

PEKING REVIEW

44

October 28, 1977

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報

**Fifth National People's Congress
To Be Convened Next Spring**

**The Struggle Around the Outline
Report on Science and Technology**

Driving Back the Deserts

— Report from Inner Mongolia

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北京周報

BEIJING ZHOUBAO

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Fifth National People's Congress To Be Convened Next Spring

THE Standing Committee of the Fourth National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China held its fourth session in Peking on October 23 and 24. The session unanimously adopted a decision on convening the First Session of the Fifth National People's Congress in spring next year.

Chairman Hua Kuo-feng attended and spoke at the plenary meeting on October 23. (For full text of his speech see our next issue.) On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, he submitted to the N.P.C. Standing Committee a proposal for convening the Fifth National People's Congress before the due date and made an explanation with regard to the proposal.

The decision adopted at the session announced the following agenda for the First Session of the Fifth National People's Congress: hearing a report on the work of the government;

revising the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and hearing a report on the revision of the Constitution; and the election and appointment of leading personnel of the state.

Vice-Chairmen of the C.P.C. Central Committee Yeh Chien-ying, Teng Hsiao-ping, Li Hsien-nien and Wang Tung-hsing attended the session which was presided over by Wu Teh, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Also attending the session were other leading comrades of the Party and the State Council.

On the morning of October 23, all Members of the N.P.C. Standing Committee attending the session, cherishing deep memory of Chairman Mao, paid their respects to his remains.

The plenary meeting in the afternoon of October 23 heard a report on the development of China's national economy by Yu Chiu-li, Member of the Political

Bureau of the C.P.C. Central Committee and Vice-Premier of the State Council. (For his speech see our next issue.)

The session broke into group discussions on the morning of the 24th. In their speeches, all the N.P.C. Standing Committee Members voiced support for the proposal made by Chairman Hua on behalf of the C.P.C. Central Committee on convening the Fifth National People's Congress before the scheduled date.

The N.P.C. Standing Committee held another plenary meeting in the afternoon of the same day and a decision on convening the First Session of the Fifth National People's Congress was unanimously adopted.

The National People's Congress is elected for a term of five years. The First Session of the Fourth National People's Congress met from January 13 to 17, 1975, and its term of office should expire in 1980.

Chairman Hua Meets Former British Prime Minister Heath

CHAIRMAN Hua Kuo-feng on October 20 met Edward Heath, former British Prime Minister, and his party.

At the meeting, Chairman Hua said: "We hope to see a united and strong Europe. We believe that Europe, on its part, hopes to see a strong China too." Mr. Heath said that Europe and

China had common interests, namely, to safeguard their own security and that Britain and the European Community had a great interest in the future of China. He added: "China is on the road of progress. We in Europe welcome it."

Chairman Hua extended a warm welcome to Mr. Heath on

his visit to China. He said: We attach great importance to the positive contribution you, Mr. Heath, have made in developing the friendly relations between China and Britain.

Mr. Heath and his party arrived in Peking on October 18. This was his third visit to China. During Mr. Heath's stay in the

capital, Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping met him and Foreign Minister Huang Hua held talks with him.

At the banquet he gave on October 19 in honour of the former British Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Huang Hua said: "Mr. Heath is an eminent British and European statesman. Leading Britain in joining the European Economic Community, he has made an important contribution to European unity. He has soberly pointed out the threat of the social-imperialist policies of expansion and war, and made a most valuable contribution by helping people see the realities confronting Europe."

Mr. Heath ended his visit and left China on October 24.

Vorster Regime's New Atrocity Condemned

The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China issued a statement on October 24 strongly condemning the South African Vorster racist regime for its grave new atrocity. The statement reads:

On October 19, the Vorster racist regime flagrantly banned 18 anti-apartheid organizations in South Africa, shut down two newspapers run by black people and searched for, arrested and detained leaders of black people's mass movements all over the country. This is another barbarous act of suppression committed by the reactionary South African regime against the Azanian people after the 1960 Sharpeville massacre and the 1976 Soweto massacre. The Chinese Government and people express their utmost indignation

at and strong condemnation of this grave new crime perpetrated by the reactionary Vorster regime.

In recent years, the struggles of the people in southern Africa for national independence and liberation have been developing vigorously. The Azanian people's resistance against apartheid and racial discrimination has risen in waves one higher than another. The armed struggle of the people in Zimbabwe and Namibia against racist rule and for national independence has steadily deepened. In the face of the mounting struggle for national liberation, Vorster and his like, supported and prompted by the imperialists, have frantically used the counter-revolutionary dual tactics of stepping up armed suppression while feverishly advocating "dialogue," "negotiations" and "improvement of racial relations" in an attempt to stamp out the flames of the people's struggle in Azania and all southern Africa. The new atrocity of the reactionary Vorster regime is its last-ditch struggle to save itself from approaching doom. However, this fascist atrocity has further revealed the falsehood of "dialogue" and the Vorster regime's other tricks as well as the intrinsic weakness of its reactionary rule. The law of history is irresistible. By taking such perverse actions, Vorster and his like are lifting a rock only to drop it on their own feet and will stimulate the Azanian people to more vigorous struggles and thus accelerate their own doom.

The Chinese Government and people have always firmly supported the Azanian people in

their just struggle against apartheid and racial discrimination and for national liberation. We are sure that the valiant Azanian people will surmount all difficulties and obstacles on their road of advance and win victory for their national-liberation struggle so long as they strengthen their unity, persist in struggle, use revolutionary dual tactics against counter-revolutionary dual tactics and guard against superpower interference and sabotage.

Vice-Premier Teng Meets Foreign Visitors

Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping recently met and had friendly conversations with a number of foreign guests in Peking.

On October 14, he met with Susumu Nikaido, Member of the House of Representatives and former Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan, and his party.

The next day the Vice-Premier met and feted Paul T.K. Lin, Professor at the Centre for East Asian Studies, McGill University of Canada, and his wife Chen Shu.

On October 21, the Vice-Premier met with Claude Roussel, President and Director General of Agence France Presse, Madame Roussel and David G.O. Davies, Director of the AFP Hongkong Branch.

On October 24, Vice-Premier Teng met the U.S. Delegation of the Board of Directors of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations with Charles Yost, Chairman of the Board, as its leader and Arthur Rosen, President of the National Committee, as its deputy leader.

The Struggle Around the Outline Report on Science and Technology

by Chung Ko

WITH the mass media under its control, the "gang of four" in 1976 launched criticisms of what it called the "three poisonous weeds." One of these was an outline report on science and technology which was prepared by the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1975 for the Party Central Committee and the State Council*.

The Whys and Wherefores

Towards the end of 1974 when tremendous victories had been won in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, Chairman Mao issued a series of directives on studying the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, on stability and unity and on pushing the national economy forward. As a result of the interference by the Lin Piao anti-Party clique and the "gang of four," there were at that time many problems in various fields of work, including science and technology, which needed to be solved. In 1975, Comrade Hua Kuo-feng and other leading members of the central authorities told the leadership of the Academy of Sciences that the academy needed consolidation and that prompt and effective measures should be taken to put things in order so as to expedite the work of scientific research and not let it hold back the development of the national economy. They also instructed that inquiries into the matter be made and that a report be sent to the central authorities without delay. It was against such a background that the outline report was prepared.

*The other two were the article "On the General Programme for All Work of the Whole Party and Whole Country" and the document "Some Problems in Accelerating Industrial Development." For details see *Peking Review*, Nos. 33 and 42, 1977.

The report elucidated Chairman Mao's line, principles and policies on the work of science and technology and, though it did not criticize members of the gang by name, it clarified some of the issues messed up by the gang and suggested ways of resolving these problems. In September 1975 the State Council called a meeting to hear the report; Comrade Hua Kuo-feng and other central leading comrades endorsed the report and gave many important instructions as well. Later it was sent to Chairman Mao for final approval. He examined it and gave a few directives for some changes.

The following year, 1976, saw members of the "gang of four" step up their activities to usurp Party and state power. Science and technology was one of the fields in which they attempted to make a breach to serve their own ends. They tried to make use of the "criticism" of the outline report to falsely charge and overthrow Comrade Teng Hsiao-ping and other leading comrades at the central level so that they themselves could take over. In August that year, when Chairman Mao was seriously ill, they whipped up a "new high tide in criticizing the three poisonous weeds" in the press. They did this without Chairman Mao's knowledge and approval, for Chairman Mao never said anything about criticizing the so-called "three poisonous weeds."

At the same time, the "gang of four" told its followers to compile and publish a booklet carrying the remarks of several vice-premiers made at the meeting in September 1975, together with talks by Comrades Hua Kuo-feng, Yeh Chien-ying and Teng Hsiao-ping. These remarks and talks were quoted out of context so that they could be subjected to "criticism." Even more despicable was the fact that the booklet included some of Chairman Mao's in-

structions which the gang vilified as "political rumours." All this revealed the gang's real intentions.

Proletarian Dictatorship or Bourgeois Dictatorship?

The "gang of four" insisted on saying that the outline report "denies that class struggle is the key link" and that it "disavows the dictatorship of the proletariat" and was, therefore, "a programme for capitalist restoration." This was a big lie.

In extending its influence to the field of science and technology the "gang of four" recruited some people there to become their trusted followers and established a bourgeois factional setup which threw its weight about and overrode even the Party organization. In the name of fighting "capitalist-roaders," these followers of the gang attacked and fabricated accusations against many revolutionary leading cadres and tried to completely usurp the Party's leadership over scientific and technical work. To achieve this they tampered with Chairman Mao's line in science and technology and trampled on the Party's relevant principles and policies — all in an attempt to confuse people's minds and fish in troubled waters.

In the light of this situation, the outline report stressed the need to implement Chairman Mao's revolutionary line in a comprehensive way. It pointed out: "A crude attitude or an oversimplified approach, indulgence in empty talk or letting emotion rather than policy hold sway, implementing Chairman Mao's revolutionary line in science and technology one-sidedly and according to one's own whims — all this is bound to give rise to ideological confusion and bring damage to work, and may even weaken or completely write off the work in science and technology. This, in essence, means a departure from the needs of proletarian politics and the needs of socialism and the people, and there is the likelihood that we may still fall into the pit of revisionism."

