

# PEKING REVIEW

11

March 14, 1975

北  
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周  
報

**Historical Tasks of the Dictatorship  
Of the Proletariat**

**Cambodian People's Triumphant  
Advance Is Irresistible**

**OPEC Summit Meeting**

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# PEKING REVIEW

北京周報

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## Comrades Wang Hung-wen And Wu Kuei-hsien Meet Comrade Mijal

Wang Hung-wen, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Wu Kuei-hsien, Alternate Member of the Political Bureau of the C.P.C. Central Committee, met and had a cordial and friendly conversation on March 5 with Kazimierz Mijal, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Poland.

Comrades Wang Hung-wen and Wu Kuei-hsien gave a banquet in honour of Comrade Mijal after the meeting.

Present on both occasions were Keng Piao, Member of the C.P.C. Central Committee and Head of the International Liaison Department of the C.P.C. Central Committee, and Chang Hsiang-shan, Deputy Head of the International Liaison Department.

## Prime Minister Lopes Ends China Visit

Henri Lopes, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of the Congo, Mme. Lopes and the Government Delegation

led by him ended their China visit on March 8.

The distinguished Congolese guests visited Peking, Shanghai, Shaoshan, Kwangchow, Kweilin and other places. While on Hainan Island, they visited Haikou City, and Tunchang County, an advanced unit in Kwangtung Province in learning from Tachai, national pace-setter in agriculture.

## International Working Women's Day Celebrated

The Peking Municipal Women's Federation gave a tea party on March 8 in the Great Hall of the People to celebrate International Working Women's Day.

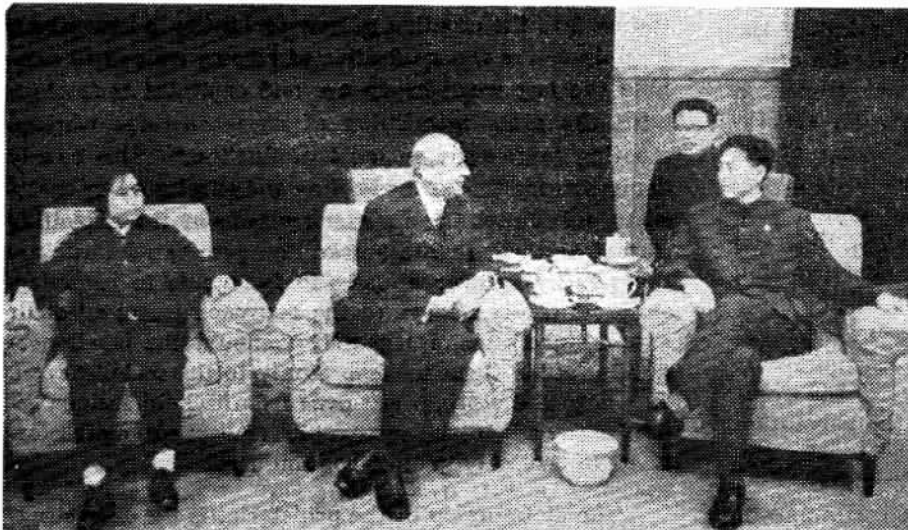
Among the more than 1,400 who attended the party were: Wu Kuei-hsien, Vice-Premier; Li Su-wen, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; women Members and Alternate Members of the Central Committee of the C.P.C.; women Members of the N.P.C. Standing Committee; women Ministers; Madame Sihanouk; women guests from various countries as well as women representatives from all walks of life in the capital.

Fu Yu-fang, Chairman of the Peking Municipal Women's Federa-

tion, who addressed the gathering, said: "Under the leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China headed by Chairman Mao, the broad masses of Chinese women have since the founding of the People's Republic of China undergone tremendous changes in both their political status and mental outlook. Particularly in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius, they have assiduously studied works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and by Chairman Mao and have further shattered the bonds of old ideas and old conceptions. Regarding their work as a part of the world revolution, they are fighting vigorously and confidently on various fronts and have made their contributions."

"Together with the rest of the Chinese people, they now are conscientiously studying our great leader Chairman Mao's instruction on the question of theory and are determined to carry the continued revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat through to the end. They are grasping revolution and promoting production and other work and preparedness against war, striving for the fulfilment of various fighting tasks set forth by the Fourth National People's Congress, so as to build our motherland into a powerful modern socialist country."

"At present," Fu Yu-fang continued, "the international situation is developing in a direction favourable to the people. Women of various countries are winning one victory after the other in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism and to win and defend national independence and safeguard state sovereignty, as well as in their fight for women's rights and emancipation. Bearing Chairman Mao's teachings in mind, we Chinese women will, as always, together with the



Comrades Wang Hung-wen and Wu Kuei-hsien meet Comrade Mijal.

(Continued on p. 8.)

# Historical Tasks of the Dictatorship Of the Proletariat

— Notes on studying "A Great Beginning"

by Chou Szu

**A GREAT BEGINNING** is a brilliant work written by Lenin in 1919 in which he highly appraised the "communist subbotniks" [voluntary labour on Saturdays]. On the basis of the fundamental Marxist theory of the state and the practical experience of the dictatorship of the proletariat after the October Revolution, Lenin penetratingly expounded the historical tasks of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Today, in the excellent situation when the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution has won great victories and the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius has scored big successes, conscientiously studying this work by Lenin in conjunction with the concrete practice of China's revolutionary struggle helps us deepen our understanding of the Party's basic line, keep to the socialist road, persevere in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat and win still greater victories.

## The Only Road to Communism

The theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat is the quintessence of Marxism. Marx said: "**Between capitalist and communist society lies the period of the revolutionary transformation of the one into the other. There corresponds to this also a political transition period in which the state can be nothing but the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat.**" (*Critique of the Gotha Programme*.) It is a great forward leap in the history of social development of mankind and a step of decisive significance towards communism that the proletariat becomes the ruling class after overthrowing the reactionary rule of the bourgeoisie and seizing state power. However, this is only the beginning of the revolutionary transition from capitalist society to communist society and, as pointed out in the *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, it is only "**the first step in the revolution by the working class.**" To fulfil its historical tasks, the proletariat must use its political rule to build, consolidate and develop socialism. Without the dictatorship of the proletariat, socialism cannot be built, and even if

it is set up, socialism cannot consolidate and develop. The dictatorship of the proletariat is the only road to communism. It is imperative to uphold this dictatorship throughout the historical period of socialism, "**like food and clothing, this power is something a victorious people cannot do without even for a moment.**" (Mao Tsetung: *Why It Is Necessary to Discuss the White Paper*.)

What are the historical tasks of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the whole historical period of socialism — the period of transition from capitalism to communism? In *A Great Beginning*, Lenin pointed out: "**In order to achieve victory, in order to build and consolidate Socialism, the proletariat must fulfil a twofold or dual task: first, it must, by its supreme heroism in the revolutionary struggle against capital, win over the entire mass of the toilers and exploited; it must win them over, organize them and lead them in the struggle to overthrow the bourgeoisie and utterly suppress its resistance. Second, it must lead the whole mass of the toilers and exploited, as well as all the petty-bourgeois strata, into the road of new economic construction, into the road to the creation of new social ties, a new labour discipline, a new organization of labour, which will combine the last word in science and capitalist technology with the mass association of class-conscious workers creating large-scale socialist production.**" This clearly demonstrates that after leading the revolutionary masses to overthrow the reactionary rule of the exploiting classes and seize state power, the proletariat must use the political power already in its hands to resolutely suppress the resistance of the bourgeoisie and all other exploiting classes, thoroughly remould the small producers, guide them to keep firmly to the socialist road, eliminate the vestiges left over from the old society, establish the new social system of socialism and march forward to the lofty goal of communism.

The dictatorship of the proletariat is the class struggle carried out by the proletariat with state power as its

instrument. As Lenin pointed out, the proletariat should be engaged primarily in the main and fundamental task of "overcoming the resistance of the bourgeoisie, of vanquishing the exploiters, of crushing their conspiracy"; this is "natural and inevitable." After seizing state power, the proletariat puts an end to the reactionary rule of the exploiting classes. However, its struggle against the bourgeoisie and all other exploiting classes does not end here. On the contrary, this struggle becomes more extensive, acute and violent. Not reconciled to their extinction, the overthrown exploiting classes inevitably turn their hope for restoration into attempts at restoration. With fury grown tenfold and hatred grown a hundredfold, they carry out a desperate struggle against the proletariat in a vain attempt to recapture their lost power and ruling position. In addition to taking the field themselves, they pay special attention to recruiting agents from within the Party of the proletariat, and through their agents, they try to change the Party's line, practise revisionism, engage in splittist activities and intrigues and conspiracies so as to achieve their criminal aim of subverting the dictatorship of the proletariat and restoring capitalism. At the same time, they pin their restoration hopes on subversion and aggression by external enemies who always regard the reactionary exploiting classes overthrown by the revolutionary people and the agents of these exploiting classes within the proletarian Party as instruments for carrying out subversion and aggression. Therefore, throughout the period of socialism, there is the danger of capitalist restoration, the threat of subversion and aggression by external enemies. The proletariat must use the state machinery it has seized "to suppress the reactionary classes and elements and those exploiters in our country who resist the socialist revolution, to suppress those who try to wreck our socialist construction" and "to protect our country from subversion and possible aggression by external enemies." (Mao Tsetung: *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People.*) Only in this way can the rule of the proletariat be consolidated.

Lenin pointed out that simultaneous with the task of suppressing the resistance of the exploiters, "another task comes to the forefront just as inevitably and ever more imperatively as time goes on, viz., the more important task of positive communist construction, the creation of new economic relations, of a new society." This task is greater and more arduous than the first one. After the victory of the October Revolution, the "communist subbotniks" launched and organized by the worker masses on their own initiative after going through four trying years of imperialist war and another year and a half of still more trying civil war was a practical move to fulfil this task. Lenin therefore highly praised it as "the beginning of a revolution that is more difficult, more material, more radical and more decisive than the overthrow of the bourgeoisie," it demonstrates that "here something quite new is beginning to emerge in the form of unpaid labour, extensively organized to meet the needs of the entire state, some-

thing that is contrary to all the old capitalist rules, something that is much more lofty than the socialist society that is conquering capitalism." (*Report on Subbotniks.*) And it is "one of the cells of the new, socialist society, which brings to all the peoples of the earth emancipation from the yoke of capital and from wars." Having become the ruling class, the proletariat must guide all the exploited working people and petty-bourgeois strata to take the socialist road, firmly keep to this road and actively fight for the gradual realization of communism so as to liberate the whole of mankind and achieve the final liberation of the proletariat itself.

