 10-odd years. Today, China has more than 24,000 advertisement companies, with 240,000 employees. In the first six months of this year, the turnover for advertising hit 4.28 billion yuan, and is expected to top 8 billion yuan for the year.

Liu pointed out problems which have surfaced in the trade, including shortage of macro-planning and guidance, sluggish operational mechanisms, an irrational industrial structure and chaotic operations. Liu added that advertising in China falls far behind that in developed countries.

According to Liu, the cur-

rent reform of China's advertising sector will initially center on the market and the introduction of competitive mechanisms, so as to foster excellence and discard obsolete practices. An agency advertising system will be implemented in line with the development trends of the international advertising market. Referring to common international practices, the relevant authorities will also reform advertising management system and adopt an examination system centered on in-depth scrutinization of advertisements prior to their release.

In 1986, Dentsu, Young and Rubicam, one of the world's most famous advertising firms, established China's first advertisement joint venture in Beijing. Representatives from its branches worldwide presented excellent reports during the symposium.

by Feng Jing

China to Become PCT Member State

China will officially become a signatory to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) on January 1, 1994. The China Patent Office (CPO) applied for signatory status on September 13, 1993 with the approval of the State Council.

Development of international patent coordination continues to expand, and countries worldwide are paying greater attention to intellectual property rights. Participation in such an authoritative organization will have a profound impact on China's efforts to open further to the

outside world and expand its international competitive edge.

Patent protection in China has progressed rapidly in recent years, and the new patent law implemented on January 1 of this year greatly expanded the range of protection. The new law extends the protection of the patent for invention to the processes for the manufacturing of new products using the patent, lengthens the term of patents, and adds stipulations on giving priority to domestic patents and inflicting punishment on those who infringe on patent rights. These rectifications have brought China's patent protection level into line with international standards, creating conditions for China's re-entry into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Recently, the General Secretary of the World Intellectual Property Organization, said that China has become one of the world's leaders in terms of patent protection. He noted that the CPO is one of the top five patent agencies in the world.

Between January and September this year, the CPO accepted a total of 57,306 patent applications, up 22 percent over last year's same period. Foreign applications increased sharply during the period. ■

ZIC Opens Office In Beijing

The Zurich Insurance Co (ZIC), a comprehensive transnational corporation which is No.1 in Switzerland and No.2 for all of

Europe, officially opened a representative office in Beijing on November 4.

According to Frank Schnew Lin, executive deputy president of ZIC, the board of directors of ZIC decided to open an office in China in early 1992. He said their decision was based on China's expanded reform and opening to the outside world. The rapid development of China's economy and its attractive investment environment will surely attract large numbers of foreign investors, and many of them will become customers of ZIC, said Lin. The Beijing office will provide foreign businessmen with timely and convenient insurance guarantees. Tian Feng, chief representative of ZIC's Beijing office, said that ZIC has already provided insurance for a number of transnational corporations that have made investment in China, including Siemens, General Motors Co., Schindler Co. Ltd. and Nescafe.

In 1986, the chairman of the board of ZIC visited China and signed a cooperative agreement with the People's Insurance Co. of China (PICC). Since that time, the two companies have engaged in numerous business exchanges and cooperative projects. For example, ZIC provided sub-insurance for PICC's foreign businesses in London and Switzerland, and helped PICC train a large number of staff.

Lin said that there are bright prospects for Asia, one of the world's most rapidly developing regions, and that China is one of the region's pillars. As such, China has a

vast potential insurance market and bright prospects for the future. ZIC hopes to contribute to China's reform and opening up, and the development of its insurance industry. ■

New Data Source to Be Set Up in Shanghai

Shanghai has become the biggest information center in China. The city's joint data network linked on-line with the State Information Center, provides comprehensive electronic and economic data to the public.

The Shanghai network fully draws on ample information resources and advanced telecommunications technology. Jointly established by the Shanghai municipal people's government and the Shanghai Post and Telecommunications Administration, it obtains materials from ministries and commissions under the State Council and commissions and bureaus of the Shanghai people's government.

After analysis and sifting, the network creates an open database that contains 500,000 Chinese characters. Daily updates are in the region of 200,000 Chinese characters. These cover: economic news, planning, policies, regulations, finance, stock market quotes, foreign trade and global trends, real estate, industry, transport, agriculture, urban construction, means of production and livelihood, commodity supply, foreign investment and ties, scientific trends, new products and technology, public services, and post and telecommunica-

tions, as well as six markets and 16 specialized markets. All data services offered by the Shanghai network are authoritative, practical, prompt and portray leading trends.

by Liao Ye

UK Bank Develops China Business

The board of directors of the Standard and Chartered Banking Group recently celebrated in Beijing the 135th anniversary of the founding of the bank's China branches. Speaking at a news conference following the meeting, the board members expressed their confidence in China's economic development and announced that the bank would expand its business in China.