Take for example the attitude and approach that should be taken towards intellectuals. Since there are large numbers of intellectuals working in the field of science and technology, the correct implementation of the Party's policy of uniting, educating and remoulding intellectuals is therefore important. Lenin consistently

regarded the workers, peasants and intellectuals as the basic force in socialist construction, and Chairman Mao, too, always taught us to do the same. But the "gang of four" regarded intellectuals without exception as "bourgeois intellectuals" "undermining socialism" and "sabotaging the economic base of socialism." They even cursed intellectuals as belonging to the "stinking ninth category" coming after the eight categories of class enemies including the landlords. They branded all specialists as "reactionary authorities." Wang Hung-wen, one of the "gang of four," even said that in the institutes of scientific research there were "as many enemy agents as bananas growing in clusters." Chang Chun-chiao, another member of the gang, bellowed: "The movement to suppress counter-revolutionaries never so much as touched the cultural and educational circles. Throw some into prison where they belong and kill some who deserve capital punishment." As a result of what they said and did, the intellectuals' enthusiasm for socialism was greatly impaired.

With regard to the question of intellectuals, the outline report pointed up the need to "take effective measures in the immediate future," faithfully "carry out the Party's policy of uniting, educating and remoulding intellectuals" and "bring the initiative of the vast numbers of intellectuals into full play." It also pointed out: "While enlisting the service of intellectuals, it is imperative to continue to pay great attention to their ideological remoulding and keep to the orientation of intellectuals integrating with the workers and peasants."

All this showed that the outline report waged a tit-for-tat struggle against the "gang of four" on many major issues.

Written and published at the bidding of the gang, the articles "criticizing" the outline report used Marxist-Leninist phraseology to give readers the impression that their authors were most concerned about the consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat. But the fact was that these people, their pious words notwithstanding, were actually exercising the bourgeois dictatorship in the field of science and technology. They regarded Party organizations at all levels and leading cadres loyal to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line as the targets of revolution, and they placed vast numbers of intellectuals and all those who refused to

follow them under the dictatorship of the gang and its factional setups.

Do We Want to Turn China Into a Powerful Socialist Country or Not?

The outline report stressed the need to quicken the pace of modernizing agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology and turn our country into a powerful socialist country — a programme mapped out by Chairman Mao and Premier Chou. Accordingly, it emphasized the point that scientific research must precede production and construction and elaborated the significance of modernizing science and technology as quickly as possible.

The “gang of four,” however, dismissed all these statements in the outline report as propagating the idea that “science decides everything” and the “theory of the all-importance of the productive forces.” In their opinion, “the day when the four modernizations are realized is also the day when capitalism is restored.” According to them, science and technology, far from being a revolutionary force that propels history forward, are the roots of all evil.

Our difference with the “gang of four” is, therefore, not merely a question of attitude towards science and technology but a struggle that affects the future of the Chinese revolution. Chairman Mao once admonished the whole Party that we should not fail to develop our economy at a speed faster than that of capitalism, otherwise we would be in danger of being read off the face of the earth. The line pushed by the gang would certainly plunge our country once again into poverty, backwardness, ignorance and darkness.

Members of the “gang of four” shouted themselves hoarse about revolution and dictatorship. What is the purpose of making revolution? And what is the dictatorship of the proletariat for? Dictatorship, they said, is the end; dictatorship means everything. Chairman Mao said very clearly that revolution means emancipating the productive forces. “The aim of this dictatorship is to protect all our people so that they can devote themselves to peaceful labour and make China a socialist country with modern industry, modern agriculture, and modern science and culture.”

(*On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People*, 1957.) One of the main tasks of the dictatorship of the proletariat is to develop the socialist economy.

To develop the productive forces, we must push our science and technology forward. This is because “the productiveness of labour . . . develops continually with the uninterrupted advance of science and technology.” (Marx: *Capital*, Part VII, “The Accumulation of Capital.”) Chairman Mao pointed out that we must break away from the convention and adopt as many advanced techniques as possible in order to build China into a powerful modern socialist country in not too long a period of time. This is what we mean by the big leap forward.

Members of the “gang of four” were opposed to the statement in the outline report that science and technology are also productive forces and labelled this statement as a manifestation of “the theory of the all-importance of the productive forces.” They even described it as a “worn-out weapon taken from the arsenal of revisionism.” They said this not out of their ignorance but because they did not want to make China a prosperous and powerful socialist country. As a matter of fact, the gang’s sabotage had already brought severe damage to China’s scientific and technological undertakings, which held back the development of the national economy. This widened the gap with the world’s advanced scientific level which at one time was being narrowed.

Materialist Dialectics or Metaphysics?

In view of the grave confusion in the field of science and technology caused by the “gang of four,” the outline report correctly explained Chairman Mao’s revolutionary line and policies. But again the gang slandered the explanations as “eclecticism.” Yao Wen-yuan, one of the “gang of four,” went out of his way to single out a passage from the outline report as a pretext for his attack.

This passage said that Chairman Mao’s revolutionary line in science and technology should be correctly interpreted and systematically publicized and that attention should be paid to guarding against any deviation, lopping off or distortion. In particular, the outline report dealt at length with the following five questions:

(1) On the relationship between politics and technique, the report stressed that it is wrong not to criticize the tendency of ignoring politics; on the other hand, it is also wrong not to encourage scientific and technical personnel to study professional knowledge.

(2) On the question of scientific and technical personnel integrating with the workers and peasants, it is wrong not to criticize the tendency of belittling the role of the masses in scientific research, and it is equally wrong not to give full play to the role of specialized research institutes and specialists.

(3) On the relationship between scientific research and production, it is wrong not to call on scientific and technical personnel to do research and solve urgent problems in actual production; on the other hand, it is equally wrong to overlook or deny the importance of research in basic theory and the necessity of laboratory work.

(4) On the question of remoulding intellectuals and enlisting their service, it is wrong to assume that the remoulding of their world outlook has more or less been completed; on the other hand, it is equally wrong to maintain that they cannot be of any use until they have remoulded themselves completely.

(5) On the question of the relationship between Marxist philosophy and the natural sciences, it is wrong to deny the guiding role of philosophy in relation to the natural sciences; on the other hand, it is equally wrong to think that the former can substitute the latter and that concrete conclusions on specific scientific problems can be arrived at by relying on the general principles of philosophy.

These viewpoints in the outline report were in complete conformity with Chairman Mao's consistent teachings, and took into consideration all aspects of an issue as required by materialist dialectics. The two erroneous tendencies on each of the issues mentioned in the outline report should be opposed. Such viewpoints are certainly not eclecticism but are in accord with the materialist dialectical theory of one dividing into two.

To confuse people's minds, the "gang of four" propagated the metaphysical viewpoints on many issues. Early in 1974 Chairman Mao criticized them for their one-sidedness and

pointed out that metaphysics was rampant. Members of the gang spread all kinds of fallacies in the field of science and technology. Take for instance the relationship between political consciousness and professional knowledge. Chairman Mao repeatedly stressed that people should strive to become both red and expert. But the "gang of four" made believe that the two things were diametrically opposed to each other. Whoever tried to study science and technology was accused by them of being politically backward or being a reactionary. Chang Chun-chiao even went so far as to say that "the more knowledge one has, the more reactionary one becomes."

As to the relationship between specialized professionals and the masses engaged in scientific research, they flaunted the banner of attaching greater importance to the part played by the workers and peasants and negated the main role played by the professionals, and they ruled out laboratory work as well. They also opposed studying basic theory under the pretext that theory should be linked with practice! They indiscriminately dismissed learning from foreign countries as "servility to things foreign" and introducing advanced techniques as "trailing behind at a snail's pace," and so on and so forth.

* * *

In the summer of 1976 when the gang was holding sway, it had several million copies of booklets "criticizing the three poisonous weeds" printed for nationwide circulation without the authorization of the Party Central Committee. The masses at that time were infuriated by this kind of "criticism" which quoted Party and state leaders' remarks out of context. They were angered by the gang's highfalutin words which did not conform to facts and they revolted at the contemptible methods the gang used to distort and lop off Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. Although the press under the gang's control at that time published numerous articles of "criticism," the masses simply were not interested in them. The truth finally came out after the gang's downfall. These articles of "criticism" turned out to be an important part of its scheme to usurp Party and state power. The criticism of the gang's "criticisms" soon won the hearts of the masses and it became a very popular campaign across the length and breadth of the country.

Scientific Research Reactivated

CHINA's scientific research has got back into its stride after Chairman Hua gave an important instruction on this work in May this year.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences has called a number of academic meetings and forums since then. At the August forum on the theory of fundamental particles, 43 papers and research results were read and shared, demonstrating China's new advances in this field. American physicist Yang Chen-ning attended the forum and delivered a report on the subject. At a meeting on astrophysics, convened the same month, some 100 highly informative papers were read. Two of them, citing detailed ancient Chinese records of astronomical observations and studies, showed that the phenomenon of an 11-year cycle in solar activity has existed for more than 2,000 years, and not merely for the last 300 years as some foreign scientists claimed.

The meeting mapped out a programme for developing study and research in astrophysics.

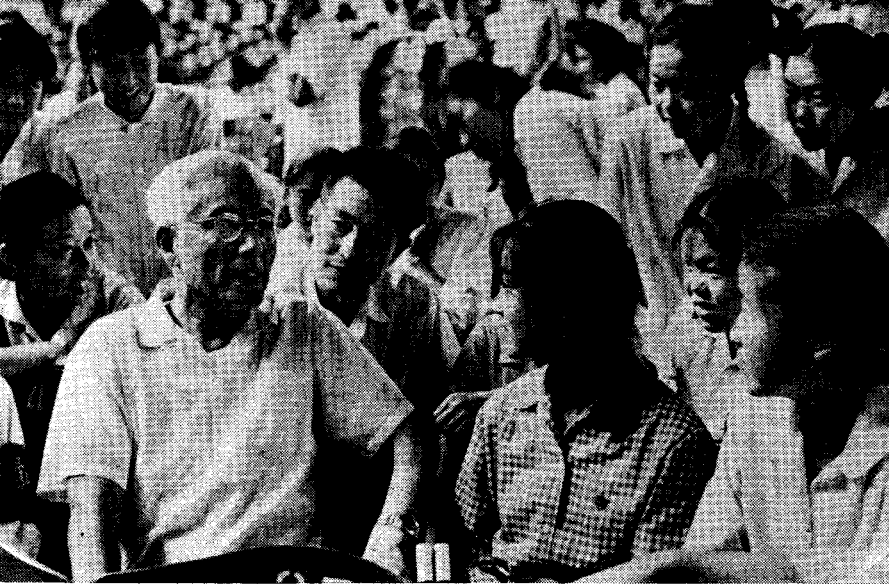
In October, more than 1,200 representatives from various parts of the country attended a national meeting to map out a programme for the development of natural science. Plans for the development of mathematics, physics, chemistry, astronomy, earth science, biology and other basic fields of natural science were drawn up after discussion.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences recently made Chen Ching-jun a research fellow and Yang Lo and Chang Kuang-hou associate research fellows. All three mathematicians, brought up and educated in New China, have achieved outstanding results in mathematical theory. Formerly, Chen Ching-jun was an assistant research fellow, while Yang Lo and Chang Kuang-hou were research assistants.