### Thoroughly Sweep Away the Base of The Old System

Communism is the system under which classes and exploitation are abolished for good and the differences between the workers and peasants, between town and country and between manual and mental labour no longer exist. Under communism, people are not forced to obey the division of labour as slaves, labour becomes the primary necessity of life instead of a means in making a living, and most of the people have a high level of communist consciousness, having formed the habit of observing the basic rules of public life and performing their social duties without any special coercive apparatus, and unpaid work for the public good is a general phenomenon. Moreover, with the productive forces developed to a high degree, the principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs" will be implemented. Contradictions are the motive force in the development of things. There will still be contradictions and struggles in communist society, but they are different in nature from struggles between classes. Covering a considerably long historical period of transition from capitalist society to communist society, socialist society is built on the debris of capitalist society. Chairman Mao has said: "Before a brand-new social system can be built on the site of the old, the site must be swept clean." (Introductory note to *A Serious Lesson.*) There is no construction without destruction. Communism cannot be realized without thoroughly sweeping clean the old site, the old system and the remnants of the old ideology reflecting it.

As our socialist society has just emerged from the womb of the old society, it is therefore in every respect, economically, morally and intellectually, still stamped with the birth marks of the old society. For instance, on the economic front, although we have basically completed the socialist transformation of the ownership of the means of production, there are some parts of ownership where such transformation has yet to be completed. The remnants of private ownership still exist. In our economy characterized by socialist ownership by the whole people and socialist collective ownership by the working people, though the bourgeois right of private ownership of the means of production has been eliminated, "it does not yet abolish 'bourgeois right,' which gives to unequal individuals, in return for unequal

**(really unequal) amounts of labour, equal amounts of products."** (*The State and Revolution*.) These can only be restricted under the dictatorship of the proletariat. The principle of "to each according to his work" should still be implemented today as it still plays its historical role in the historical period of socialism; but after all it is not a principle of communism and it will inevitably be eliminated in the future. In the superstructure, including all spheres of culture, the influence of the ideology of the landlord and capitalist classes and the force of habit of the old society are still very strong. Every day, every hour they are impinging on the socialist system of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Especially in the case of the petty-bourgeois strata which are like a vast sea, after embarking on the road of socialism, it still has the spontaneous tendency towards capitalism which is incompatible with socialism. The period of socialism is a period of struggle between moribund capitalism and growing communism. This struggle is not only reflected by the overthrown reactionary exploiting classes' resistance to the proletariat and the revolutionary people, but also by the resistance of the numerous survivals of small production and the enormous force of habit and conservatism linked with these survivals to the socialist road. Lenin described this resistance as "frequently passive; which is particularly stubborn and particularly difficult to overcome." To realize communism, the proletariat must eliminate step by step the vestiges of the old society, vanquish traditional concepts and bad habits left over from the old society, and guide all the exploited working people and the petty-bourgeois strata to take the road of socialism and advance continuously along this road.

Under the dictatorship of the proletariat, it is necessary to gradually wipe out the vestiges of the old society in order to develop socialism, prevent retrogression and thoroughly defeat the landlord and capitalist classes. This is of major significance in combating and preventing revisionism and in preventing the restoration of capitalism. As all vestiges inherited from the old society are products of old modes of production, they are the economic base and the superstructure of capitalism or feudalism. These are hotbeds for revisionism and the foundation for capitalist restoration, whether they are on the political front, economic front or the ideological and cultural fronts. Unreconciled to their defeat, the overthrown exploiting classes frequently use them to launch frantic attacks against the proletariat. If this were not so, then why are there people who accept the revisionist line when it appears? Why then did Lin Piao and plotters like him put out a complete, undisguised programme for restoring capitalism in such a counter-revolutionary plan for a coup d'etat as the *Outline of Project "571"*? Why then is there still a market for the criminal activities of the overthrown exploiting classes to restore capitalism?

Why then is it possible for class enemies to use certain people in the revolutionary ranks and among the masses to do bad things? Why then is it that the revolutionary unity and the sense of organization and discipline of the proletariat sometimes meet with interference and attacks? In order to thoroughly crush the resistance of the landlord and capitalist classes and prevent the restoration of capitalism, the proletariat must make determined efforts to eliminate the vestiges left over from the old society and overcome spontaneous tendencies towards capitalism and the force of old habits. This very arduous and long-term task cannot be accomplished at one stroke. This task, however, must not be neglected, and our struggle in this respect must not be relaxed. Only by thoroughly wiping out the vestiges remaining from the old society "will a reversion to capitalism become impossible, will Communism become really invincible."

It was precisely because of this that Lenin gave high praise to the communist working spirit and pointed to its vast development in the future. Lenin said: "The 'communist' begins when subbotniks (i.e., unpaid labour with no quota set by any authority or any state) make their appearance; they constitute the labour of individuals on an extensive scale for the public good. This is not helping one's neighbour in the way that has always been customary in the countryside; it is work done to meet the needs of the country as a whole, and it is organized on a broad scale and is unpaid. . . . If there is anything communist at all in the prevailing system in Russia, it is only the subbotniks, and everything else is nothing but the struggle against capitalism for the consolidation of socialism." (*Report on Subbotniks*.) Chairman Mao in his essay *Introducing a Co-operative* with the same enthusiasm praised the revolutionary spirit of the people. He pointed out: "The communist spirit is growing apace throughout the country. The political consciousness of the broad masses is rising rapidly. The backward sections among them are exerting themselves to catch up with the advanced, which demonstrates that the socialist revolution in our country is forging ahead in the economic field (in those places where the relations of production have not yet been completely transformed) and in the political, ideological, technical and cultural fields." This shows the great attention paid by Lenin and Chairman Mao to the communist creative spirit of the people under the dictatorship of the proletariat and to the new-born things which are expressions of their complete rupture with bourgeois ideology and habits.

An important content of the two-line struggle within the party of the proletariat has always been what attitude is to be taken towards the vestiges left over from the old society: whether to gradually transform and eliminate them or to protect and continue to

enlarge them. After the victory of the October Revolution, Lenin enthusiastically supported the "communist subbotniks," pointing out that it was a great beginning for overcoming the habits left as a heritage to the workers and peasants by accursed capitalism, and for building the new socialist society. Contrary to this, the Mensheviks and Socialist-Revisionaries sneered at the hopes the Bolsheviks placed on "communist subbotniks" as "a baobab tree in a mignonette pot" and did all they could from the Right and the "Left" to sabotage the fight waged by the Bolsheviks to eradicate the vestiges of the old society. The struggle over this question within our own Party also has been very sharp. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, our great leader Chairman Mao has led the people of the whole country in the direction pointed out by Marxism-Leninism and carried out the socialist transformation of the ownership of the means of production, launched one revolution after another on the political and ideological fronts and at the same time adopted many revolutionary measures to combat and reject capitalism and to develop socialism. All this has brought the vestiges left over from the old society under heavy fire and advanced the cause of socialism. The ringleaders of the revisionist lines within the Party, from Kao Kang, Peng Teh-huai and Liu Shao-chi to Lin Piao, on the other hand, exerted themselves to protect and develop those old things and tried in vain to obstruct the proletariat and other revolutionary people from advancing along the socialist road. They frantically advocated "retention of private ownership," the "four freedoms,"\* *san zi yi bao*\*\* "material incentives" and other revisionist wares, and preached the doctrines of Confucius and Mencius—the ideology of the moribund slave-owning class—and the bourgeois world outlook in a vain attempt to maintain the force and traditions of the old society and lure people to take the capitalist road. Hence it can be seen that what attitude is adopted towards the vestiges of the old society involves the important question of practising Marxism or revisionism.

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution initiated and led by Chairman Mao is a great practice in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. In the course of this revolutionary movement, the two bourgeois headquarters of Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao were destroyed, their plots to turn the dictatorship of the proletariat into a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie were shattered, the resistance of the landlord and capitalist classes (including the newly

\*The "four freedoms" are "freedom to practise usury, hire labour, buy and sell land and engage in private enterprise." — Tr.

\*\**San zi yi bao* means "the extension of plots for private use and of free markets, the increase of small enterprises with sole responsibility for their own profits or losses, and the fixing of farm output quotas for individual households with each on its own." — Tr.

emerging bourgeois elements) was energetically suppressed, and capitalism and revisionism were profoundly criticized. At the same time, a series of changes in the superstructure including all spheres of culture were effected, a large number of socialist new-born things appeared and a big clean-up was made of the remnants and vestiges of the old society. The current nationwide movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius is the continuation and deepening of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. The deepening criticism of Lin Piao's counter-revolutionary revisionist line and the doctrines of Confucius and Mencius which propagated restoration, retrogression and selling out the country will further sweep away the muck left over from the old society. It is not easy to effect a complete rupture with old traditions and old ideas. Where the broom of the proletariat does not reach, such rubbish will not disappear of itself. In the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius we must, in the light of the struggle between the two classes, the two roads and the two lines, carry out education in the Party's basic line, eliminate the vestiges of the old society step by step, combat capitalist tendencies and firmly keep to the socialist road.

### Fulfil the Tasks of Dictatorship Of the Proletariat

To eliminate these carry-overs from the old society and build a brand-new social system is a great cause. This task is much more difficult than suppressing the resistance of the exploiting classes. "It cannot possibly be fulfilled by single acts of heroic fervour; it requires the most prolonged, most persistent and most difficult mass heroism in prosaic, everyday work." This means relying on the revolutionary masses, revolutionary cadres and revolutionary intellectuals "working in a revolutionary way" at their posts. The old system and old ideology must be resolutely repudiated and, under the guidance of the Marxist-Leninist line, the revolutionary spirit of the proletariat must be given full play and work done enthusiastically. Socialist new-born things must be warmly supported and carefully nurtured. Erroneous things incompatible with socialism must be firmly opposed and boldly rejected. Proletarian discipline must be consciously upheld and hard struggle carried on in plain, everyday work. In a word, we should maintain the same vigour, the same revolutionary enthusiasm and the same daring death-defying spirit we displayed in the revolutionary wars to win political power and in the struggle to suppress the resistance of the exploiting classes in order to consolidate our political power, and we should actively take part in the practice of revolutionary transformation from capitalism to communism. Only through such indefatigable struggle can final victory be won in the cause of communism.