The London-based international financial institution currently has five representative offices and seven branches in China, the largest number of such establishments possessed by a foreign bank in China.

Since it resumed business activities in China in 1986, Standard and Chartered has granted the country US\$1.2 billion of loans, in addition to indirect loans of US\$2 billion offered by its Hong Kong branches to Chinese-funded enterprises. The Standard and Chartered (Asia) Co. Ltd. has actively sold B-shares issued by the Shanghai and Shenzhen securities exchanges, with aggregate sales reaching HK\$3.9 billion in 1992. Standard and Chartered Bank is a B-share clearing bank sanctioned by the two securities exchanges. ■

Oldies Evoke Memories of Mao

The bright rays of Chairman Mao are shining over the snow mountains....” The melodious chords and familiar strains took tens of thousands of listeners back to the memorable Mao Zedong Era.

One of numerous oldies, the number was rendered by Cedan Zhoima, a 56-year-old Tibetan singer, at a major concert entitled “Ode to Mao Zedong” staged on the evening of the National Day this year in Beijing. The nongovernmental event was designed to mark the centennial this coming December 26 of the birth of the late Chairman Mao.

Cedan Zhoima, now vice-chairwoman of the People’s Political Consultative Conference of the Tibet Autonomous Region and deputy head of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, became famous overnight in the 1950s for first performing *The Radiance of Chairman Mao* in redolent Tibetan fashion. During the recent concert, clad in ethnic costume and clasping *hada*, she again presented this widely known song dedicated to Mao’s birth as well as those who grew up in his period. The clear and melodious singing of Cedan Zhoima imbued with the deep gratitude of emancipated serfs to Mao aroused a sympathetic response from the audience, bringing tears to many eyes.

Cedan Zhoima was among scores of performers present who did the original versions of anthems to Mao from the 1950s to 1970s. The China Record Co., sponsor of the concert, invited these artists who are in their 50s and 60s to tread the boards once more, hoping to provide them with the chance to once more bring to life the emotional voice and aspirations of their generation. The company plans to record the precious old songs as his-

torical archives for posterity.

Designers and directors of the concert were all born in the 1950s. Their childhood and youth were spent during the Mao era so those days are etched deep in their memories. The plan to organize the concert originated from a fleeting thought of Yang Xiaolin, an ordinary music editor.

On a snow-swept morning early this year, Yang, who is the same age as the republic, was on his way to work when one of Mao’s poems, *Snow*, suddenly flashed across his mind. The melody of the song rang repeatedly in his ears. He drafted an idea for a concert in his head. On reaching the office, Yang told his idea to his colleague Li Conghui. The latter happened to share a similar thought. They were both so excited that they burst into song for an extended interval, standing before the window and facing the large piles of snow outside.

“Our plan about the concert formed on that white day was not an impulse of the moment. It was the product of long pent-up emotions,” Yang said.

Jin Wei, a composer, was another organizer. Several years ago, he dubbed background music for *Red Sun*, a tape of “cultural revolution” songs, which has been popular nationwide in recent times. Jin mixed solos with choruses and sound undulating from weakness to strength, thus creating a sacred atmosphere and lyric mood in which the sun rises from Mao’s birthplace of Shaoshan. The professional technique full encapsulates the composer’s deep recollections of past eras.

Hu Songhua, a 61-year-old famous tenor of Manchu extraction, is a veteran with a 43-year singing career. Over three decades ago, Hu became well known for *Paeon*, a song with Mongolian

flavor eulogizing Mao. He emotionally performed the song again at the concert. Hu said that in past years he had travelled all over the country and been to regions of 48 different ethnic groups. Keeping Mao’s words, “Our art and literature are for the masses” in mind Hu sang for local people wherever he went.

In past decades, Liu Bingyi, Lu Wenke, Ma Yutao, Li Wenzhang and Fang Chushan were among numerous singers to premier praises of the late chairman and adaptations of Mao’s poems to music. They trod the stage again to perform the old faithfuls that embody the ideology, beliefs and musical features of that age. The songs included *Advance to the High Hinggan Mountains*, *The Song of Karamay*, *The Yanbian People Love Chairman Mao* and *Great Beijing*. The words and melodies are still fresh in the minds of those who were born or grew up in Mao’s time.