To speed up the training of scientific research personnel, the Chinese Academy of Sciences has recently set up a school for post-graduate students under the Chinese University of Science and Technology. The school will enrol 1,000 students within two to three years and later more will be admitted annually. After three years of study, the students should be imbued with socialist consciousness, have acquired a good grasp of Marxism and the dialectics of nature, be physically fit, have systematic and solid theoretical knowledge of their speciality, skilfully use at least one foreign language and be able to do independent research work.



Yang Lo (right) and Chang Kuang-hou.



Noted physicist Chou Pei-yuan talking with young enthusiasts in science in Peking.

The Chinese Scientific and Technical Association held forums in August attended by scientists, model workers and more than 7,000 Peking middle school students who are keenly interested in natural science. Scientists at these forums urged students to acquire basic scientific knowledge so as to have a sound foundation for their future participation in bringing about socialist China's modernization of agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology and in scaling the heights of science and technology.

In Shanghai, an important centre of China's science and technology, a forum of 150 scientists and technicians was held at the end of September. The participants (scientists, professors, engineers, model workers and technical innovators) expressed their determination to make an all-out effort in advancing research work.

At a recent Peking conference on science and technology, 238 advanced units and 560 advanced individuals were commended and awards were conferred for some 1,300 scientific and technical results. The meeting pledged to build Peking into an advanced scientific and technological base.

Over the past few years, the "gang of four" disseminated numerous fallacies, like "knowledge is of no use," "even without doing any scientific research for three years, crude oil will gush out just the same," "the earth will still circle the sun without scientific research," and

so on and so forth. They maligned scientific research institutes as "capitalist strongholds" and disbanded many of them, with the result that a great many scientific and technical personnel were persecuted or forced to give up research.

With the exposure and criticism of the gang's crimes, the confusion they created in respect to the line, principles and policies has step by step been clarified and scientific institutes disbanded or turned into chaotic shambles by the gang have been restored and put right again. Scientific and technical personnel removed from their posts by the gang and their followers have been reinstated. Trained personnel are being given work they were trained for and damaged laboratory instruments and equipment repaired, replaced and complemented. The libraries are being put together again. Everything is being done to provide research workers with conditions necessary to their work.

Chairman Hua in May pointed out: The three great revolutionary movements of class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment should be grasped simultaneously; science should flourish and advance, and reports of successes should keep coming in; science and technology must not only be modernized, but should advance ahead of production and construction and contribute to the modernization of industry, agriculture and national defence. We have Mao Tsetung Thought, the revolutionary line formulated by Chairman Mao, the socialist system, a contingent of scientific and technical personnel and 800 million industrious and brave people, we should therefore have confidence in catching up with and surpassing advanced world levels.

The circular on holding a national science conference (see our issue No. 40) issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in September has been a tremendous encouragement to Chinese scientific and technical workers.

Fruitful Scientific Results

IN the past, many scientific and technical personnel perceived the criminal activities of the "gang of four" in sabotaging Chairman Mao's line in science and technology, but could only look on with suppressed anger. In defiance of pressure from the gang and its followers and under difficult working conditions, they kept up their research and gained fruitful results. However, the mass media controlled by the "gang of four" did not publicize them.

After the downfall of the gang and especially since Chairman Hua issued an important instruction on scientific work, scientists and technicians have been working with new enthusiasm and greater determination to scale the heights of science. News of this has begun to appear in China's newspapers, along with the reports of important research results achieved by them in recent years. Following are some of these results.

New Progress in Cytogenetics. Research by the Chinese biologist Tung Ti-chou and his research group together with the American scientist Man-chiang Niu and his wife proves that the messenger ribonucleic acid (MRNA) in the cytoplasm plays a remarkable role in the development and heredity of animals. They also have discovered that the deoxyribonucleic acid in the cell nucleus plays an induction role in the development and heredity of distantly related animals.

Scientists in other countries have formulated many theories in cytogenetics on the relationship between the cell nucleus and the cytoplasm. In general, they are of the opinion that the cytoplasm is controlled by the cell nucleus which is the principal factor in controlling cell differentiation, development and hereditary characteristics. Tung Ti-chou and

his research group have studied this question for a long time. They regard cell differentiation, development and hereditary characteristics as the result of interaction between the cell nucleus, the cytoplasm and other factors in the unified organism of the cell.

In 1973 and 1975, Tung Ti-chou and his Chinese co-workers together with visiting Professor Man-chiang Niu and his wife conducted a series of scientific experiments. They isolated messenger ribonucleic acid from the mature eggs of the ovary of crucian and injected it into the fertilized eggs of goldfish. As a result a number of goldfish and their descendants showed the characteristics of the crucian caudal fin. This indicates that messenger ribonucleic acid in the cytoplasm plays a remarkable role in the development and heredity of animals.

Since the MRNA in the cytoplasm can bring about changes in the hereditary characteristics of animals of the same species such as the crucian and the goldfish, will it have the same effect in the case of different species such as the common carp and the goldfish? Both Chinese and American scientists have carried out further research on this question. They isolated MRNA from the mature eggs of the common carp and injected it into the fertilized eggs of the goldfish. Results of the experiments once again show that about 20 per cent of the goldfish had the single caudal fin characteristic of the common carp instead of double caudal fins. This further proves that the MRNA in the cytoplasm also plays a marked induction role in the development and heredity of different species of animals.

These Chinese and American scientists made further experiments on whether MRNA can change the internal characteristics of ani-



Professor Man-chiang Niu (second from left) and his wife Pao-ying Chang (fourth from left) discussing a paper with Tung Ti-chou (third from left) and his colleagues.

mals. They made a comparative study of the patterns of isozyme liver lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) of goldfish, common carp, a cross-breed between goldfish and common carp, and larval fish developed from the eggs of goldfish into which the MRNA from the eggs of the common carp was injected. Results show that the pattern of the isozyme of the larval fish is similar to the isozyme pattern of the cross-bred fish, and not to that of goldfish or common carp. This proves that MRNA can bring about both external and internal changes in animals.

Can nucleic acid's induction role in the development and heredity of animals manifest itself between more distantly related animals? Tung Ti-chou, Man-chiang Niu and their co-workers experimented with salamander (amphibian) and goldfish — animals of two different classes. They isolated deoxyribonucleic acid from the cells of the visceral organs of salamander and injected it into the fertilized eggs of goldfish. As a result, just like larval salamander, a bar-shaped balancer situated posterior to the corner of the mouth developed in

about one per cent of the larval goldfish. Histological examination shows that the internal structure of the balancer of larval goldfish is the same as that of larval salamander. This proves that nucleic acid also plays an induction role in the development and heredity of distantly related animals of different classes. This discovery is likely to be of great significance to breeding new strains of animals.

The research results achieved by Tung Ti-chou, Man-chiang Niu and their co-workers constitute a new contribution to the study of cytogenetics and are of outstanding significance for agro-science and medicine.

The Kirin Meteorite Shower. After over a year's comprehensive research involving many fields, our scientists have achieved results in the study of the meteorite shower which fell in China's Kirin Province on March 8 last year. The shower was the biggest of its kind known to world history.

The parent bodies of meteorites are small planets in the solar system. After these

small planets were crushed as they clashed together or collided with other bodies in the universe, their fragments will travel through the cosmic space of the solar system in their own orbits and some of them will finally fall on the earth.

The Kirin meteorite shot into the atmosphere at a very high speed last year. Owing to the strong shock wave and the violent friction with the air through the flight, its surface temperature reached about 3,500 degrees C. and thermal stress 1,000 kilogrammes per square centimetre. The temperature of the surrounding atmosphere rose to nearly 20,000 degrees C. Thus the meteorite became a glowing fireball. It burst asunder in the sky with a thunderous blast and underwent further small explosions. The small fragments dispersed by the wind of the upper atmosphere fell one after another and thus formed a shower of meteorites.

The orbit of the Kirin meteorite in the interplanetary space was elliptical, its aphelion lying between Jupiter and Mars and its perihelion being a little closer to the sun than the earth, according to scientific calculations based on the velocity of the meteorite at the time of its fall, on various physical and chemical parameters and on celestial mechanics.

The Kirin meteorite was formed 4,600 million years ago, the same time as many other meteorites. Following a big explosion in its parent body about 8 million years ago, it became a meteoritic body travelling around the sun. Its proximity to the earth last year caused its fall.

By studying the chondrules and structure of the Kirin meteorite, our scientists identified nearly 40 major minerals (such as olivine) and minor minerals (such as diopside), and many organic compounds such as amino acids. This is of great importance for the study of the formation and evolution of the planets and for tracing the process of the chemical evolution of the pre-life period.

Our scientists studied the characteristics of the nuclear reaction in the interaction between the Kirin meteorite and the cosmic rays, and the variation in the products of nuclear reaction according to their depth in the meteoritic body. This provides significant material for the study of the orbit travelled by the meteoritic body in the cosmic space and the fragmentation of the meteoritic body as it passed through the atmosphere.

Based on such research work, our scientists set forth a model to illustrate the formation and evolution of the Kirin meteorite beginning with the condensation, accumulation and accretion from the solar nebula which formed its parent body, followed by the thermal metamorphic process, the metamorphic effects of impact and the breakup of the parent body, and ending in its fall to the earth.

Triticale — a New Strain of Grain. Alloctoploid triticale, developed by crossing wheat and rye, is a new strain representing an important result of scientific experiment by our agricultural scientists integrated with the workers and peasants.

Triticale combines the good features of rye (many ears, resistance to disease, ability to thrive in poor soils) and of wheat (a fine-quality grain with large numbers of flowers), and adds a quality of its own — higher productivity. Grown in the plateau of southwest China and the high-altitude and cold areas of northwest China, it outyields local wheat by about 30 per cent and rye by over 40 per cent.