Like all other state power, proletarian state power is the instrument with which one class oppresses another

class. What is different is that it is not a minority exploiting class oppressing a majority exploited class, but a majority exploited class oppressing a minority exploiting class, hence it is in essence different from other state power. Proletarian state power uses democratic means, that is, the method of persuasion and education, to solve questions of erroneous ideology among the people. Chairman Mao has said: **"The people's state protects the people. Only when the people have such a state can they educate and remould themselves by democratic methods on a country-wide scale, with everyone taking part, and shake off the influence of domestic and foreign reactionaries (which is still very strong, will survive for a long time and cannot be quickly destroyed), rid themselves of the bad habits and ideas acquired in the old society, not allow themselves to be led astray by the reactionaries, and continue to advance — to advance towards a socialist and communist society."** (*On the People's Democratic Dictatorship*.) In saying **"on a country-wide scale, with everyone taking part,"** Chairman Mao meant that this work of educating and self-remoulding includes the various classes and strata among the people and includes shaking off the influence of the bourgeoisie and domestic and foreign reactionaries from the midst of the workers and peasants. State power in the hands of the proletariat must suppress the resistance of the exploiting classes and at the same time it must be the instrument for sweeping away the vestiges of the old society, rejecting capitalist tendencies and drawing the non-proletarian working masses to the side of the proletariat. Lenin pointed out: **"The 'communist subbotniks' have thrown a remarkably strong light on the class character of the state apparatus under the dictatorship of the proletariat."** This tells us that the attitude adopted towards the vestiges of the old society and towards the traditions, habits and bad ways of feudalism and capitalism is a major question concerning the class character of the state apparatus. Personnel of state organs must conscientiously read and study, have close ties with the broad masses of the people, do their best to overcome their non-proletarian ideas and consciously repulse sugar-coated bullets and onslaughts of various perverse trends so that the functions of the proletarian dictatorship can be better carried out.

In *A Great Beginning*, Lenin emphasized the great significance of the "communist subbotniks" to Party

building. The Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) at that time was purging the Party, expelling those so-called "Communists" who refused to go to the front to fight the armies of Kolchak, Denikin and other landlords and capitalists. Though there was a reduction in the Party's membership, its strength and weight enormously increased. As soon as the "communist subbotniks" — a new-born thing — appeared, Lenin immediately proposed using that great beginning to purge the Party. **"A similar test should be demanded of all members of the Party who joined after October 25, 1917, and who have not proved by some special work or service that they are absolutely reliable, loyal and capable of being Communists."** **"Members should be accepted into the Party only after six months', say, 'trial,' or 'probation,' at 'working in a revolutionary way.'"** From this it can be seen that after the seizure of political power by the proletariat, Lenin made bravely defending proletarian political power and actively applying the revolutionary spirit to revolutionary practice important conditions for members of the Communist Party. The historical task of the dictatorship of the proletariat is to suppress the resistance of the exploiting classes, clear away the foundations of the old system and build a brand-new society. How, therefore, can those who are not active and enthusiastic towards such a cause be Communists? Under the leadership of the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Mao, our country is waging a great struggle to consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat and promote the advance of the cause of socialism in accordance with the Party's basic line. All Party members and Party cadres should ponder carefully and see whether their thinking and actions are compatible with the development of the revolutionary struggle and with the demands of the Party, and whether they are worthy of the glorious title of vanguard fighters of the proletariat. Every Communist and revolutionary must closely unite around the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Mao, conscientiously study the great theory of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought on the dictatorship of the proletariat, uphold the Party's basic line and strive hard to fulfil the historical tasks of the dictatorship of the proletariat!

(A translation of an article in "Hongqi," No. 2, 1975. Subheads are ours.)

(Continued from p. 3.)

women of other countries, carry the struggle through to the end and steadily advance the cause of human progress."

To celebrate the occasion, some 150,000 women — from factories,

communes, P.L.A. units, government offices, schools, city residential areas as well as foreign women students studying in China — took part in various sports activities in Peking, Tientsin and Shanghai, such as long distance relay race. A Canadian woman student said she was very

happy to have the opportunity to celebrate this significant festival together with Chinese women. She hoped that working women in the world would fight shoulder to shoulder because they have a common aim in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and revisionism.



# Cambodian People's Triumphant Advance Is Irresistible

AN encouraging change is taking place in the situation in Cambodia.

The Cambodian people's armed forces started a powerful new offensive at the beginning of the year and have won remarkable successes in the past two months by fighting valiantly to wipe out the enemy troops. They put out of action over 14,000 troops and captured many important strongholds around Phnom Penh alone. They have now cut land and water communication lines to Phnom Penh and tightened the encirclement of the city. Panic and confusion grip the Lon Nol lair. This traitorous clique which is running out of ammunition and grain is waging a death-bed struggle, relying solely on U.S. emergency airlifts to prolong its feeble existence. The new development in the military situation in Cambodia augurs the coming greater victories of the Cambodian people. The people of all countries are delighted at this, while the U.S. imperialists are in greater distress.

The United States is doing everything in a futile effort to maintain the reactionary rule of a handful of traitors in Phnom Penh. Besides stepping up airlifting large quantities of weapons and ammunition to Phnom Penh and preparing to give large amounts of "additional" military "aid" to the Lon Nol clique, the United States has sent warships to the Gulf of Siam and declared that U.S. marines stationed in Okinawa were put on an alert so as to threaten the Cambodian people. In a statement on March 7, Head of State of Cambodia Samdech Sihanouk strongly condemned the U.S. act of aggression in stepping up interference in Cambodia. The Chinese people resolutely support his solemn stand.

The U.S. Government believes that through additional "aid" and steady shipments of weapons, ammunition, grain and U.S. dollars it can save the Lon Nol clique from the fate of complete defeat. But it is well known that this clique has received billions of U.S. dollars of "aid" in the last five years since its coup d'etat. The United States not only had given money and guns but had directly taken the field in making armed intrusions into Cambodia together with south Vietnamese puppet troops. Countless bombs were rained on Cambodia by U.S. B-52 strategic bombers. But the result was that the more U.S. "aid," the more disastrous the defeats of the Lon Nol clique, while the patriotic Cambodian army and people grew stronger and stronger in the course of

fighting, and the situation in Cambodia became more and more excellent. Now that the raging flames of the Cambodian people's revolutionary war have spread to the gates of Phnom Penh and the Lon Nol clique is in its death throes, of what avail is it even if the United States grants more "additional" dollars and weapons to this clique!

The U.S. Government in the last few days has again harped on the worn-out theme of so-called "negotiations," and said it is seeking "a compromise settlement in Cambodia in which all elements could play a role." This can only really mean that it wants to preserve the remnant forces of the Phnom Penh traitorous clique's "elements," win a breathing space for the clique until the rainy season and enable it to continue to be entrenched in Phnom Penh and go on fighting under the wing of the United States. But this is sheer day-dreaming. The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia has declared again and again that it resolutely refuses to hold any "negotiations" with a handful of national degenerates in Phnom Penh, and that it is determined to carry the just war against U.S. aggression and the punitive action against the traitorous Lon Nol clique to final victory.

U.S. authorities glibly affirm they are willing to try to solve the Cambodian question. This too is deceitful talk. Was not the Cambodian question created precisely by the reactionary coup d'etat the Lon Nol clique launched at the U.S. instigation? The United States refuses to give up aggression and interference in Cambodia and to stop supporting and aiding the traitorous Lon Nol clique. Is this not the very reason why the Cambodian question has remained unsolved? If the United States really wants to solve the Cambodian question, it will be a very simple matter. All it has to do is to stop at once all acts of interference and aggression in Cambodia so as to "enable the Cambodian nation and people to solve their own internal affairs without foreign interference," as pointed out in the statement adopted at the Second National Congress of Cambodia.

When the Chinese revolution won great victory in 1949, the then U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson could only moan resignedly that this was "the unfortunate but inescapable fact." He admitted: "Nothing that this country [the United States] did or could have done . . . could have changed that result" — the victory of the Chinese revolution. In the past 20 years or more,

colossal changes have taken place in the situation in Asia. Peoples of various Asian countries have achieved great victories in their struggles against imperialism. The peoples of the three Indochinese countries have brought about today's excellent situation through their protracted, heroic and arduous struggle for national independence and liberation. Disregarding the lesson of

history, the U.S. imperialists are still repeating what has led them to defeat in the past. The development of the situation in Cambodia fully shows that justice and strength are on the side of the people. When the people are awakened and united in resolute struggle, no force can hinder their triumphant advance.

(*"Renmin Ribao" Commentator, March 9*)

## OPEC Summit Meeting

*The first summit conference of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) member states met from March 4 to 6 in Algiers. Convened at a time when the third world countries have been launching persistent attacks on imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism in the economic sphere and pounding away at the old international economic order, the meeting achieved successes of far-reaching political significance. Following are the highlights of a Hsinhua commentary on this matter and of the Solemn Declaration adopted by the OPEC summit.—Ed.*

### Algiers Conference: A Milestone

**O**IL output of the 13 OPEC member states takes up some 55 per cent of total world production and their oil exports constitute 70 per cent of world exports. Leaders of these countries met for the first time in history to work out the strategy for future struggle. As pointed out by chairman of the conference Houari Boumediene at the closing session, it was "a fruitful and successful meeting." It was an important historic milestone in the struggle waged over half a century by oil-producing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America in defence of their oil resources.

The Solemn Declaration adopted at the conference has mapped out a programme for the current struggle of the oil-exporting countries. A salient feature of the declaration is that it reaffirms the sovereignty of the third world oil-producing countries over their natural resources, rejects any attempt to challenge this fundamental right, condemns all threats directed at the oil-exporting countries and declares that they will take joint effective measures to counterattack any aggression against them. This is a stern warning to the two superpowers preaching either the theory of "limited sovereignty" or wielding a big stick. It has greatly deflated the arrogance of the hegemonists and filled the oppressed nations of the third world with elation.

The declaration has manifested the determination of petroleum-exporting countries to defend their sovereignty and interests and strive for establishing a new international economic order. It is praised in Algiers as "a charter of the OPEC."

