

6th friendship meet attended by Chinese delegation

# US-China convention plans broad outreach

**Detroit—**The U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association welcomed 450 delegates here over the Labor Day Weekend to its 6th annual convention—the first since the historic normalization of relations between the U.S. and China on Jan. 1 of this year.

Among many resolutions, the convention adopted a new statement of principles, which reaffirmed the association's goal "to build active and lasting friendship based on mutual understanding" between the people of the U.S. and China. Referring to the persistent pro-Taiwan lobby in the U.S. and the two-China policy of some U.S. government officials, the USCPFA clearly stated that it supported "the declaration of both governments recognizing that the resolution of the status of Taiwan is the internal affair of China."

The special highlight of the convention was the gala reception given a touring delegation from the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (YOUXIE). This delegation was led by Wang Bingnan, President of YOUXIE and member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

In his remarks to the convention, Wang thanked his hosts, noted the "excellent outreach" of the USCPFA, and outlined the great potential for building people-to-people friendship. Friendly relations, he said, "now can



**CHINESE REPRESENTATIVE Wang Bingnan (left) addresses U.S.-China Friendship Assoc. convention. At right is Unita Blackwell, chairman.**

(Call photo)

never stop and will always grow. We must continue to defend our friendship and safeguard the unity between our two countries," said Wang.

This idea—that the work of the association was far from over with the achievement of normalization—was reflected in the res-

olutions concerning broader and more consistent outreach work, people-to-people exchanges, development of the resource center for schools, the Center for U.S.-China Relations and organizational measures to help strengthen the association's work.

Retiring Co-chairperson Frank Pestana noted, "Normalization is now behind us; the focus cannot remain where it was." Pestana targeted the key tasks of outreach to workers' and minority organizations and leadership, a purposeful tours program, and increased educational work and exchanges in order to advance the overall work. Alluding to the Soviet Union, Pestana urged the USCPFA to "oppose hegemonism where any nation tries to dominate others and seek world control."

Re-elected chairperson Unita Blackwell, Mayor of Mayersville, Miss., also stressed, "The USCPFA has a great potential. In broadening our outreach work, we must open up our organization and continue to work for a membership and friendship association which can move the masses of people."

The convention also sponsored several lively educational programs including speakers on China's foreign policy, trade unions, educational system, energy planning, legal system and others.

Dr. Paul Lin, Professor of History and Director of the Center for East Asian Studies at McGill University in Canada, presented the keynote banquet address on China's campaigns for "modernization and democratization."

Tracing China's history from feudal times to the anti-imperialist wars of the past century, Dr.

Lin noted China's "continual search for modernization and democratization" against "semi-colonial, semi-feudal system of oppression." After liberation in 1949, he said, "great progress was made" toward both these goals. However, "the gang of four demagogically manipulated the innovative Cultural Revolution in 1966 to build an era of economic stagnation and political McCarthyism under socialism."

After the defeat of the gang, Dr. Lin stated, "China is back on the socialist road." According to him, while many mistakes may be made, "modernization has become the decisive trend in China's current history." This trend, he said, is "irreversible because it is a continuation of the process and demands of the people over the past 120 years."

Dr. Lin upheld China's economic policy of self-reliance while trading with foreign countries to fill in "technological gaps."

Finally, Dr. Lin warned of the "recent aggression of the Soviet Union" and stated that "the timing of China's modernization is absolutely necessary for the peace and future of the world."

Armed with a better understanding of China, a stronger organizational apparatus, and the great opportunities provided by full diplomatic relations, the USCPFA delegates resolved to consolidate and build much broader ties of long-lasting friendship between the American and Chinese peoples.