Flour milled from triticale is white, has a high protein content and ferments well in bread-making. The stalks can be used for fodder.

The area in China sown to triticale has increased from some 1,300 hectares in 1975 to 8,660 hectares. The introduction of this new variety of grain to high-altitude and cold areas enables them to produce more fine-quality grain and boost their yields.

Driving Back the Deserts

by Our Correspondents Kao Yun and Hsiang Jung

In issue No. 43 we published two articles on the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region and how the Party's policies towards the minority nationalities are being carried out there. Beginning with this issue, we are putting out a series of reports by our correspondents on desert control, advances in the pastoral areas, changes which have taken place in the lives of the people of Mongolian nationality, how this minority has grown in numbers. . . . — Ed.

CAN huge, desolate wastes of drift sand and gravel be made habitable again? Not many years ago, many held that it was impossible to bring these "dead seas" back to life. But preliminary results obtained after liberation by this country in reclaiming areas like this in Inner Mongolia show that such pessimism was unfounded. People in this autonomous region are now saying: "In the old days the sand drove us away. Today, we are driving the desert back!"

A quarter of the area of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region is covered by vast stretches of sand (erg desert) or vast plains of depositional gravel (gobi desert). The four major deserts in this autonomous region are the Maowusu Sandy Land, the Kobuzn Desert, the Ulanbuho Desert and the Orzindag Sandy Land, or Lesser Tengri. Deserts are found in all four leagues of this autonomous region. The Kobuzn stretches from east to west and the Maowusu from north to south. They make up 39.4 per cent of the area of the Ikh Chao League in the southwestern part of this region.

Not far from Tunghsheng, the capital of this league, we saw the glittering gold and blue

glazed tiles of the Tomb of Genghis Khan. Local lore has it that about 800 years ago Genghis Khan homeward bound from a hunting trip stopped to rest here and was greatly taken by the rich verdant beauty of this well-watered marshy wilderness. This same spot by the 1940s had become bare, arid wasteland.

These deserts were formed by aeolian action on riverine-lacustrine sedimentary deposits under arid climatic conditions. Unbridled plunder of natural resources, irrational exploitation of the land and large-scale deforestation by generations of reactionary rulers wreaked havoc with the vegetal cover and caused the deserts to spread. As a result, in the 250 years prior to liberation the Maowusu had advanced 60 kilometres both east and south.

Over the centuries, the working people have had to contend with the twin scourges of reactionary rulers and encroaching desert. They retreated in a losing fight against a spreading sea of sand, which the local people called "Maowusu," meaning "malevolent flood." The shifting sand engulfed houses, farmland, canals and pastures. We learnt that it was quite common for people to move house every two years. Sometimes their doors were jammed by sand piling up overnight, and in a sandstorm grazing sheep would be buried alive and roads blocked.

An engineer engaged in the transformation of deserts told us that not long after liberation he made a survey on camelback, but in the 40 days which he spent, he was not able to cover the Kobuzn Desert, which measured 400 kilometres in length and was about 50 kilometres at its widest. He found sand everywhere, and not a blade of grass or a sign of human habita-

tion. When the wind blew, clouds of swirling dust darkened the sky. Not many then believed that man could tame these sands.

Today, nearly 30 years after liberation, many desert areas have begun to show changes. On the desert fringes "green walls" of protective trees can be seen. Tall poplars, Hankow willows and pea shrubs flank the roads. Shifting dunes, planted with desert wormwoods and desert willows, have become anchored with a covering of living vegetation. Tree nurseries and cropland have been fenced off by turf walls, stone walls or barbed-wire. Behind barriers of willows and other trees, new oases have appeared, with orchards, cropland, groves of trees, bubbling streams and many wells. The autonomous region today has turned 818,000 hectares of arid desert into forests, pastures and farmland.

Industrious and Ingenious People

We visited a man-made oasis in the Ikh Chao League's Talde Banner. The car followed a cool tree-lined motor road. On one side were fields of wheat, on the other, neat plots of apple and pear orchards, vineyards, jujubes and other fruit. There were also tree nurseries with

stands of young poplar, elm and Chinese pine. Arriving at a village, we were met by 64-year-old Hsu Chih-min, Party branch secretary of the Yuantzutala brigade's forestry station.

The local people spoke admiringly of Comrade Hsu. Twenty years ago, there had been 19 families in the village with a total of 800 hectares of land, two-thirds of it barren sandy waste. After land reform, the poor peasants were given land, which they began to cultivate in the traditional way — broadcast sowing over large areas. Yields shrank to a minimum under the sand incursions. Before long there was only one household left, the rest having moved elsewhere. The single remaining family lived by raising livestock.

Hsu Chih-min originally lived in another village 5 kilometres away. He had been a farm labourer, and after liberation had tried his hand at raising trees in the desert. In 1954 he organized eight neighbouring households into a mutual-aid team and together they planted six hectares of forests. He was highly praised for this. After the people's commune was set up in 1958, the commune Party committee asked Hsu Chih-min to organize a 21-member team



Water is here.

A road in Yuantzutala.

to check the encroaching sands which were seriously threatening Yuantzutala.

Comrade Hsu said that there were only three roofless houses left when he arrived. The difficulties were enormous. He and his team fetched desert wormwood and willow saplings, carrying them on their backs from 5 kilometres away. During the wet summers the saplings grew, but many of them were uprooted by the autumn wind. Those which held out were damaged or destroyed by goats and rabbits. In addition, there were also class enemies to contend with. Some of the trees which attained their full size were chopped down by bad elements.

For 20 years Comrade Hsu led the local people in reclaiming the surrounding desert. They worked hard, and relying on the wisdom of the collective they overcame difficulty after difficulty. Today, Yuantzutala is altered beyond recognition. The original 18 families have moved back and 24 new ones have moved in, bringing the population up to 170 persons. By 1976 they had 337 hectares under forest. Using cultivation methods appropriate to the various kinds of soil, they have begun developing farming and livestock breeding. Last year they grew enough grain to feed themselves, and were herding 800 head of livestock.

Collective Strength of the Communes

In the old society individual households were powerless before the creeping desert sand. Only after they began to take the socialist collective road could the people get organized for effective measures to transform the desert. People's communes can amass more funds than any individual household and they can deploy more manpower and assemble all available transport to tackle the problem in an overall, planned way. We visited the Wushenchao People's Commune in the heart of the Maowusu Sandy Land. It is a good example of how effectively collective resources and abilities can be used in taming the desert. Wushenchao was once a desolate, poverty-stricken hamlet. Some 4,000 people inhabited an area of 1,600 square kilometres, 54 per cent of which was covered with shifting sand. Only a third was pastureland

suitable for grazing, but even this was scattered among the sand dunes. The available fodder was poor and sparse.

The people here had to cope with sandstorms, drought, floods, animal parasites and a poisonous herb which killed the livestock.

"We really came to grips with the desert only after the people's commune was set up in 1958," said Comrade Wuligi, secretary of the commune Party committee. Before long the Party committee met to discuss the problem of taming the sand. The leading members went in person to study the desert areas of the commune, listened to what the masses had to say and then began to draw up long-term plans. In 1959 according to the pressing demands of the herders the commune assembled 700 people to carry bundles of desert willows and wormwood from a long way off to plant on the eight sand dunes threatening the commune. In one year they had 200 hectares planted to trees. Every spring and autumn during the slack seasons, the commune organized mass campaigns involving more than a thousand people to plant trees and grass in a planned way to stop the dunes from migrating further. During these campaigns headquarters was set up in tents out among the dunes. The Party secretary himself took command, worked and lived at the site. Labour emulation was organized vigorously.

The commune has 1,400 able-bodied and semi-able-bodied persons. Since 1958 nearly a million work days have been devoted to fighting the creeping sand. On an average each person has tamed 11 hectares over the past 20 years. In between campaigns, while 70 per cent of the work force is engaged in raising livestock, a team of 350 young militia members continues this work the year round and also works at enlarging the fodder bases.

A lion's share of the commune's public funds is spent on buying tree saplings, grass seed, barbed-wire and implements used in fighting the desert. Whenever required, all the commune's trucks, tractors and diesel engines are pooled and used.

The commune has also set up a scientific and technological station. Its staff places great

value on summing up the experience of the herdsmen in checking the sand, absorbing their knowledge and soliciting their views to solve problems. For example, the wind in Wushenchao blows generally from the northwest, driving the chains of crescent dunes southeast. The station staff and herdsmen have worked out an effective way to halt their advance: they plant desert willows on the leeward side of the dunes and low desert wormwood on the windward side.

Comrade Wuligi said that there were only 92 old trees in the commune when the place was liberated. Today there are more than one million large trees. Besides halting the sand, the commune members have dug canals and wells and carried out various other projects, so

that conditions for raising livestock have been enormously improved. The commune now carries 100,000 head of livestock, which is six times the total immediately after liberation.

State Aid

Taming the desert is done mainly by the local people relying on their own efforts, but the state provides leadership and gives massive support.

When the autonomous region was established in 1947 plans were drawn up and people organized for an assault against the infiltrating sand. In October 1958 representatives of northwest China and Inner Mongolia, coming from six provinces and autonomous regions, met for the first time in Huhehot to discuss plans and ways

Wushenchao commune members planting trees on the dunes.



Springtime in Wushenchao,



October 28, 1977

to deal with the sand. The Party committees at various levels in the autonomous region, complying with the spirit of the meeting, put desert-fighting on their work agenda and the state made driving back the desert a part of the construction plans. Leading groups headed by Party committee secretaries and special departments were set up in the leagues, banners and counties to carry out this work.

Large projects beyond the capacity of any one area are organized by the autonomous region. For instance, to bring the Ulanbuho Desert under control the autonomous region mobilized three banners and counties and in six years planted a belt of trees 175 kilometres long averaging 300 metres wide on the fringes of the desert to halt its eastward advance.

This programme received many forms of state help. For example, between 1975 and 1977, the state allocated 7.4 million yuan to the Ikh Chao League to sink wells, dig canals and establish tree nurseries. The state airline on several occasions was also called in for experimental aerial sowing. The Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences and other institutes of higher learning teamed up to help Inner Mongolia carry out comprehensive exploration of the desert areas, draw up plans for taming the sands and carry out various experiments.

Scientific and technological units were also set up at all levels from the autonomous region down to the leagues, and a research laboratory was established by the Inner Mongolian Forestry Research Institute to study sand control problems. Among the many results achieved is the cultivation of a sand-stabilizing shrub which stock thrive on.