Another conference achievement lies in strengthening the unity of petroleum-exporting countries and the union between these countries and other developing countries. The imperialists and hegemonists tried by every means to split the ranks of petroleum-exporting countries and foment discord between them and other developing countries. But leaders of the oil-exporting countries who spoke at the closing session all stressed their mutual understanding and trust. The conference paid particular attention to unity with other developing countries so as to frustrate the enemy's splitting attempts and reinforce the united front of the third world countries. Entrusted by the Conference of Developing Countries on Raw Materials in Dakar in February, Senegalese Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Babacar Ba made a special trip to Algiers to report to the OPEC summit the achievements of the Dakar conference and expressed support for the struggle of petroleum-exporting countries. This also shows the spirit of mutual support and fighting unity of the third world countries.

The OPEC still faces a very sharp and complicated struggle at present. The two superpowers are trying to prevent history from advancing and to strangle the cause of the third world striving for political and economic emancipation. While threatening and intimidating the petroleum-exporting countries with force, one superpower has rigged up a front of the oil-consuming countries to take all kinds of measures to oppose the petroleum-exporting countries of the third world and at the same time is seeking opportunities to control the second world countries. The other superpower is even more sinister in its manoeuvres. Sometimes it pretends to support the struggle of the third world oil-producing countries, at other times it speaks against their struggle—all for the purpose of seeking infiltration, expansion and hegemony. It makes huge

profits by trading its outmoded weapons and equipment for the low-priced oil and natural gas of the third world oil-producers and reselling them to West European countries at higher prices. It provides East European countries with oil at high prices and uses oil as a means to extend its political control. For all its actions it has earned the name "profiteer" and "swindler."

The declaration made public by the conference "agrees to the principle of holding an international conference bringing together the developed and developing countries." At present, people are concerned about the preparatory meeting of the international conference due to be held in Paris on April 7 and the struggle revolving round the conference. As the OPEC has made clear, the conference agenda can in no case be confined to examining the question of energy resources. It should include the question of other raw materials, the reform of the international monetary system and other questions. The United States, however, insists that only the question of oil should be examined. As for the participants, it is noted that the Soviet Union is trying to squeeze into the conference in order to have a finger in the pie. This has aroused many countries' vigilance.

Since the founding of OPEC in 1960, the third world oil-producing countries have won great successes in their 15-year-long struggle, setting a good example for other third world raw material producers and bringing about a new situation in the struggle over raw materials and development. Strengthening unity and persisting in struggle, they are now marching ahead to win fresh victories in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism.

## Solemn Declaration

**T**HE first summit conference of the member states of OPEC adopted the Solemn Declaration on March 6.

The declaration "reaffirms the solidarity which unites their countries in safeguarding the legitimate rights and the interests of their peoples, reasserting the sovereign and inalienable right of their countries to the ownership, exploitation and pricing of their natural resources and rejecting any idea or attempt that challenges those fundamental rights and, thereby, the sovereignty of their countries."

It also reaffirms that OPEC member states, through the collective, steadfast and cohesive defence of the legitimate rights of their peoples, have served the larger and ultimate interest and progress of the world community and, in doing so, have acted in the direction hoped for by all developing countries, producers of raw materials, in defence of the legitimate rights of their peoples. It declares "preparedness to contribute with their efforts to the objectives of world economic development and stability, as stated in the Declaration and Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted

by the General Assembly of the United Nations during its sixth special session."

It notes that the profound inequalities in the economic and social progress, which characterize the under-development of the developing countries, "have been mainly generated and activated by foreign exploitation." "This situation has fostered the drainage of natural resources of the developing countries impeding an effective transfer of capital resources and technology, and thus resulting in a basic disequilibrium in economic relations."

The declaration says: "The sovereigns and heads of state reject any allegation attributing to the price of petroleum the responsibility for the present instability of the world economy. Indeed, the oil which has contributed so significantly to the progress and prosperity of the industrialized nations for the past quarter of a century, not only is the cheapest source of energy available but the cost of imported oil constitutes an almost negligible part of the gross national product of the developed countries. The recent adjustment in the price of oil did not contribute but insignificantly to the high rates of inflation which have been generated within the economies of the developed countries basically by other causes."

It condemns the threats, propaganda campaigns and other measures which have gone so far as to attribute to OPEC member states the intention of undermining the economies of the developed countries. It also denounces any grouping of consumer nations with the aim of confrontation, and condemns any plan or strategy designed for aggression, economic or military, by such grouping or other means against any OPEC member state. The sovereigns and heads of state, it says, reaffirm their countries' "readiness to take immediate and effective measures in order to counteract such threats with a united response whenever the need arises, notably in the case of aggression."

It reaffirms "support for dialogue, co-operation and concerted action for the solution of the major problems facing the world economy." It says: "The sovereigns and heads of state agree to the principle of holding an international conference bringing together the developed and developing countries." The agenda of the aforementioned conference can in no case be confined to an examination of the question of energy and evidently should include the questions of raw materials of the developing countries, the reform of the international monetary system and other questions, it notes.

The exploitation of the depletable oil resources in their countries must be based, first and foremost, upon the best interests of their peoples, it stresses. They believe that a policy to protect oil resources is in urgent need.

"An artificially low price for petroleum in the past has prompted over-exploitation of this limited resource and that continuation of such policy would have proved

to be disastrous from the point of view of conservation of petroleum and world economy," it points out.

It believes that oil prices should be determined by taking into account objective criteria including the conservation of petroleum, the price of manufactured goods, the rate of inflation, the terms of transfer of goods and technology for the development of the OPEC member states.

"The sovereigns and heads of state declare that their countries are willing to continue to make positive contributions towards the solution of the major problems affecting the world economy, and to promote genuine co-operation which is the key to the establishment of a new international economic order," it says.

"The sovereigns and heads of state reaffirm the natural solidarity which unites their countries with other developing countries in their struggle to overcome under-development and express their deep appreciation for the strong support given to OPEC member countries by all developing countries as announced in the Conference of Developing Countries on Raw Materials held in Dakar from February 3 to 8 this year," it declares.

With regard to the developing countries affected by the world economic crisis, it says the sovereigns and heads of state reaffirm "their decision to implement measures that will strengthen their co-operation with those countries. They are prepared to contribute within their respective possibilities to extend additional special credits, loans and grants for the development of developing countries." "They have agreed to co-ordinate their programmes for financial co-operation in order to better assist the most affected developing countries especially in overcoming their balance of payments difficulties," it continues.

"In order to contribute to a better utilization of the agricultural potential of the developing countries, the sovereigns and heads of state have decided to promote the production of fertilizers, with the aim of supplying such products under favourable terms and conditions, to the countries most affected by the economic crisis."

It reaffirms "the willingness to co-operate with other developing countries which are exporters of raw materials and other basic commodities in their efforts to obtain an equitable and remunerative price level for their exports."

"As regards the supply of petroleum, the sovereigns and heads of state reaffirm their countries' readiness to ensure supplies that will meet the essential requirements of the economy of the developed countries, provided that the consuming countries do not use artificial barriers to distort the normal operation of the law of demand and supply," it says.

"With respect to the petroleum prices, in spite of the apparent magnitude of the readjustment, the high rate of inflation and currency depreciation have wiped out a major portion of the real value of price readjustment, and the current price is markedly lower than

that which would result from the development of alternative sources of energy."

"They [the sovereigns and heads of state] are prepared to negotiate the conditions for the stabilization of oil prices" and "parallel with the efforts, guarantees and commitments which the OPEC member states are prepared to make, the developed countries must contribute to the progress and development of the developing countries through concrete action and in particular to achieve economic and monetary stability, giving due regard to the interests of the developing countries."

"The transfer of technology should not be based on a division of labour in which the developing countries would produce goods of lesser technological content." "An efficient transfer of technology must enable the developing countries to overcome the considerable technological lag in their economies through the manufacture in their territories of products of a high technological content, particularly in relation to the development and transformation of their natural resources," it points out. "A major portion of the planned or new petrochemical complexes, oil refineries and fertilizer plants should be built in the territories of the OPEC member states."

"The sovereigns and heads of state note the present disorder of the international monetary system and the absence of rules and instruments essential to safeguard the terms of trade and the value of financial assets of developing countries," it says. "They emphasize particularly the urgent need to take necessary steps to ensure the protection of the developing countries' legitimate interests." "Fundamental and urgent measures should be taken to reform the international monetary system." "With this in mind, the sovereigns and heads of state have decided to promote amongst their countries a mechanism for consultation and co-ordination for full co-operation in the framework of their solidarity and with a view to achieving the goal of a genuine reform of the international monetary and financial system."

"The sovereigns and heads of state attach great importance to the strengthening of the OPEC and, in particular, to the co-ordination of activities of their national oil companies within the framework of the organization and to the role which it should play in the international economy. They consider that certain tasks of prime importance remain to be accomplished which call for concerted planning among their countries and for the co-ordination of their policies in the fields of production of oil, its conservation, pricing and marketing, financial matters of common interest and concerted planning and economic co-operation among member states in favour of international development and stability."

The sovereigns and heads of state express their deep conviction in the peoples' capacity to establish a new international economic order which will bring progress to the future world, it concludes.

# What Does the Lome Convention Signify?

THE signing in Lome on February 28 of a trade and economic convention between 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific developing countries and nine European Economic Community countries marks a big event in the development of relations between the third and second world countries.

The signing of the convention demonstrates the third world countries' strength to gradually terminate through united struggle the old and unequal international economic order. It also represents a new step by the nine West European countries of the second world to improve their economic relations with the third world countries through negotiations. This development in relations between the second and third world countries favours the worldwide struggle against super-power hegemonism.

## **Favourable to the Third World**

The struggle of the third world has now entered a new stage of in-depth development. The third world,

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## **At a Glance**

The main points of the Lome convention are: access (duty-and-quota free and without reciprocal treatment) to the E.E.C. countries for 99.2 per cent of the products of African, Caribbean, Pacific countries and the establishment of a fund by the E.E.C. to compensate the A.C.P. countries for any fall in the prices of primary products and raw materials.

The 46 developing countries that took part in the Lome convention negotiations are:

Africa: Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Dahomey, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malagasy, Mali, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Upper Volta, Uganda, Zaire, and Zambia.