While singers of Cedan Zhoima’s age attended to show their love and gratitude to Mao, their younger counterparts such as Zhang Baomo and Su Xiaoming did so out of respect and reverence for the late chairman. Their mode of thinking was formed in the Mao period. Although middle-aged and with experience living abroad, they still cherish deep emotions about Mao, which tie in with their undying attachment to their native land and past ages. Their singing thus revealed a mood different from that of older artists.

Li Lingyu, the lead on *Red Sun*, represented the current generation of singers who extoll Mao. At the concert she sang Mao’s poem, *Reply to Li Shuyi*, in her sweet voice. Li said her inspiration came from recalling how mother would weep gently whenever she listened to old num-

bers.

As the concert neared its end, Guo Lanying, a 63-year-old folk singer, appeared on the stage for the first time in 11 years. Her contribution was the song, *My Motherland*, once heard in every corner of China. Guo's resonant graceful singing accompanied by a 500-voice chorus stirred the 18,000 people present in the audience to spontaneously join in. Momentarily, voices merged, rising and falling like waves, and pushing the entire performance to its climax when the curtain fell. ■

Beijing Numismatics Museum Opens

The Beijing Numismatics Museum, founded by the Beijing Antique and Numismatics Co., formally opened to the public on October 28. It is located in the rebuilt Zhenwu Temple under the Desheng City Gate Tower. The well-preserved tower, formerly part of one of the most magnificent gates on the old city wall, was the place from which ancient Chinese emperors led their armies to the battlefield.

The Ancient Chinese Coins and Currency Exhibition, the first show of the museum, covers an area of about 300 square meters. On display are more than 1,000 pieces, including over 100 rare ancient coins and other currency. The most valuable exhibits include the hoof-shaped gold ingots of the Han Dynasty (206BC-220AD), circular copper coins of the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) bearing special imperial court inscriptions and the gold coins of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

Chinese use of money can be traced back to the Shang and Zhou dynasties (16th Century BC-221BC). The earliest type was cowry shells. However, with the development of a commodity economy, there were not enough to satisfy market demand, so



From left to right: Cowry shell. Banliang. Wuzhu. Kaiyuan tongbao.

clams, bones, jade and stones fashioned to resemble shells took their place. With the advent of metal, people began to use bronze for the same purpose and thus metal coinage came into being. However, the non-metal varieties remained popular.

During the Spring and Autumn and Warring States period (770-221BC), the central court lost its power over its vast empire. The country became divided into independent princedoms and this led to more diverse forms of money going into circulation.

When Emperor Qin Shihuang (259-210BC) unified China, he also standardized the currency system. Round coins with a square hole in the center were made the official money. In 118 BC, Emperor Wudi of the Han Dynasty ordered a new coinage called *wuzhu* after the unit of weight and dynasties in the following 730 years, including Eastern Han (25-220), Wei (220-265), Jin (265-420) and Sui (581-618), all used the same title for their money.

In 621, Emperor Gaozu of the Tang Dynasty changed the name to *kaiyuan tongbao* and started the practice of designating money as *tongbao* or *yuanbao*. These terms were in general use until the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

The exhibition provides an overview of the evolution of Chinese money and gives the visitor the chance to appreciate rare ancient items. Also on show are replicas produced in modern times. Perusal of them can help numismatists refine their ability to uncover fakes. The museum also offers consultancy services. The exhibition will last till January next year.

The recreated Zhenwu Temple has been gone up on the original foundations of the former building. Its design is based on descriptions recorded in *Beijing: Walls and Towers* published by a Swede in 1924, plus archaeological discoveries.

by Wei Liming

New Herbal Remedy For Heart Disease

The Cardialgia Relief Oral Fluid, a new herbal medicine listed in the directory of essential drugs for emergency rooms in hospitals of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) nationwide, has gained remarkable clinical results in recent years. It has been granted the Award For Outstanding Contribution at the Fifth World Seminar of TCM held in California, USA. It has also won the National Award for Important Scientific and Technological Progress in TCM from the State Administration of TCM.

The ingredients consists of pure natural Chinese herbs gathered through modern scientific production means. The medicine can expand the coronary arteries, increase blood circulation volume and improve myocardial blood flow diminution, protect the heart from myocardial necrosis and reduce oxygen consumption by the muscular tissue of the heart. It has remarkable effect on sudden coronary heart attacks and no side-effects. The remedy's outstanding curative results have been recognized by doctors of Western medicine.

by Cui Lili

Irish Assault on the Great Wall

by Lew Baxter

Chinese tourists striding along the Great Wall were astounded when they discovered that many of the close-knit band of foreigners rushing past them, often on the steepest inclines, were blind or suffering from serious neurological complaints.