At grass-roots level various measures have been taken by state enterprises as well as the communes and the brigades themselves to curb the destructivity of shifting sand. For example, in the 130 communes of the Ikh Chao League there are 32 state-run stations, forestry farms and tree nurseries, and 870 similar

establishments run by communes and brigades. Total full-time staff members number more than 7,000.

State-run stations are the pilot models. We visited the 54-member Hsinchieh sand-control station out in the middle of the Maowusu Sandy Land. Since it was set up in 1960 the station staff has anchored some 10,000 hectares of shifting sand and planted a vegetation covering over 35 per cent of this area. The staff has also helped local communes draw up plans for fighting the desert, provided saplings, given technical assistance and trained technicians.

In the course of this struggle, it has also been necessary to combat old ideas and superstitions left over from the past. Some ex-herdowners and lamas of the upper stratum spread rumours to sabotage the campaign. For example, they claimed that every blade of grass, every tree and grain of sand had been put there by heaven. To plant grass and trees and stabilize the sand "will disturb the natural order and offend the spirits," they averred. Centuries-old superstitions are not discarded overnight. In a few cases, herdsmen who worked hard all day to subdue the sand would ask the spirits for forgiveness at night, while others would slither out of sight and kowtow to the dunes.

Often work was held up through lack of confidence. Some doubted that it could be done. Others wanted to know why they should put so much effort into something which brought no immediate benefits. But constant education by Party organizations has done much to overcome old ideas and establish the people's confidence in themselves and in their work. What has already been accomplished over the past 30 years has greatly strengthened the people's resolve. During our visit we heard many say again and again that if they did not bring the sand under control, the sand would dictate to the people. "People are living beings, while sand is lifeless," they said. "The desert is vast and our manpower is limited, but from a long-term point of view, human power is unlimited while the desert has boundaries. If we go on battling, we will tame the desert in the end."

Distorting Ancient History To Serve Present Needs

— What the “gang of four” did by making use of
the criticism of the Confucian school and
appraisal of the Legalist school

by Chou Wen

When the “gang of four” controlled the mass media, “Renmin Ribao” and “Hongqi” carried many articles criticizing the Confucian school and appraising the Legalist school. Between 1974 and 1976, our journal published some of them, including “Struggle Between Restoration and Counter-Restoration in the Course of Founding the Chin Dynasty,” “Confucius—The Man” and “Study the Historical Experience of the Struggle Between the Confucian and Legalist Schools.” Deliberately distorting historical facts, these articles under the pretext of criticizing the ancient Confucianists attacked Premier Chou and other central leading comrades by insinuation in an attempt to label them as “capitalist-roaders” so that the “gang of four” could take their places.

After the fall of the gang, its conspiratorial activities were brought to light. In publishing the following article, we hope to clear up some of the confusions created by the gang’s hack writers in the field of history. — Ed.

AFTER the Party’s Tenth Congress in 1973, the “gang of four” managed to grab some of the important posts at the central level and gained control of the mass media. Filled with wild ambitions, members of the gang worked overtime to achieve their ultimate aim of seizing the supreme power of the Party and state.

Following the collapse of the Lin Piao anti-Party clique in 1971, on Chairman Mao’s instructions and under Premier Chou’s personal guidance, a number of veteran cadres who had dedicated themselves to the cause of the revolution over the years and who had tempered themselves further in the Great Cultural Revolution were reappointed to leading posts at

various levels. But the “gang of four” which looked upon these cadres as obstacles blocking its way to usurping Party and state power tried by every means to overthrow them. Premier Chou was the first one under its attack.

In early 1974 Chairman Mao initiated the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius. Since Lin Piao worshipped the doctrines of Confucius and Mencius*, criticism of these doctrines would help us trace the ideological source of Lin Piao’s counter-revolutionary revisionist line and eliminate the pernicious influence of Confucius and Mencius.

The “gang of four” promptly took over the revolutionary slogan to carry on its conspiratorial activities. Beginning from the second half of 1973, they directed their panels of writers (using the pseudonyms Lo Ssu-ting, Liang Hsiao and others) to publish numerous articles criticizing the Confucian school and appraising the Legalist school**. They distorted and

* Confucius (551-479 B.C.) came from a declining slave-owner’s family. The Chinese society in his time was in a great upheaval, moving from the slave system to the feudal system. Confucius did his utmost to safeguard the slave system and opposed history moving forward. Mencius (c. 372-289 B.C.) inherited and developed Confucius’ thinking. Their thoughts have been known as the doctrines of Confucius and Mencius.

** These were the two main schools of thought in the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.) and the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.). The Legalists represented the thinking and statecraft of the rising landlord class in exercising its dictatorship, while the Confucianists represented those of the outgoing slave-owning class. The struggle between the two schools was an outcome of the specific historical conditions at that time.

concocted history and "modernized" ancient history to suit their needs.

The Leitmotiv and the Legerdemain

All these lengthy articles had one theme. They recounted Confucianists of the ancient times but their aim was to bring out the "contemporary Confucianists," and they recounted the forces of restoration in the past in order to bring out the "forces of restoration in the contemporary period." Racking their brains, they attacked by innuendo and used similes to depict a large number of veteran cadres who adhered to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line as "devout Confucianists" and "restorationists." They were especially keen on "criticizing" prime ministers of the past and made it clear that their intention was to "ferret out the big Confucian of our time," thus directing their attack at Premier Chou whom the people of the whole country loved and supported.

Another aspect of the main theme of these articles was to use the past to describe the present and present members of the "gang of four" as "contemporary Legalists" "standing for progress and reform." Towards the end of 1974, when the Fourth National People's Congress was about to meet to elect leaders of the state, the gang thought the time had come for them to "form a cabinet." In an article entitled "Study the Historical Experience of the Struggle Between the Confucian and Legalist Schools," Liang Hsiao openly proposed that there should be a "Legalist leading group" in the central government. To prepare opinion for Chiang Ching's usurpation of the supreme leadership, they spared no effort to prettify Queen Lu* and Empress Wu Tse-tien**.

In bringing out this main theme, the gang's hack writers unscrupulously distorted history. Their main tricks were:

Arbitrarily giving prominence to the struggle in ancient times between the forces working for the restoration of the slave system and the feudal forces fighting against it. To this end, they postdated as much as possible China's transition from slave society to feudal society and invented an historical period of

struggle between restoration and counter-restoration lasting 500 years.

In dealing with the subsequent long period of feudal society, they gave prominence to the struggle between two groups within the landlord class, namely, the struggle between the so-called reformist group (represented by the Legalists) and the conservative group (represented by the Confucianists). In their opinion, it was this struggle that had propelled society forward and the role it played was comparable to the class struggle between the peasants and the landlords.

In the contemporary era, according to them, it is still a case of life-and-death struggle between two political groups both within the bourgeoisie and within the proletariat. From this they derived a so-called "historical experience" that in order to promote social progress, it was necessary "to have a Legalist leading group in the central government" to subdue the "conservative forces," just as "Queen Lu's regime" had done after the death of Liu Pang or as "Wu Tse-tien's reformist regime" had acted in the Tang Dynasty.

Such nonsense spread by the "gang of four" does not tally with historical facts and runs counter to the historical materialist viewpoint. Following is a criticism of their principal revisionist viewpoints.

Postdating the Beginning of Feudal Society in China

After the middle of the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.), a change began

* Queen Lu was the wife of the Western Han Emperor Liu Pang who reigned from 206 to 195 B.C. After his demise, she usurped power in collaboration with other powerful members of her family. "Historians" working for the "gang of four," for reasons of their own, prettified Queen Lu and said that she was "a noted stateswoman in Chinese history" who helped her husband build up his monarchy and held the reins of government after his death to actively push the Legalist line.

** Wu Tse-tien, the queen consort of Emperor Kao Tsung of the Tang Dynasty who reigned from 650 to 660 A.D. She became active in court politics in 660 A.D. and made herself empress in 690. Concocting history, Liang Hsiao asserted that "opposition to the Confucian school of thought" was an important ideological basis for the marriage between Kao Tsung and Wu Tse-tien.

to take place in China's slave society, and by the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) the country had entered feudal society.

Chairman Mao pointed out in *The Chinese Revolution and the Chinese Communist Party* in 1939: "The feudal state was torn apart into rival principalities in the period before the Chin Dynasty." (After vanquishing the other principalities, the state of Chin established the unified Chin Dynasty in 221 B.C., which brought an end to the Warring States Period.) In 1974, Chairman Mao confirmed the noted Chinese scholar Kuo Mo-jo's view that the supersession of slave society by feudal society in ancient China took place in the intervening years between the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period. Today most of our historians agree on this point.

Since the periodization of ancient history is an academic question, differing opinions are of course free to contend. But Lo Ssu-ting, Liang Hsiao and their like exaggerated the struggle between the forces working for the restoration of the slave system and the feudal forces fighting against it and, without giving any substantial reasons, arbitrarily postdated the supersession of the slave system by feudalism in China, which actually took place between the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period, to the years from the later part of the Warring States Period to the period between the Chin (221-207 B.C.) and Western Han (206 B.C.-25 A.D.) Dynasties. They claimed that "the Warring States Period was the period of transition from the slave system to the feudal system in China." In the article "Struggle Between Restoration and Counter-Restoration in the Course of Founding the Chin Dynasty," Lo Ssu-ting claimed that the unification of China by Chin Shih Huang "marked the end of slave society in China and the beginning of feudal society" and that the period from the Chin Dynasty to the Western Han Dynasty was "an important epoch in which the feudal system in China triumphed over the restoration of the slave system." In this way, they thought up a 500-year-long fictitious period in ancient China in which "the feudal system triumphed over the restoration of the slave system."

With a view to giving prominence to the struggle between restoration and counter-restoration in feudal society, they also invented a "remnant force of the slave system" that could change the direction of social development; they asserted that the use of slave labour in industry and commerce was the "economic base" for the restoration of the slave system. They played up the big polemics taking place in 81 B.C. in the middle of the Western Han Dynasty on the question of whether salt and iron production should be run by the government or by private individuals, and they described this as a struggle between the Confucian and the Legalist schools and a serious struggle between restoration and counter-restoration. Emperor Wu, a ruling monarch of the Western Han Dynasty, nationalized some key industries such as minting coins, making salt and smelting iron and certain branches of trade hitherto monopolized by the industrial and commercial slave-owners and local separatist forces. This, they said, was a measure that dealt heavy blows at the remnant forces of the slave-owners and the local separatist forces and eliminated the material basis for their splittist and restoration activities.