The Caribbean: Barbados, the Bahamas, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago.

The Pacific: Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa.

for centuries subjected to colonialist and imperialist enslavement and plunder, strongly demands an end to the old international economic order and the countries and peoples there have been waging a persistent and gigantic struggle on all fronts to achieve this aim. It is against this international background that the Lome convention was signed.

After 18 months of negotiations, the Lome convention has made changes favourable to the third world in some aspects of the unequal trade and economic relations between the developing countries and the industrialized West European countries. For years, the developed countries have set up various barriers against imports from the developing countries while asking the latter to provide free access to their own exports. The Lome convention now specifies fairly favourable terms for products going from the 46 developing countries to the West European Common Market. The industrialized countries used to deal with the third world through the exchange of unequal values by forcing down raw material prices and raising the prices of manufactured goods; now, the convention provides that the European Economic Community compensate the developing countries for losses caused by any fall in the market prices of a number of major products exported to the Common Market. It also restricts the use of "aid" by the industrialized countries as a means of intervention in the internal affairs of the developing countries.

The convention has, to a certain extent, eliminated the strong tinge of inequality contained in the Yaounde Convention of Association signed between the European Community and developing countries. The 46 developing countries insisted on not using the term "associate state" in the Lome convention because of its connotation of subordination. In their negotiations, these countries repeatedly declared that the convention must confine itself to trade and economic affairs and must not be used to the detriment of their political independence and their relations with other third world countries. The signing of the convention is an important achievement by the 46 developing countries in the struggle to break down the old international economic order.

## **Outcome of United Struggle**

This achievement is the outcome of the united struggle by the 46 developing countries. With different

*(Continued on p. 19.)*

# Southeast Asian Countries Defend Economic Rights and Interests

**T**O defend their economic rights and interests, some Southeast Asian countries are gradually launching struggles against imperialist economic plunder. These struggles are a component part of the third world countries' struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism.

Strategically placed and rich in natural resources, the Southeast Asian region is a producer of a number of strategic raw materials and primary products. It has long been one of the important scenes of imperialist plunder of raw materials and contention for their sources as well as of rivalry between the superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union.

## Intensified U.S.-Soviet Plunder

The United States has to import all the natural rubber it needs, mostly from Southeast Asia. Its large quantities of needed tin come from Malaysia and Thailand. Forty per cent of the Philippines' coconut products goes to the United States which controls most of the Philippines' sugar refining industry and takes a large part of its exported products. In recent years, the Soviet Union has stepped up infiltration and expansion into Southeast Asia, getting large quantities of important resources through "credits," "trade" and other means.

Imperialism is intensifying its exploitation of raw material exporting countries in Southeast Asia by taking advantage of its economic monopoly and through exchange of unequal values. Statistics show that price levels of manufactured goods imported by the Southeast Asian countries from the imperialist countries were much higher in June 1974 than a year earlier. The price of iron and steel, for instance, increased by 65 per cent, metal products by 51 per cent, machinery by 33 per cent, and chemical fertilizer by more than 100 per cent. The exchange value of a ton of Malaysian rubber dropped from 3.18 tons of reinforced steel bars or 5.62 tons of urea in 1972 to 2.92 tons of the former or 3.86 tons of the latter in 1974. Even more unscrupulous was Soviet social-imperialism which took advantage of increased prices of manufactured goods to engage in large-scale speculation. Soviet urea sold to Thailand went up from one baht (Thai currency unit) per kilogramme to seven bahts in early 1974. The imperialist practice of shifting the burden of economic crises on to others has resulted in huge trade deficits and heavy economic losses for most Southeast Asian countries.

## Necessity for Joint Action

The Southeast Asian countries have been aroused to strong resistance against exploitation and plunder

by imperialism and hegemonism. In the past year, public opinion in these countries has repeatedly called for joint action to stabilize prices of raw materials along the lines adopted by the third world oil-producing countries. Malaysia has proposed co-operation among the five Southeast Asian countries in natural rubber, palm oil and timber sales so as to guarantee fair and equitable prices. To counter U.S. attempts to dump hoarded stocks of tin and U.S.-Soviet efforts to keep the tin price low, Malaysia and the other countries last year twice asked the World Tin Council to raise the price ceiling, forcing tin consumer countries to make concessions. To put an end to imperialist manipulation, the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries, which includes Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, unanimously decided at a meeting in March 1973 to establish a joint rubber sales system. Last year Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia formed a timber producers' association to jointly handle timber sales. The Southeast Asian countries also are fighting together with other third world countries to get higher prices for the raw materials they produce.

## Regional Co-operation

In the struggle in defence of their economic rights and interests, these countries are strengthening regional economic co-operation. The five Southeast Asian countries have set up a number of co-operation committees to regulate tariff procedures and expand regional trade. They support each other in the trade of rice, sugar, cement and other commodities, and also plan to establish joint enterprises to manufacture paper, chemical fertilizer and other items to meet their industrial goods requirements.

To reduce their dependence on imperialism, the Southeast Asian countries have paid increasing attention to the development of grain production and their own industries. The Philippines is taking steps to expand rice cultivation areas and increase agricultural credits in order to raise grain production. Malaysia is also working to gradually attain self-sufficiency in food. In the development of their industries, most of the countries are stressing establishment of more industries based on local raw materials and development of industries processing timber, rubber, oil-bearing crops and other products. Malaysia and Indonesia have begun to restrict imports of foreign textiles, and some countries have adopted certain restrictive measures on foreign capital investment.

# Working People's Growing Impoverishment

WORKING people in the major Western capitalist countries are facing still bleaker prospects in 1975 after a year of rising unemployment, soaring prices and falling living standards.

## Mounting Unemployment

"For this generation of working people — blue- and white-collar alike — times have never been so hard," said the U.S. *Newsweek* in its January 20 issue.

Large numbers of workers were laid off last year as the monopolists stepped up their efforts to shift the pressures of the worsening economic crisis on to the working people. By the end of 1974 the total jobless in the United States, Britain, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and Italy exceeded 11 million. Far more had been put on short weeks or part time.

Many major U.S. firms announced massive layoffs in the early days of this year. In the building industry alone, more than 700,000 workers are unable to find jobs. A carpenter who hadn't worked since last October said: "I've been up to the union hiring hall several times since I got laid off but there's nothing to do there except wait. Nobody's hiring."

Mounting unemployment has led to growing impoverishment of the labouring people. Reporting early in the year about people lining up at Bowery soup kitchens in New York City, UPI said: "It's the worst it's been since the early 50s." Some 40 per cent of people in the lines were workers under 30 years of age. University graduates are also facing the misfortune of unemployment. One professor told students who will be graduating that for their sake he hoped they don't graduate this spring.

In a letter published by the F.R.G. paper *Bild am Sonntag* at the end of last year, an unemployed Cologne porcelain brick-layer wrote that his monthly unemployment compensation payment was too meagre to pay rent, let alone installment or non-installment debts. "We are still living, but we get only a bare subsistence and nothing else," he said.

The number of intellectuals without jobs in the country last summer increased by 40 per cent over a year ago, one-third of them engineers, architects, and technicians. A leading member of the F.R.G. Association of Engineers and Natural Scientists said the situation for some jobless geologists, chemists and nuclear physicists in Munich is "miserable," and even "hopeless."

In Tokyo, Osaka and other major Japanese cities, many unemployed had to spend a long period of time

sleeping in the streets or parks. In early January, a young odd-jobber in a big city who had come from a village committed suicide after being out of work for a long time. Desperation has driven many jobless workers to sell their blood to capitalists at low prices. Four hundred millilitres of blood only gets 1,400 yen, while a bowl of noodles costs 200 yen in Tokyo.

## Life Is Harder

Along with sharply rising unemployment, prices are soaring at an even faster rate. Prices of food, the staple food for the working people in particular, have jumped at a rate far surpassing the average increase rate of other consumer prices. In the United States food prices rose 31.8 per cent in two years. Coupled with drastic rises in rent and bills for water, electricity, gas, heating and other items, this has made life increasingly hard for the working people.

In a report last year, *Newsweek* described the life of a Los Angeles' family of four. The report said that in the previous two years the family's food costs had jumped from 80 to more than 125 dollars a month, while the cost of water and electricity also increased. The kindergarten's charges for the two children were up by 100 per cent. The family's debts rose month by month. The U.S. weekly *Guardian* said in its December 25 issue: "The present economic crisis is pushing increasing numbers of people to the point where they must often now choose between having food or heat, warm clothing or lights, medicine or eviction."

Britain was among Western countries with the highest inflation rate last year. Mounting prices brought on a steady drop in living standards for the British people. In Scotland, teachers' living standards declined by 30 per cent compared with ten years before. The life of the working people is even harder. And they have been told by a British government leader: "The going from now on will be tougher than we have known in this generation."

Italian bourgeois papers have admitted that the working people were complaining about rising prices. An auto worker living in the suburbs of Rome complained that the shoes he wore had cost 6,000 lire in 1973 but were 12,000 in 1974. His family of seven was unable to make ends meet with his monthly income. He said: "With prices rising so fast, how are we workers going to live?"

Even worse is the lot of the tens of millions of the old and the poor who live on paltry pensions or on

relief. The United States ranks first in the number of such people. A welfare director in Connecticut admitted that "many people are actually starving" because of the rising cost of living. The *Guardian* said in the same issue: "A recent survey shows that retired workers are forced to pay as high as 80 per cent of their monthly social security benefits for rent, leaving them on the average under 50 dollars a month for food and all other basic needs. Under these conditions large numbers of retirees have been forced to live on soup and, in many cases, dog and cat food." Furthermore, owing to the sharp hike in the cost of public utilities, increasing numbers of poor and old people in the slums of many U.S. cities are obliged to give up heating and lighting. There were reports from time to time that old people beset with poverty and illness were found dead in cold apartment houses in winter. The old and the poor in the major capitalist countries in Western Europe are in a similarly worsening plight.

### Growing Resistance

Facing up to the stark realities, the broad masses of workers and other working people rose in struggles to defend their vital interests. Strikes by the working

class against soaring prices and for wage increases, better working conditions and job security took place without let-up last year in the major capitalist countries. Recent years have seldom seen strikes erupting on such a scale, involving so many trades and lasting for so long a period as those last year. Labouring people in some countries waged spontaneous struggles against price and tax rises. Residents in some big U.S. cities spontaneously struggled to protect the poor who couldn't pay their rent from eviction. Not long ago, some 100,000 residents in an Italian city refused to pay electric bills and rents because they had risen too high. Angered by skyrocketing prices, housewives in Milan rushed to a supermarket to take away food valued at some thousands of U.S. dollars. Many homeless working people in Rome organized a struggle to occupy empty houses.