More than 80 walkers from the Republic of Ireland in Europe had flown to Beijing to embark on a 200-km assault on the Wall to raise funds for the National Council for the Blind of Ireland and the Richmond Brain Foundation, the country's leading charity helping fight diseases of the nervous system.

And three of them, all blind, tackled two of the toughest stretches of the 6,350-km wall; first taking on 18 km of the Jinshanling line to Simatai which rises, at its highest point to 700 meters up into the rugged mountains, and then the 25-km section from Badaling to Juyongguan, another day long trek over wild and rocky terrain.

Sixty others, some who have been struck down by brain tumors or nervous diseases, also completed the gruelling passages.

And the plucky visitors, who created a stir wherever they travelled because of their lively personalities and wit, raised over a staggering US\$220,000 from patrons back home in Ireland for the two charities: that's more than one and a half million yuan!

Spokesman Eamon Duffy, who helps coordinate such events for the National Council for the Blind, explained that all of the volunteer participants had been urged to seek US\$4,000 in sponsorship, otherwise the adventure couldn't take place.

"Such was the generosity of the Irish people and the business community — all fired by the passion and imagination of the project —

that everyone succeeded in raising the cash," he said.

"After travel expenses it left over US\$2,700 from each of the party for the charities, who look after other people with such disabilities," he added.

The tour was organized by the China Travel Service whose offices in London and Beijing worked closely together to make it run smoothly. Overseas Sales Manager in Beijing Galton Gao said, "This was the first time in our knowledge that blind people and others with such serious disabilities have conquered the Great Wall, especially along some of the hardest parts. We were amazed yet delighted to be a part of the successful venture."

Han Lili, the Chinese Ambassador in Dublin, Ireland's capital city, wished the walkers well before they left saying, "You will be inspired to marvel at this Chinese ancient monument and realize the long-cherished desire of people worldwide to see the only man-made structure which can be seen from the Moon."

Meanwhile, the three blind walkers, 54-year-old Joe Bollard, a professional musician, 26-year-old Paula Duff and Dublin housewife Jenny Hollingsworth, and all their colleagues taking part, praised the help and support they had received from the China Travel Service and its staff.

Bollard, who also hosts a weekly radio show for the blind on Ireland's national RTE station, said, "Our Chinese hosts were really wonderful. I will have no hesitation in recommending my listeners and friends to visit China after this."

Mary Hynes, chief executive of the Richmond Brain Foundation, added, "We found there were no

communication problems at all even though we spoke different languages. I think this sort of experience transcends national barriers and we fell in love with China and its people."

And Eamon Duffy concluded, "The China Travel Service was the best outfit I have ever worked with on foreign trips and we've organized them in America, Europe and Australia."

As one of the first to finish the tough Jinshanling hike, Joe Bollard, who became blind at two years of age after a medical mistake, declared that it was the most exciting day of his life.

"I vowed many years ago that being blind would not prevent me enjoying life but this has been the pinnacle of everything I have ever done. It was a journey into the unknown and that is what life is all about. I have made so many new friends that I am determined to return one day," he said.

Apart from the Great Wall, the party also visited the Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City in Beijing, the Summer Palace at Chengde and after viewing the fabled Terracotta Warriors at Xian trooped together the 15 km to the Huaqing Hot Springs and then a further 12 km to the Neolithic Village at Banpo.

Several Irish celebrities had joined in the adventure including well-known comedian Paul Malone who kept up the group's spirits and Joe Duffy, a presenter from Ireland's most popular television programs, *The Gay Byrne Show*.

Joe is preparing a program about the trip and said, "Two weeks ago we were delighted when the first ever Irish person climbed Everest but this is an ever greater record breaking achievement."

Their last taste of traditional China was a farewell Peking Duck banquet in Beijing attended by Thelma Doran, the Irish Ambassador to China who said she was very proud of their efforts. ■



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ART PAGE



Vast River Flows Through Mountain Range.



Mountain Village in the Spring.

Paintings by Wu Rongwen

Wu Rongwen, a native of Chaozhou City, Guangdong Province, was born in 1940. He is a council member of the Guangdong Provincial Artists Association and chairman of the Chaozhou Municipal Artists Association, as well as director of the Chaozhou Studio of Fine Art. His beautiful landscape paintings, which feature green mountains, beautiful rivers, bushes and houses, are delicate and reveal the extent of his deep artistic concepts.



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