This was a distortion of history. Agriculture was the main sector of the economy in feudal society; the feudal relations of production established in farming determined the feudal nature of the entire society. The historical fact was that although in the Western Han Dynasty the government-run salt and iron industries continued to employ slave or semi-slave labour, it has not for this reason slipped back to a slave society. Even in the subsequent Sui (581-618 A.D.) and Tang (618-907 A.D.) Dynasties when the feudal economy prospered, the phenomenon of using slave labour in both industry and commerce was still quite common.

Negating the Principal Contradiction In Feudal Society

In his work *The Chinese Revolution and the Chinese Communist Party*, Chairman Mao pointed out clearly: "The ruthless economic exploitation and political oppression of the Chinese peasants forced them into numerous uprisings against landlord rule. . . . The class struggles of the peasants, the peasant uprisings and peasant wars constituted the real motive

force of historical development in Chinese feudal society."

The "gang of four" completely went against this Marxist-Leninist thesis.

When speaking of the contradictions in feudal society, the gang and its followers paid lip service to the fact that the principal contradiction was that between the peasantry and the landlord class; in actual fact they overemphasized to the point of absurdity the contradiction between the "remnant forces of the slave-owners" (represented by the Confucianists) and the landlord class (represented by the Legalists). In "Study the Historical Experience of the Struggle Between the Confucian and Legalist Schools," Liang Hsiao said: "In the nearly 250 years from the founding of the Chin Dynasty to the fall of the Western Han Dynasty, the struggle between restoration and counter-restoration went on uninterrupted, even though the restoration force of the slave-owners was being gradually weakened."

As a deceptive device, they also spoke of the important role of the peasants' struggle. They did this, of course, in a way that suited their needs. They said: "The uprising of Chen Sheng and Wu Kuang* made immortal contributions to the destruction of the restorationist regimes of the slave-owners and to the eradication of the remnant slave system; it paved the way for the final elimination of the slave-owners' forces of restoration and the consolidation of the feudal system in the early Han Dynasty."

According to their argument, the principal contradiction in feudal society was not the contradiction between the peasantry and the landlord class but the struggle between the landlord class and the remnant forces of the slave system, and the peasant uprising led by Chen Sheng and Wu Kuang was not aimed at opposing the feudal exploitation and oppression by the Chin court but at helping it to oppose the attempts at restoration by the remnant forces of the slave-owners and at saving the

* Chen Sheng and Wu Kuang were leaders of a peasant uprising at the end of the Chin Dynasty when peasant revolts rose in quick succession because of the harsh exploitation and oppression by the Chin court.

feudal system. Thus, according to their logic, the peasantry and the landlord class, which were two uncompromising and antagonistic classes, became allies. This was a most fantastic distortion of the Marxist materialist conception of history and a typical example of the theory of class conciliation.

Following the establishment of the feudal system, the contradiction between the peasantry and the landlord class replaced that between the slaves and the slave-owners to become the principal contradiction in society. Although there were still contradictions between the feudal landlords and the outgoing forces of the slave-owners (such contradictions soon became contradictions within the feudal system itself as the slave-owners transformed themselves into landlords), they both exploited the peasants who were formerly slaves; there was no such thing as the peasants joining hands with the feudal forces to confront the remnant forces of the slave-owners. These were basic historical facts. The "historians" working for the "gang of four" could never alter them, no matter how hard they tried.

According to Lo Ssu-ting, Liang Hsiao and others, the struggle between those upholding Confucianism and opposing Legalism and those upholding Legalism and opposing Confucianism existed throughout the feudal society. This, too, does not tally with historical facts.

The antagonism between the Confucian and the Legalist schools in the pre-Chin period was one between two exploiting classes—the slave-owners and the feudal landlords—and between two exploitation systems. But after the establishment of the feudal system, the feudal rulers, in accordance with specific circumstances, invariably seized upon ideas of both the Confucian and the Legalist schools which were beneficial to their rule, and used them to maintain and consolidate their feudal regimes. Here, the Confucian and the Legalist schools were in unity, not opposed to each other. This unity constituted the main aspect of the relationship between the two schools of thought in feudal society. On the other hand, however, the relationship between the two reflected to some extent (far from being essential) certain contradictions within the landlord class, but this

was the non-principal aspect. In feudal society, it was the life-and-death struggle between the peasantry and the landlord class, not the struggle between the Confucianists and the Legalists, that had promoted the advance of history.

Extending the Struggle Between Confucian And Legalist Schools to the Present

As to the assertion that the struggle between the Confucian and the Legalist schools "has been going on right to the present time" and has today extended into the Communist Party, nothing can be more absurd. True, chieftains of opportunist lines inside our Party like Lin Piao had recourse to the doctrines of Confucius and Mencius in attempting a restoration and retrogression. But on no account should the struggles waged by the proletariat against these representatives of the landlord class and the bourgeoisie inside the Party be described as a continuation of the struggle between the Confucian and the Legalist schools.

It cannot be denied that the Legalists and their school of thought played a revolutionary role in the struggle of the feudal system to vanquish the slave system. The simple materialist tendency and the historical conception of laying stress on the present rather than on the past constitute the essence of this school of thought. But, as the theory and statecraft serving the dictatorship of the feudal class, it contained a large quantity of dross. And it must be pointed out that even its quintessence contained much that was unscientific and infantile.

The *Manifesto of the Communist Party* said: **"The Communist revolution is the most radical rupture with traditional property relations; no wonder that its development involves the most radical rupture with traditional ideas."** By traditional ideas we mean not only bourgeois ideas but also feudal ideas with a deep-rooted evil influence in China. There must therefore be a comprehensive, historical and correct evaluation of the Legalist ideas which represented the dictatorship of the landlord class; we must under no circumstances put them on a par with the advanced ideas of the proletariat. But the quill-drivers on the payroll of the "gang of four" described some of the Legalists in history in such a way as to make them appear

loftier in character than leaders of peasant uprisings and Marxists of our time.

Was Insufficient Executions the Cause of Fall of Chin Dynasty?

Out of ulterior motives, the gang also made a big fuss about the causes leading to the downfall of the Chin Dynasty.

In 221 B.C. Chin Shih Huang unified China and set up the first centralized government after defeating six major feudal states in the country. It should be confirmed that during his reign Chin Shih Huang made contributions to the consolidation of autocratic feudal political power, to the development of a unified political system, to economic and cultural development and to the suppression of the toppled feudal splittist forces (not the so-called slave-owners' forces of restoration as the "gang of four" had improvised). But he was after all a statesman of the landlord class and the feudal regime he set up was bound to cruelly exploit and oppress the peasantry. In his ten years' rule, he dra-gooned large numbers of peasants into building the Great Wall, the Lishan Mausoleum and the O Fang Palace. Weighed down by demands for money and labour power, the peasants rose in large-scale uprisings, and in 206 B.C. the Chin Dynasty was overthrown.

In total disregard of historical facts, the "gang of four" insisted on saying that the main cause of the fall of the Chin Dynasty was its failure to suppress the slave-owners' forces of restoration in a thoroughgoing way, especially its failure to recognize the danger of the restorationists to subvert the feudal regime from within. On several occasions Chiang Ching sighed: "Chin met with destruction because it killed too few people."

This not only showed up the rampancy of historical idealism on their part but, more important, revealed their hidden, ghoulish aim to kill people. While vilifying a large number of veteran cadres and other revolutionaries as "forces of restoration," attacking them by innuendo, the gang tried to shape opinion for a sanguinary suppression. In early October 1976, when the gang's scheme to usurp power was at its height, that is, on the eve of their downfall, Chang Chun-chiao

mapped out an outline programme for action in his own handwriting which included such moves as "suppression of counter-revolutionaries" and "kill people." This showed more clearly than ever what they were up to.

* * *

The aim of the "gang of four" in making a mess of history through the criticism of the Confucian school and appraisal of the Legalist school was to confuse the minds of the people and plunge our country into chaos so that they could seize the opportunity to usurp Party and state power.

Instigated by the gang, their followers in various parts of the country unscrupulously branded leading revolutionary cadres as "restorationists" and "Confucianists" and called themselves "Legalists," and they used this as a pretext to seize power. All kinds of ridiculous

slogans were raised, one of which was: "Legalists rise in rebellion while Confucianists engage in production." So cadres and workers who persisted in carrying on normal production and worked hard in building socialism were referred to as "Confucianists" "opposing the progress of history" while those who created trouble and undermined production were said to be "Legalists" "daring to rebel" and "advocating reforms." At first people were puzzled by such queer phenomenon but very soon they realized what was wrong and they hated it most bitterly.

Now that the "gang of four" has been smashed, the truth about its underhand activities in making use of the criticism of the Confucian school and appraisal of the Legalist school has been brought to light. The confusion created by its hack writers in the realm of history is now being clarified.

Soviet Expansionists Demand Internationalization of Main-Danube Canal

THE Soviet Union recently put forward the preposterous demand that the Main-Danube Canal now under construction in West Germany be "internationalized." This provides yet another example of how Soviet social-imperialism infringes at will on the sovereign rights of other countries over their own territories.

Most of the inland rivers of West Germany are linked by canals, but so far there is none with up-to-date facilities for navigation connecting the Rhine and the Danube. The canal cut in 1846 to connect Bamberg on the Main, a tributary of the Rhine, and Kelheim on the Danube has gone out of use because it is too small for navigation of ships over 200 tons. West Germany began redigging it after the end of World War II, and has dredged the courses of the Main and the Danube. Work has been com-

pleted on the section from Bamberg to Nuremberg, while construction of the other section running 100 kilometres further to Kelheim is well under way. The Main-Danube Canal, a long-term prospect of the German people, is expected to be completed in the early 1980s.

It is just at this juncture when the canal is nearing completion that the Soviet Union renewed its unjustifiable demand for "internationalization."