Class contradictions are bound to sharpen this year as deepening economic crises in the major capitalist countries further impoverish the working people. The working class and other labouring people will further enhance their awakening and close ranks to deal more telling blows to the efforts by the monopolists to shift the burden of economic crisis on to others.

## Soviet Economy: Unfulfilled 1974 Targets

THE Central Statistical Board of the U.S.S.R. recently published the results of the fulfilment of the 1974 national economic development plan. Despite a careful whitewash of many of the figures in the report, analysis reveals that the Soviet Union's economic situation further deteriorated last year. The proportion of unfulfilled targets in industry was far greater than in any previous year of the current five-year plan. Moreover, agricultural production again dropped by a big margin.

Since all-round restoration of capitalism was brought about in the Soviet Union, the Brezhnev clique has energetically pushed ahead with the "new economic system" centred on profits and made all-out efforts to militarize the national economy so that industrial and farm production have been seriously damaged. All five-year plans worked out by the Soviet revisionists have ended in failure to fulfil most basic targets.

### Targets Not Fulfilled

By contrasting 1974 production "achievements" with planned targets made public in the past, one finds that of those items which can be compared some 80 per cent in industry did not meet the 1974 targets set

by the five-year plan. This includes such important products as electricity, oil, natural gas, iron, steel, rolled steel, synthetic resins and plastics, chemical fibres and turbines. The Soviet journal *Kommunist* disclosed at the end of last year that "Soviet iron and steel industry enterprises have failed to fulfil the production plans for the most useful varieties of metal products every year." *Pravda* admitted at about the same time that "targets are not fulfilled by certain enterprises in the fuel industry."

Transport and capital construction also failed to complete their plans. Sea-going and truck freight transport as well as railway, bus and air passenger transport also did not meet the 1974 targets in the five-year plan. The situation in capital construction was even worse. The Soviet Central Statistical Board conceded that "serious shortcomings continued to exist in capital construction: a number of departments in the national economy and in industry failed to fulfil their plans for increasing fixed assets and production capacities" and "the volume of unfinished construction work increased in that year." The plan for the construction of coal mines was fulfilled by 70 per cent, iron-smelting



works by 70 per cent, steel-making plants by 43 per cent and rolled steel facilities by 38 per cent.

### "Guns Instead of Butter"

In the situation of an increasingly deteriorating economy, the Brezhnev clique still clings to the principle of "guns instead of butter" in order to push ahead the social-imperialist policy of aggression and expansion abroad. As a result, economic sectors which are closely related to the people's livelihood, such as agriculture and the consumer goods industry, are bogged down in serious difficulties.

At the start of the current five-year plan (1971-75), the Kremlin once and again promised that "priority will be given to developing the production of consumer goods in industry" so that it will increase faster than capital goods production. It pledged to "provide the market with an ample supply of consumer goods." However, the past four years show that in none of those years did the consumer goods production register a greater increase than capital goods production. The 1974 growth rate of the former remained far below that of the latter.

In capital goods production, 1974 output of those products which have a direct bearing on the people's everyday life, such as sets of equipment for the light, food, meat-packing, dairy and fishing industries, failed even to reach the 1973 targets. The production targets of tractors, combine-harvesters and chemical fertilizers were also not fulfilled. The number of combine-harvesters in 1974 was even lower than in 1966.

Still worse was the situation in consumer goods production. From material published by the Soviet revisionists themselves one can see that the planned targets for cotton, woollen, linen and silk fabrics, knitted underwear and outer garments, ready-made clothing, leather shoes and granulated beet sugar went unfulfilled in every one of the first four years of the current five-year plan. The 1974 output of granulated beet sugar was one million tons less than the planned target. Last year's goal for knitted underwear and outer garments was fulfilled by 84 per cent and leather shoes by 86 per cent. Production of cotton fabrics and knitted underwear and outer garments last year was only up to the level of the 1971 planned target while that of leather shoes was even lower than it.

Light industry, food industry and daily necessities enterprises often failed to carry out their production plans, *Pravda* admitted last December. As to the quality of products, this was even worse. *Izvestia*, another Soviet paper, confessed that "in light industry, high-quality products only account for one to five per cent of the total output of various goods."

### Six Annual Grain Production Drops

Still more striking are the disastrous effects the restoration of capitalism has brought to agriculture where the productive forces have been seriously damaged. In the ten years from 1965 to 1974, there were six annual grain production decreases. The 1974

grain output was about 27 million tons less than in 1973, according to the Soviet Central Statistical Board data. Output of other major farm products such as sugar beets, sunflower seeds, potatoes and vegetables also fell. The country raised 12 per cent less sugar beet and 25 per cent less potatoes last year than in 1973, far below the 1968 level. Milk, meat and wool production did not reach the 1974 targets in the five-year plan.

With the plans for consumer goods production having been unfulfilled many years running, how can the promise to "provide the market with an ample supply of consumer goods" be made good? To stock the shops, the Soviet Union bought 20 million tons of grain and large quantities of meat, butter and granulated sugar from the West in 1973 and continued to do so last year. It also squeezed a large quantity of animal products, fruit, vegetables and leather shoes and other consumer goods out of its "fraternal countries." The Austrian journal *Salzburger Nachrichten* sarcastically noted that the Brezhnev clique is making great efforts to enable the Soviet people to cover Western bread with Western butter. In spite of the big shopping list, consumer goods are still not in ample supply. Referring to their supply, the Soviet Central Statistical Board's report had to reluctantly concede that the population's demand for certain goods was not fully satisfied.

### Playing With Numbers

Despite the fact that the Soviet economy is going from bad to worse, the Brezhnev clique still has the cheek to advertise its so-called "achievements" in one way or another. One method is playing the numbers game. Soviet grain output decreased by a big margin in 1974, but it is made to look like an "increase" by the report which compares it with average annual grain output in the 1971-73 period, during which there had been two big drops.

Another method is reducing the targets over and over again. For example, according to the report, the pulp-and-paper industry "overfulfilled" its target. But, in fact, major products such as cellulose, paper and cardboard not only did not meet the original five-year plan targets but also the revised 1974 targets which were drastically cut down at the end of 1973. Perhaps what were "overfulfilled" were the further reduced targets for these products set in the course of 1974.

The third is presenting failure as unabashed "success." Agriculture has been under Brezhnev's personal direction since he came to power. Yet it is precisely this economic sector that has witnessed six big drops in production in the ten years since he took office. Difficult as it is for him to account for it, *Pravda* had the audacity to claim in an editorial last January that by "persistently carrying out" Brezhnev's agricultural policy, Soviet agriculture "has reliably become a highly developed sector of the socialist economy."

These clumsy tricks, however, cannot be turned into material goods, nor can they cover up the difficulties piling up for the Soviet economy.

# Soviet Revisionists Plunder Bulgaria Through C.M.E.A.

THE Soviet leading clique uses the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (C.M.E.A.) which was set up in 1949 as an instrument for pursuing its neo-colonialist policy. Its exploitation and plunder of C.M.E.A. member states is intensifying.

A C.M.E.A. member state, Bulgaria has long been reduced to a chief supplier of vegetables and fruit for the Soviet Union under such high-sounding names as "economic integration," "international division of labour" and "specialization in production." The country wants to develop its domestic industry and change its economic situation and export structure. The Soviet revisionists seize this opportunity to exploit the Bulgarian people and tighten control over Bulgaria's economic lifeline through "economic assistance," "loans" and other means.

Like other C.M.E.A. member states, Bulgaria has become an outlet for Moscow's capital exports and a dumping ground for its out-dated and obsolete machinery and equipment. In this way the Soviet Union not only makes huge profits but has Bulgaria's industrial development under its thumb.

Reports show that Soviet-aid "projects" in Bulgaria account for 95 per cent of its ferrous metallurgical industry capacity, 85 per cent of its non-ferrous metallurgical industry, 80 per cent of its petro-chemical industry, 70 per cent of its machine-building industry, 60 per cent of its power industry and 100 per cent of its ship-building industry. Low labour productivity in industry, the high production cost and poor quality of products as well as the small sales of Bulgarian commodities on foreign markets are results of obsolete Soviet equipment supplied in the name of "aid."

Soviet selfishness in selling out-dated equipment at Bulgaria's expense has caused great discontent among the Bulgarian public. A recently published Bulgarian book points out that the machinery and equipment available in the "socialist international market," that is, in the orbit of the C.M.E.A., is "out-dated," "inefficient" and is priced "50 per cent higher than on the capitalist market."

The Soviet Union also has put Bulgaria's industrial raw materials and power under its control. In 1960, Bulgaria was still able to be self-sufficient in 83.5 per cent of its fuel. Owing to heavy imports from the Soviet

Union the percentage fell to 40 per cent in 1970, and has dropped still further in recent years. In the past few years, the share of the Soviet Union in Bulgaria's imports has been as follows: 70-80 per cent of the oil, 56 to 60 per cent of the coke, 100 per cent of the coal, 60 to 86 per cent of the iron ore, 75 per cent of the iron and steel, 67 per cent of the rolled steel and 90 to 100 per cent of the timber.

Thus, the Soviet revisionists have exercised all-round control over Bulgaria's industry from equipment to raw materials and power. They can force Bulgaria into dependence and submission at any time by threatening to reduce such supplies.

In the name of "integration" and "specialization," the Soviet revisionists have made it a rule that Bulgaria develops some of its economic sectors in accordance with Soviet needs and that most of the products must be shipped to the Soviet Union. A Bulgaria-Soviet co-operation agreement stipulates that 60 per cent of the productive capacity of the Bulgarian machine-building industry must be geared to Soviet needs. More than 90 per cent of the combine harvesters, fodder crushers and electronic computers, for instance, are produced for the Soviet Union. Of the 28 "co-operation" agreements including those on auto, textile machine and farm machine, several explicitly provide that as a form of "co-operation," certain Bulgarian plants must produce spare parts for certain Soviet plants. The finished products assembled in the Soviet Union are exported to Bulgaria.

Bulgaria has to export agricultural produce in large quantities for payment of loans, imported equipment and raw materials. The Soviet Union takes advantage of this situation to push down prices of farm products and the processed products through unequal trade terms. Bulgaria's chief exports to the Soviet Union for a long time have been agricultural and animal products, foodstuffs and daily necessities. Bulgaria's exports of vegetables to the Soviet Union make up 50 per cent of the former's total output; fruit, 47.5 per cent; cigarettes, 65.5 per cent; and tinned food, 78 per cent.

Another form of exploitation is that Soviet exports to Bulgaria are priced higher than exports to other countries. Statistics show that compared with the prices of its exports to the Federal Republic of Germany, for

example, the Soviet Union got an extra profit of 371 million rubles from exports of oil, iron ore, coke, coal and cotton to Bulgaria between 1962 and 1971.

On top of all this, the Soviet revisionists, disregarding Bulgaria's difficulties, have insisted that Bulgaria provide the Soviet Union with investments and manpower for building plants and enterprises and developing natural resources. Reports show that in 1972, Bulgaria participated in the construction of 289 Soviet projects; of the Bulgarian workers in the Soviet Union 5,000 were sent to the Kursk metallurgical combine, 2,000 to the Arkhangelsk pulp mill and 8,200 workers to Komi for timber felling. All this has put a great strain on Bulgaria's already insufficient capital and

manpower. Public opinion in Bulgaria openly complains that the "level of development" in the country is lower than in the Soviet Union and other countries and that it itself needs "great amounts of loans" and "manpower," and therefore the "possibility is limited" for Bulgaria to provide loans and manpower to "build production capacity in other countries." It is further pointed out that the "arguments in support of the necessity for loans in the sectors of industrial raw materials" must also be "applied to agricultural production."

Soviet revisionists' behaviour towards Bulgaria enables people to see how they blackmail, extort and plunder the "community" under their control by underhand means.

(Continued from p. 13.)

Historical backgrounds and economic situations, these countries had different concrete demands in the negotiations. To alter the old international economic relations, however, they formed an African, Caribbean and Pacific group and co-ordinated their views at six ministerial meetings. Defeating outsiders' attempts to sow dissensions and resisting pressure from various sides, they supported one another and united to win victory. After 18 months' struggle, agreement on most of the issues negotiated was reached in mid-January. But a deadlock occurred on the issue of the price of sugar imports by the Common Market. This price issue affected the interests of only a few developing countries in the group, but the 46 countries were unanimous in the view that the convention would not be signed until the issue was resolved. Eventually it was settled. The Lome convention negotiations once again proved that for the third world countries, unity is strength, unity is victory.

### Two Different Attitudes

There are in the world today two attitudes towards the historical trend that the third world wants to change the old international economic order. One is "confrontation" taken by the superpowers which, with all their efforts at intimidation, can only end in repeated setbacks. The other is a "dialogue" conducted by a number of second world countries to settle issues through consultation with the third world countries. In the Lome convention negotiations, the E.E.C. countries took the latter attitude and reached agreements through consultation, which makes possible the further expansion of trade and economic relations between them and the third world. This also reflects the fact that, in the circumstances in which the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, are intensifying their contention for world hegemony, the second world countries, suffering from the superpower pincers attack, are turning more and more to strength-

ening their ties with the third world so as to cope with the superpowers.

The two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, are the greatest international exploiters and oppressors of the present era, and are stubborn supporters of the old international economic order. Strengthened ties between the second world and the third world are what they fear most, because this will interfere not only with their plunder of and rule over the third world, but also with their control of and contention for domination in the second world. In the course of the Lome convention negotiations, the Soviet revisionist propaganda machine repeatedly asserted that "the only correct path" for the developing countries was through the development of "contacts" with the Soviet revisionist "community" and that signing a convention with the E.E.C. might "bring them quite unpleasant consequences." Obviously, the motive of Soviet revisionism is to place all developing countries under its own colonial system. The United States on its part exerted pressure on the West European countries on many occasions, hoping to obstruct the Lome convention negotiations. The signing of the convention was a telling blow to the superpowers.

### Struggle Still Necessary

The signing of the Lome convention is a victory for the third world. However, one must see that to thoroughly remould the old and extremely unequal international economic relations requires protracted and arduous struggle. To establish a new international economic order, the third world countries must strengthen themselves by relying on their own efforts and supporting one another. So long as they persist in struggle, strengthen unity and unite with all forces that can be united with, the third world countries and their peoples are bound to win new and continuous victories.

(A commentary by Hsinhua Correspondent, March 3)

# ROUND THE WORLD

## KASHMIR

### People's Right to Self-Determination Cannot Be Taken Away

An "agreement" on the status of Kashmir was reached on February 24 between Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Abdullah, former prime minister of Indian-occupied Kashmir. According to the "agreement," Indian-occupied Kashmir will become a constituent unit of the Union of India. In return, Sheikh Abdullah will serve as the "chief minister of the state."

This act has aroused firm opposition from the people of Kashmir and Pakistan. In a resolution, the Azad Kashmir Council of Ministers denounced India's "heinous conspiracy to perpetuate its hegemony over Kashmir." Pakistan Prime Minister Bhutto pointed out in a statement that the Indian Government cannot "deprive the people of Kashmir of their inalienable right to self-determination." On February 28, in response to Prime Minister Bhutto's call, the people of Kashmir and Pakistan held big strikes and hartals and boycotted classes, strongly protesting against the Indian Government's annexation of Indian-occupied Kashmir.

The Kashmir dispute originated in the Indian-Pakistan partition of 1947 and was deliberately left behind by British imperialism then to create antagonism between India and Pakistan. When the United Nations mediated the dispute in 1948, it passed a resolution on a three-phase settlement — ceasefire, non-militarization and plebiscite. Both the Indian and Pakistan Governments accepted the resolution and agreed there should be an "impartial plebiscite" to settle the dispute. For more than the last 20 years, Pakistan has consistently adhered to the U.N. resolution and the India-Pakistan accord for a plebiscite in Kashmir. But the Indian Government, which has time and again gone back on its word, has been trying to

annex Kashmir. To attain this, it not only brutally suppressed the Kashmir people's struggle for the right to self-determination, but also went so far as to carry out armed attacks on Pakistan.

The Kashmir people's sacred national right to self-determination brooks no deprivation. They will never cease struggling to realize their national right to self-determination. Their just struggle has won the support of the Pakistan people and all other justice-upholding countries and people.

## PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS

### Striking Blows at Aggressors

Persevering in armed struggle, the heroic Palestinian commandos are continuously dealing blows at the Israeli aggressors. They mounted a total of 91 military operations in January and February this year, scoring great victories.

Of the 41 operations in January, 31 were carried out in occupied Palestine, two in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, one in occupied Sinai and seven were counter-attacks on intruding Israeli forces in south Lebanon. In these operations, 12 Israeli vehicles were destroyed, including two tanks and three armoured half-tracks.

In February, the operations were intensified. On February 27, a Palestinian commando unit destroyed with incendiary time bombs two Israeli factories producing spare parts for weapons in an industrial region in Tel Aviv.

## ETHIOPIA

### Nationalization of Rural Land

The Proclamation to Provide for the Nationalization of Rural Land was promulgated by the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council on March 4.

The proclamation said: "In Ethiopia an insignificant number of feudal lords and their families unjustly own most of the land, and consequently the Ethiopian masses have been forced to live under conditions of serfdom."

"It is essential to fundamentally alter the existing agrarian relations so that the Ethiopian peasant masses who have paid so much in sweat and in blood to maintain an extravagant feudal class may be liberated from age-old feudal oppression, injustice, poverty and disease," it continued. "In order to increase agricultural production and to make the tiller the owner of the fruits of his labour, it is necessary to release the productive forces of the rural economy by liquidating the feudal system."

"On the promulgation of this proclamation, all rural land shall be the collective property of the Ethiopian people," it said.

It provided that "without differentiation of sexes, any person who is willing to personally cultivate land shall be allotted land sufficient for his maintenance and that of his family." Any land-owner willing to personally cultivate land shall likewise be allotted land.

In Ethiopia 90 per cent of the land was owned by the royal family, aristocrats, churches and other feudal landlords. Most of the peasants who constitute 90 per cent of the population are tenant farmers with no land or a little land. Rents and taxes used to eat up 70 to 90 per cent of their harvests and they were forced to live in poverty.

## ZIMBABWE

### "Detente" Fraud Exposed

The re-arrest of Ndabaningi Sithole, Chairman of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), by the Rhodesian racist regime has exposed the recent "detente" fraud. The Zimbabwe liberation organizations and the Organization of African Unity strongly condemned the Smith regime for its action.

Last December the Smith regime released ZANU Chairman Sithole and

Chairman of the Zimbabwe African People's Union Joshua Nkomo who had been imprisoned for a long time and held talks with them, promising to release all "political prisoners" (patriots) and abolish the ban on the Zimbabwe liberation organizations, and at the same time agreeing to hold a constitutional conference in which leaders of the organizations will take part. But the Smith regime suddenly re-arrested Sithole on March 4 and threatened to try him before a special tribunal.

Robert Mugabe, General Secretary of ZANU, pointed out at a March 4 press conference that the arrest of Sithole is to intimidate the ZANU leadership to submit to the Smith regime. He stressed: "This action by the regime has finally shattered whatever there was left in the so-called detente and peaceful settlement exercise."

ZANU will no longer take part in talks with the regime until Sithole is released and until there has been a sufficient change of mind on the part of the Smith regime towards accepting majority rule now, he declared.

Abel Muzorewa, Chairman of the African National Council (ANC), said in a speech on March 4 that ANC will not have any talks with the Smith regime until Sithole is released.

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) declared in a statement issued on March 6 in Addis Ababa: "The arrest is aimed at creating confusion and disunity in the African National Council of Zimbabwe."

"The OAU believes that Smith's tactics of 'divide and rule,' which worked in the past, cannot succeed any more, especially with the new political awakening of Africans in Zimbabwe," it added.

#### LATIN AMERICAN ENERGY ORGANIZATION

### Against Hegemonism

The Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Latin American Energy Organization took place in Kingston from February 24 to 27. Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley made the

inaugural speech. He pointed out that today in Latin America forces have emerged that are determined to exercise their sovereignty as free and independent peoples, recognizing at the same time the elements of mutual interdependence, through which they can fashion institutions and develop linkages making them all stronger individually as well as collectively.