During negotiations at expert level with West Germany in 1972, the Soviet Union asserted that the canal linking up at one end with the Rhine through the Main and at the other with the Danube should be "internationalized" because the Rhine and the Danube are international waterways. An article in a recent issue of the *Soviet State and Law*



declared international waterways in 1898 and 1948 respectively at international conferences of the countries concerned. The Main-Danube Canal flows entirely within the boundaries of West Germany and was built by that country alone. Actually, the canal existed as early as 1846 and nobody has challenged the exercising of sovereignty over the canal by Germany since the Rhine and the Danube were declared international waterways. Then, why must the canal be "internationalized" since it is about to be built into a big modern canal? As a matter of fact, many canals in West Germany are linked with different international waterways. For example, there are many canals between the Rhine and Elbe Rivers. According to Soviet logic, shouldn't all these canals be "internationalized"?

claimed that the canal is an "interoceanic connection," so it must be "internationalized" like the Panama Canal and the Suez Canal. The *Soviet Union Today*, a publication of the Soviet Embassy in West Germany, stated that "all sections of the waterways extending across the continent from Rotterdam (at the mouth of the Main in the Netherlands) to the mouth of the Danube where it enters the Black Sea must be open to vessels of all countries without discrimination and on the basis of equality." That means it must be open to the Soviet Union.

To poke their noses into West Germany's Main-Danube Canal is not the ultimate aim of the Soviet expansionists. They are trying to stretch their tentacles to the coast of the Atlantic via the canal, the Main and the Rhine.

Moscow's absurd demand has aroused indignation and concern in West German political and press circles. The West German paper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* asked: Why "does nobody hear that the Soviet Union is ready to place the White Sea-Baltic Canal, built in 1933, under the same [internationalized] regime"?

Historically, the Rhine and the Danube running through several European countries were

A canal is a country's inland waterway. According to international law, control over a country's inland waterway is entirely within its sovereignty and under its jurisdiction unless it voluntarily allows the waterway to be internationalized. Even if a canal is directly connected with a sea or ocean, the country through which the canal flows is under no obligation to have it internationalized. The Main-Danube Canal, which is 171 kilometres in length, is entirely in the hilly region of Bavaria, West Germany. Ignoring this fact, the Soviet allegation that the canal is an "interoceanic connection" is aimed at creating grounds for its hegemonic claims. If this canal is to be called an "interoceanic connection" and therefore should be "internationalized," then isn't the Volga-Don Canal of the Soviet Union, which also connects, through other canals, with the Black Sea and the White Sea, an "inter-oceanic connection"? And shouldn't it therefore be "internationalized"? Isn't there all the more reason to internationalize the White Sea-Baltic Canal which directly connects with the two seas? By putting the Main-Danube Canal on a par with the Panama Canal or the Suez Canal, Moscow only provides more evidence of its social-imperialist nature, showing that it has gone even farther than the United States and other old-line imperialist powers in aggression and expansion.

(A commentary by Hsinhua Correspondent)

ROUND THE WORLD

M-L PARTIES OF FRANCE
AND THE NETHERLANDS

The Three-World Theory Is a Powerful Weapon

The theory of the three worlds is a powerful weapon for the proletariat and the peoples of the world, stressed a joint declaration of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of France and the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Netherlands.

The declaration carried in the French paper *l'Humanite Rouge* on October 15 said: The theory of the three worlds as elaborated by Chairman Mao Tsetung is "a scientific analysis of the world today." "The theory is based on the analysis of class relations on an international scale and constitutes a powerful weapon for the proletariat and the peoples of the world."

The two Parties denounced the war preparations by the two superpowers and considered Soviet social-imperialism the most dangerous and aggressive one at the present time.

The declaration noted that the two Parties — proletarian revolutionary parties in second-world countries — "support, the struggles of the countries and peoples of the third world against imperialism, hegemonism and reaction. They hold that the defence of the national independence of the second world countries must be placed under the leadership of the proletariat and its party and be

an integral part of the proletarian revolution."

The declaration called for the strengthening of links among genuine Marxist-Leninist Parties and organizations of various countries and for the unity of the international communist movement. It said that the objective of the two Parties is to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat in France and the Netherlands. They should take an active part in the struggles of the working class and the broad masses of the people for their immediate interests and in political struggles, while making efforts to maintain increasingly close links with the masses.

PALESTINE

U.S.-Israeli Working Paper Rejected

President of the Palestinian National Council Khaled Fahum in a recent statement strongly condemned the U.S.-Israeli working paper and the Palestine News Agency in an October 20 editorial said the Arabs will refuse to accept the working paper and knuckle under.

In this U.S.-Israeli working paper on the resumption of the Geneva Middle East peace conference made public on October 13 by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan before a special parliamentary session, he said that the major contents of the working paper include: The Arab parties will be represent-

ed by a unified Arab delegation which will include Palestinian Arabs; after the opening session, the conference will split into working groups; the West Bank of the Jordan River and Gaza Strip issues will be discussed in a working group to consist of Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian Arabs; the agreed basis for the negotiations at the Geneva peace conference is U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

He added that U.S. President Carter and he have attached a protocol to the working paper, which, as was disclosed by him, assured Israel that no P.L.O. member will be seated at the conference, that the problem of establishing a Palestinian state will not be discussed, that Israel will not negotiate peace with a pan-Arab delegation, and that negotiations will be conducted state by state.

President Fahum declared that the contents of the working paper are simply unacceptable because they write off the Palestinian cause and totally disregard the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights and the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people.

The editorial of the Palestine News Agency said that on the settlement of the Middle East issue, the following facts must be respected: First, the Palestinian problem is the axis of the Middle East crisis; second, the Palestine Liberation Organization is the symbol and representative of the Palestinians; third, the Palestinian people, after 13 years of bloody struggle and sacrifice, are continu-

ing their struggle for the recovery of their country and their usurped land.

"On these bases, any bypassing of these facts and any attempt to deal with the problem on any other basis will lead to surrender and submission under the false slogan of peace," it said.

COLOMBIA

Successive Workers' Strikes

Workers' strikes have continued unabated in various parts of Colombia since the 24-hour general strike on September 14. They protested against rising living costs and demanded wage increases, the release of those workers arrested during the general strike and the reinstatement of dismissed workers.

The general strike was set off after the rupture in negotiations between workers and the government over wage increases. As a result of the strike, factories, shops and schools in many cities throughout the country closed down. In Bogota, the capital, which has a population of 4 million and 30 per cent of the nation's industry and commerce, traffic was paralysed and part of the industrial and commercial activities stopped. Clashes between strikers and police erupted in some cities, with 600 workers arrested and some others killed or injured.

In the national telecommunications enterprise, 13,000 workers downed tools on September 28. In Barrancabermeja, Colombia's oil centre with a population of 200,000, a 48-hour strike was organized recently in support of the striking oil workers in their struggle against military control

by the authorities. The city has been thrown into a state of semi-paralysis. The students and faculty in the University of Valle, Valle del Cauca Department, boycotted classes, while employees walked out on strike in five commercial banks of Colombia.

The successive struggles by the workers and students have caused turmoil in the country's political situation. Some parliament members denounced the authorities for killing and arresting worker and student strikers. The minister of the interior was compelled to resign on September 27 and President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen to reshuffle his cabinet on October 3.

In the past one and a half years, Colombia's inflation was rampant, commodity prices rose by 48 per cent and the number of unemployed increased greatly. All this has further aroused the labouring people to struggle for the right to live.

BRITAIN

Harder Life for Working People

Since the economic crisis of 1974 which hit the Western capitalist countries, Britain's economy has been in the doldrums. The monopolists have resorted to different manoeuvres to shift their economic difficulties on to the working people and thus made life much harder for the latter.

Since the outbreak of the economic crisis, inflation in Britain has gone from bad to worse. Despite a little slowdown this year, inflation is still running up at an annual rate

of 16.5 per cent. Consumer prices climbed 77 per cent from February 1974 to the beginning of this year. In the year ending last June, price of foodstuffs jumped 18.6 per cent. As a result of price hikes, the pound sterling has dropped lower and lower in terms of purchasing power. The pound now is worth only 55 pence of the 1974 pound.

In a bid to overcome inflation, the Labour government has since its assumption of power in 1974 hatched up a "social contract" with the trade union congress to restrain wage increases. Under this "social contract" which came into effect in August 1975, only a 10 per cent wage increase was permitted in the first year, and the increase in the second year was held down to 4.5 per cent. Meanwhile, the monopolists have been raising prices so that wage increases have fallen far behind price hikes and the working people find it hard to make ends meet. Low-income families have to borrow to eke out a living and thus fall prey to the usurers.

In addition to soaring prices and limited wage rises, unemployment also constitutes a threat to the life of the working people. Having hit the one million mark in August 1975, the army of unemployed has been swelling ever since. From last July on, the number of jobless has never gone below 1.6 million.

The British workers have over the years waged incessant struggles against the monopolists shifting economic difficulties on to them and demanded guarantee for the

right to live and work. In July this year, strong opposition and protest by the working people brought an end to the "social contract" restricting wage increases. The struggle of the British workers is surging ahead.

The ruling British Labour Party has failed to find a solution to the economic problems. Prime Minister J. Callaghan admitted at the recent annual Labour Party conference that Britain still faces "two central issues of jobs and prices." "The defeat of inflation remains the government's number one priority."

JAPAN

No Long-Term Fishery Agreement With Soviet Union

Japan-Soviet negotiations on a long-term fishery agreement ended on October 20 with only an accord on extending for one year the Japan-Soviet interim fishery agreement as a result of Soviet obstructions.

The negotiations began in Moscow on September 29 this year, which, nominally for the purpose of signing a Japan-Soviet long-term fishery agreement, resulted in only prolonging the interim fishery agreement to the end of 1978.

Throughout the talks, the Soviet side resorted to high-handedness in an attempt to press Japan into submission on the question of fishery. It insisted that the interim agreement could only be extended for one year instead of five as demanded by Japan. On October 14, when an agreement was imminent due to Japan's con-

cessions, the Soviet side suddenly declared that "the protocol regarding prolongation of the interim agreement cannot be signed without defining the fishing quotas for the coming year." The Soviet side was obliged to withdraw the above demand as it was categorically rejected by Japan.

According to the Japanese press, the Japanese Government had wanted to achieve through negotiations a "durable stability" in Japan-Soviet fishery relations. But this desire was not met because of Soviet high-handedness which was strongly resented by the Japanese public.

The Soviet side asserted in the talks: "If the objective situation remains unchanged, the interim agreement can be further prolonged through consultations next year." One Japanese paper remarked in a commentary that since changes in the so-called "objective situation" can be construed by the Soviet side at will, the Soviet Union may abrogate or modify the interim agreement under the pretext that "the situation has changed." This is a "time bomb" planted in Japan-Soviet fishery relations, the paper noted.

U.S.A.-CUBA

Improving Relations

Contacts between U.S. and Cuban official and civilian groups to discuss outstanding issues in relations between the two countries have begun since Cuba and the United States established an "interests section" in each other's capital on September 1 this year.

In early October, Cuban Minister of Foreign Trade

Marcelo Fernandez had talks with U.S. businessmen in Washington on the restoration of bilateral trade. A change has occurred in Cuban-U.S. relations which have been deadlocked for 16 years since the two countries broke off diplomatic ties in 1961.

By the end of 1976, leaders of the two countries frequently expressed their desire for better bilateral relations. Soon after the Carter administration took office, the U.S. side made a series of gestures towards improving relations with Cuba. It stopped the SR-71's reconnaissance flights over Cuba and lifted restrictions on U.S. citizens' trips to Cuba; its congressmen and industrialists in large numbers visited Cuba. Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro, on his part, had long talks with several groups of U.S. congressmen and missions of U.S. industrialists. The two sides concluded last April an agreement on the delimitation of maritime boundaries and an agreement on fishing operations by Cubans within the 200-mile limits of U.S. waters. Two months later, the two sides reached an agreement on the establishment of an "interests section" in each other's capital.

This change in U.S.-Cuban relations has taken place at a time when worldwide contention between the two superpowers for hegemony is intensifying, particularly when Soviet-Cuban armed intervention has been organized against certain African countries and vigorous Soviet efforts have been made to undermine U.S. influence in the Caribbean.

(Continued on p. 31.)

ON THE HOME FRONT

Ministers Go to Frontline of Production

AT present nearly half of the industrial ministers and vice-ministers have gone to the frontline of production to lead enterprises in accelerating their production. Even more department directors and cadres have done the same.

In order to build some ten more oilfields like Taching (the biggest oilfield in China) by the end of this century, 500 cadres of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemical Industries, led by its Minister Kang Shih-en, went to new oilfields and some chemical enterprises last June.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Chemical Industries is the most outstanding among all the 29 ministries and commissions under the State Council. This ministry persists in carrying out the principle of maintaining independence, keeping the initiative in our

own hands and relying on our own efforts to ensure sustained rapid development in crude oil production. Thus Chairman Mao commended the ministry many times. Chairman Hua has also spoken highly of the same ministry, saying: "All other industrial departments must strive to catch up with the petroleum department."

Cadres at various levels led by ministers and vice-ministers of industrial ministries went to the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemical Industries to study its experience. At the same time they worked out their own plans and measures for developing production. The Ministries of Metallurgical Industry, Railways, Water Conservancy and Power, Light Industry and the First Ministry of Machine-Building have all determined to advance their production to the world's front ranks before the end of the century. While having a steady and rapid coal production, the Ministry of

Coal Industry has made a plan for accelerating mechanization throughout the industry. It is determined to catch up with and surpass the United States in coal output in an even shorter period of time.

Going to the frontline of production to carry out study and investigations, sum up the experience of advanced units and popularize it, and ensure a rapid development of production—this is an advanced method of work used for many years by leading cadres of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemical Industries and is now being adopted by leading cadres of various other industrial ministries.

The minister of coal industry left his office for the Kailan Coal Mine which was seriously affected by the earthquake last year to lead the miners in recovering production to the pre-earthquake level within this year. The minister of railways worked in Chengchow, Wuhan and Tsinan to help railway bureaus work out plans of development. Four vice-ministers of metallurgical industry have gone to big steel enterprises in Anshan, Wuhan and other cities to join the workers in striving for higher output.

Meanwhile various industrial departments help and learn from each other and carry out emulation campaigns.

Expanding Rice Output

THE nation's total output of rice in 1976 reached 2.58 times that in 1949, the year when the People's Republic of



Sung Chen-ming (left), Vice-Minister of Petroleum and Chemical Industries, in an oil-drilling team.

China was founded. The average per-hectare yield went up from 1.87 to 3.5 tons during this period and some southern counties got as high as 7.5 tons.

This year saw a rich harvest of early rice and prospects are good for both mid-season and late rice.

Paddy rice, which accounts for nearly one half of China's grain output, is the staple food grain of southerners and a favourite cereal for a growing number of northerners. One of the earliest rice growers in the world, China has cultivated this plant for 4,700 years.

Rice production expanded at a slow rate in the days before liberation and huge quantities of rice had to be imported every year from other countries. But output has rapidly increased since 1949, especially since the establishment of the rural people's communes in 1958.

The areas sown to rice have been extended and they are no longer limited to the traditional growing regions. Before liberation, rice was cultivated mainly in the south where the climate is warm and the rainfall plentiful. Thanks to the building of water conservancy works as well as the breeding and popularization of early-ripening, cold-resistant strains after liberation, rice is now being grown in many northern places.

The total area planted to rice is 40 per cent larger than in 1949. Rice cultivation has extended to places as far north as the Moho area in Heilungkiang Province, and as high as 2,400 metres above sea level in the Yuankiang River valley on the

Yunnan-Kweichow Plateau. With the exception of Chinghai Province, all provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions throughout China are growing more and more rice.

One of the important measures for boosting rice production is to plant two crops annually instead of one. Two crops a year are being harvested on more than 70 per cent of the nation's paddyfields. The total area under two crops of rice last year was more than 6 times that in 1949. All the major rice-producing areas have basically adopted the two-crop system and some are getting three crops. The two-crop rice contributes nearly 40 per cent of the annual rice increase in the country.

Great attention has been paid to the improvement and popularization of good rice strains. Now 80 per cent of the rice plants are short-stalk, high-yield varieties.

China has bred a male sterile hybrid which produces 20 to 30 per cent higher yields than ordinary strains under the same conditions.

A County With Modernized Posts and Telecommunications

YENSHOU, a small county in the mountainous area of Heilungkiang Province, has modernized its posts and telecommunications while developing agricultural and industrial production at a fairly quick speed.

The county has a small post and telecommunications office

and 17 suboffices, manned by no more than 200 workers and staff members in all. Before the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, it had only such outdated equipment as telephones with crank handles. Today this has given way to new equipment and more advanced means of communication.

On a table in the county post office is an automatic device for selling stamps. If a customer wants to mail a parcel, he needs only to put it on a mechanism which immediately and accurately indicates its weight and the postage. Fetching parcels is equally convenient. The clerk pushes a button in accordance with the number given on the receipt, and within two or three seconds an automatic parcel-handling machine delivers the right parcel to the customer.

It used to take hours to telegraph a message from the county seat to Harbin, capital of Heilungkiang Province, through the code transmission system. A new Yenshou-Harbin facsimile transmission line has shortened the time to a few minutes.

A new telephone building houses a set of semi-electronic telephone-exchange equipment which is up to advanced world levels of the 70s, as well as a sophisticated long-distance toll desk which saves much labour and is more efficient than the cord-using switchboard.

Yenshou County has now automatized its county-wide telephone network, set up carrier circuit lines between the county seat and all the com-

munes, and installed a facsimile transmission line. In some rural areas where conditions permit, mail delivery has been motorized.

Chairman Mao once likened postal and telecommunications services to the nerves of the Party and state. Premier Chou, too, pointed out on several occasions that it was imperative

to turn the postal and telecommunications departments into advanced units, and that efforts should be made to quickly transform their backward features. The workers and staff members of the Yenshou post and telecommunications office felt greatly encouraged as they read these instructions, though theirs was a weak technical force. The Party branch organ-

ized them to study Chairman Mao's philosophical thinking and called on them to study hard and go in for various activities to master technical knowhow. Their strenuous efforts have finally been rewarded. Using indigenous methods, they produced modern equipment and eliminated the backwardness in the postal and telecommunications services of the county.

(Continued from p. 28.)

The improvement in U.S.-Cuban relations has the tacit consent of the Soviet Union. Although the Soviet Union supports Cuba in its effort for better relations with the United States, it is rather concerned about the developments there. The Japanese daily *Asahi Shimbun* had this to say: Although the Soviet Union is not going to give up its foothold in Latin America, it "wants to rely on the United States to disburden a little of its economic aid to Cuba."

During this period, Carter enunciated the demand that Cuban troops should pull out from Angola, but at the same time he noted more than once that Cuban troops were playing a "stabilization role" in Angola. Fidel Castro, while expressing willingness to improve relations with the United States, made it clear repeatedly that Cuba is not yet prepared to cease its military intervention in Angola. In these circumstances, Carter declared that it would be a long process

to resume formal diplomatic relations with Cuba.

U.S.S.R.-U.S.A.

Contention in Outer Space Gathers Momentum

U.S. Secretary of Defence H. Brown told a press conference in Washington recently that the Soviet Union "has an operational capability that could be used against some satellites." "We don't have that capability," he declared, but the United States "is engaged in an exploratory development in that field."

Since last year the Soviet Union has conducted several tests on hunter-killer satellites to counteract U.S. satellites, including its observation satellites which can detect a Soviet surprise attack in time and send back the alarm. Meanwhile, the U.S. authorities early in September approved the development of a satellite killer which is expected to be ready for operations early in the 1980s. This indicates that the armament race between the Soviet Union and the United

States, far from stopping, has spread to outer space.

The Soviet Union and the United States conducted a "joint space flight" in 1975. Their propaganda machines then lauded this "co-operation" to the skies. In recent years, the more satellites launched into outer space by the two hegemonic powers, the fiercer the clash in their espionage activities up there. During the very year (1975) of their "handshake in space," the Soviet Union launched 89 spacecraft into the stratosphere and sent up even more in 1976.

Most of the satellites launched by them were directly or indirectly for military purposes. The Western press disclosed that nearly 70 per cent of both Soviet and U.S. military intelligence came from satellites. All the evidence points to their sharpening contention in space.

The desperate rivalry between the two hegemonic powers has now extended from the ground and sea to outer space. Each tries to restrict and weaken the other while strengthening itself.

The Eleventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China (Documents)

This collection of documents in English contains:

- **Political Report to the Eleventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China — Hua Kuo-feng**
(Delivered on August 12 and Adopted on August 18, 1977)
- **Resolution of the Eleventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China on the Political Report**
(Adopted by the Eleventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China on August 18, 1977)
- **Constitution of the Communist Party of China**
(Adopted by the Eleventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China on August 18, 1977)
- **Report on the Revision of the Constitution of the Party to the Eleventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China — Yeh Chien-ying**
(Delivered on August 13 and Adopted on August 18, 1977)
- **Closing Address at the Eleventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China — Teng Hsiao-ping**
(August 18, 1977)
- **Press Communique of the Eleventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China**
(August 18, 1977)
- **Press Communique of the First Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of China**
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