He noted that the members of the Latin American Energy Organization "have in common a profound desire to determine that the future history of our countries is guided by our hands and by no others."

Representatives of member states participating in the conference also took the floor.

Cesar Robalino Gozaga, leader of the Ecuadorian delegation, refuted the fallacies spread by big industrial powers to blame the oil-producing and exporting countries for the so-called "world energy crisis" and the inflation and financial crisis. He proposed that the Latin American countries organize a united front to defend their natural resources and join forces with other third world countries in a powerful bloc to work for the establishment of a new international economic order.

Venezuelan delegation leader Altune Williams said: "The industrialized nations have unfolded a campaign to discredit the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in order to weaken their position in defence of their main export and thereby prevent other third world countries from adopting similar measures to strengthen the prices of their raw materials. Fortunately, this campaign did not succeed as the third world countries are today more aware than ever before that it is essential to act in concert to define policies to secure fair prices for their raw materials."

Leader of the Peruvian delegation Carlos Melo-Vega said: "At the global level, the most significant element in the international economic order is the political unity of the developing countries." "The Latin American countries have the absolute and in-

disputable right to defend, safeguard and make use of the natural resources on their territories in a manner they consider most convenient," he added.

Javier Alejo, leader of the Mexican delegation, said that "the rise in international oil prices has been in part a reply to the old colonial characteristics of injustice and international economic imbalance. The third world countries have awakened. Today they are fighting together in defence of the prices of their raw materials."

Wilfred Naimool, leader of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation, pointed out that the developed countries must not be permitted unendingly to plunder the resources of the developing countries. Dealing with the developed countries' attempt to perpetuate their control over the developing countries, he emphasized: "The consensus is that we most fiercely resist attempts of this nature. Our sovereignty is not to be trifled with."

Guillermo Gallo, leader of the Bolivian delegation, expressed the hope that the Latin American Energy Organization will become free of all outside influence and reach agreement on defence of Latin American energy resources in line with the overall concept of Latin American integration.

#### "THE CALL" (UNITED STATES)

### Superpowers' Contention in Europe's Northern Waters

An article in the February issue of *The Call*, a U.S. monthly, pointed out that Europe's northern waters have become the scene of fierce rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. These waters, which include the North Atlantic, the Norwegian Sea, the North Sea, the Baltic Sea, and the Barents Sea, are of great strategic significance in the battle of the two superpowers for world control, it said.

The article pointed out: Soviet naval manoeuvres have threatened the peace and security of all European countries, especially those of the Scandinavian countries. At the same

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# ON THE HOME FRONT

## **Highway Network in Tibet**

**K**NOwn as the "Roof of the World," the Tibet Plateau, formerly difficult and inefficient in communications, is now covered with a network of highways stretching throughout its length and breadth.

Before liberation, under the criminal rule of the feudal serf-owners, not one kilometre of highway was built in Tibet which extends over an area of 1,200,000 square kilometres. Transport depended entirely on manpower and animals.

After Tibet's liberation in 1951, Chairman Mao issued the call: "**Defy difficulties and work hard to build the highway in order to help our fraternal nationalities.**" With this as an encouragement, a road-building unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, together with people of Tibetan and Han nationalities, surmounted untold difficulties and dangers to complete the Szechuan-Tibet and Chinghai-Tibet highways in four years. After the overthrow of feudal serfdom in the democratic reform of 1959, the emancipated serfs together with P.L.A. men, in a new upsurge of highway-building, widened the main lines and branches and kept extending them. There are now 91 highways in the region, totalling over 15,800 kilometres in length. A highway network with Lhasa as the centre has been completed in the main, connecting 99 per cent of the counties and most of the towns directly under the county administration and also linking up neighbouring Szechuan, Chinghai, Yunnan and Sinkiang.

The building of highway network in Tibet has played an important role in strengthening unity between various nationalities, consolidating border defence in southwest China and accelerating Tibet's socialist revolution and construction. Since 1965, the year before the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution began, over 130 small and medium-sized industrial and mining enterprises have been

installed by the state with machinery and equipment transported to Tibet on the Chinghai-Tibet and Szechuan-Tibet highways.

## **Computer Used in Power Plant**

**W**ORKERS and technicians in the Shihchingshan Power Plant in Peking recently succeeded in replacing men with an electronic computer to control a 100,000-kw. coal-burning steam turbine generating set. This is an important achievement that fills in a blank in China's power industry.

Experiments in this field over a long period carried out in the plant by related departments had failed to yield satisfactory results due to interference by the revisionist line pushed by Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao. During the Great Cultural Revolution, workers and technicians knew better than ever that the question of whether or not the technique of using a computer in the control system of a coal-burning power plant could be mastered had a direct bearing on modernizing China's power industry and on her drive to catch up with the advanced level. Therefore, they should continue experimenting for final success, instead of abandoning things mid-way. With the support of the plant's Party committee and revolutionary committee, they summed up the experience gained in the course of their work and, after overcoming one difficulty after the other, their endeavours became successful.

## **Old Model Peasant Makes New Contributions**

**T**HOUGH Li Kuang-ching, a famous model peasant and secretary of the Party branch of the Chuangchiachiao Brigade in Fengshu Commune in Hunan Province's Taoyuan County, is 70, he is more vigorous than ever despite his age. Making new contributions to socialist revolution and construction, he set in 1974 a record grain yield averaging 1,560 kilogrammes per *mu*

(one-fifteenth of a hectare) on his five-*mu* triple-cropping (wheat-rice-rice) experimental plot.

An advanced fighter of the proletariat who has a long range view, Li Kuang-ching always has said: "While working in the fields, we must have the whole world in our mind."

He used to live in the 3rd team which always had bumper harvests. When he heard that the neighbouring 7th team's grain output was low, he made up his mind to move there to change the backward situation together with its poor and lower-middle peasants. What he did was highly praised by the local people. However, someone said: "Li Kuang-ching, you're a fool. Everything in the 3rd team is much better than in the 7th team. For what possible reason do you want to move from a well-off team to a less advanced team?" Li replied: "We have become our own masters, but we should not only think of our own rich team. For the sake of revolution, a Communist must willingly face up to difficulties."

After moving to the 7th team he worked strenuously with the commune members to increase the team's grain production from year to year, so that it has changed from a backward to an advanced team.

Two rice crops used to be grown a year in this locality. But Li Kuang-ching decided to learn about reaping three crops, one wheat and two rice a year, from others. In winter 1966 he planted winter wheat on his experimental plot. With Li taking the lead, the brigade also tried to plant some winter wheat. Because experience was lacking, the sowing season was delayed. The next year, when the early rice had to be transplanted, the wheat was just earing. The commune members had to plough the wheat seedlings into soil to enrich it. Though the wheat in Li's experimental plot had been preserved, the yield was very low. The per-*mu* yield of the triple-cropping was even lower than that of the original two rice crops.

Some people were disappointed. But Li Kuang-ching did not waver.



Li Kuang-ching and young women of the scientific research group select good seed strains for fraternal communes.

He said: "We got grain from each of the three crops. That's a big victory. It shows that our Taoyuan County has favourable conditions to popularize a triple-cropping system. The reason why output is not high is we're short of experience in this system." Together with the commune members, he conscientiously summed

up their experience, and through repeated practice the average per-*mu* yield on his triple-cropping experimental plot rose to more than 850 kilogrammes in 1969.

However, Li Kuang-ching was not satisfied with this achievement. He said: "My experimental plot is not more than five *mu*. No matter how high the output it's only one high-yield plot. Only when there are high yields everywhere in our country can we make greater contributions to mankind." Since that winter, at the request of some other areas, the Chuangchia-chiao Brigade has sent a number of capable commune members with production and technique experience and a high level of political consciousness to communes in or outside the province. Some of them have found ways of gaining higher grain yields than those achieved by Li Kuang-ching.

Regarding Li Kuang-ching's experience highly, the Party committee

at a higher level invited him to pass on his experience to the leading cadres and technicians of other counties and communes in the prefecture where Taoyuan County is located. As a result, the prefecture's triple-cropping acreage has now been expanded to over 13,000 hectares.

The road is tortuous. Till 1973 the average per-*mu* output on Li Kuang-ching's triple-cropping experimental plot still hovered between 1,250-1,350 kilogrammes. Someone told him: "Model peasant! A person who lives over 100 years is seldom seen, and getting grain to exceed 500 kilogrammes is difficult. You've toiled so many years. Perhaps you've reached the highest yield."

Li Kuang-ching did not believe this. According to his experience gained from practice, he was convinced that the land's potential was enormous. The movement to criticize Lin Piao and rectify the style of work and the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius have inspired him to further sum up his experience and overcome conservative ideas. Relying on the masses, he has achieved constant new successes, the latest being a record yield averaging 1,560 kilogrammes per *mu*.

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time, the frantic scramble for control of North Sea oil and Norwegian Sea fish has presented an open attempt to exploit the Scandinavian countries economically.

It said that the U.S.S.R. has carried out acts of open hostility towards the Scandinavian countries, such as mock-landing operations on islands off the Swedish coast, frequent illegal entry into Swedish and Norwegian waters, and espionage missions under cover of "freighters" and "tankers."

These actions have added substantially to the evidence that the Soviet revisionist chieftains are imperialists

in their own right, trying to outdistance the U.S. imperialists for a position as sole ruler of the world, the article stated.

Fully 60 per cent of the Soviet submarine force is deployed in the northern waters, and 45 per cent of the Soviet total naval vessels call in northern ports regularly, the article continued. Currently, the Soviet Union is beefing up its already massive forces at the Kola Peninsula naval base, in order to create a "defence line" dotted by submarines extending from Kola to Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands. This is in fact an offensive ring of stra-

tegic nuclear submarines, prepared to back up any possible Soviet military aggression on Europe's land area. This naval activity is one part of the increasing Soviet penetration of Europe.

The face-off of the superpower navies against each other, the presence of huge naval and air bases, the scramble for oil, the constant espionage — all these factors indicate that there is no such thing as "détente" between the superpowers. The rivalry is actually stepping up. Europe's northern waters are only one of the many strategic areas where this rivalry is threatening a new war, the article concluded.

**SPRING 1975**

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