

# BEIJING REVIEW



- How a County People's Congress Functions
- China to Conduct Third Census



A CHINESE WEEKLY OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS



# LETTERS

## Special Economic Zones

I read with great interest the article on China's special economic zones expounded by Xu Dixin (issue No. 50, 1981). You have traversed a long road in the course of setting up these special economic zones. The Shenzhen Special Economic Zone seems more important as it covers a large area and is situated at a favourable geographical position north of Xianggang (Hongkong). From an economic point of view, you must always bear in mind that foreign capitalists take part in the construction of the special economic zones not because they love China, but because they work for their own interests, merely for their own interests.

Many European countries have tried for a long time to attract foreign and multinational investors to their countries. But, when these investors think that they cannot continue to get as much as they hoped, they close down their factories and move to Singapore, Aomen (Macao) or Xianggang. Then thousands upon thousands of people become unemployed. Similar things have happened in Belgium. Even now a big British company is threatening to close down its factory and lay off 4,000 workers.

You may think that what I have said is unbelievable. Nevertheless, you have not shown sufficient

vigilance towards your capitalist partners. What is more, the residents in the special economic zones must display immense spiritual willpower if they want to maintain a socialist disposition among the capitalists.

Aresu Antonio  
Hoeilaart, Belgium

## Middle East Question

"Notes From the Editors" is an interesting part of the magazine because it deals with the Arab question, the Palestinian issue (issue No. 46, 1981) in particular. China has always advocated the withdrawal of Israel from its occupied Arab territories. Therefore, we treat China as an honest brotherly nation. I also favour disarmament. If disarmament is not implemented, a world war will break out.

The article on international affairs deals with questions in all respects. Your weekly states its case fairly and has no bias as other newspapers do.

I think that the new column "From the Chinese Press" will attract many people to read your magazine, because it puts forward your views on your country's own progress and problems.

Ait Marri M'barek  
Casa, Morocco

I enjoy your international articles because I like international politics and because your magazine gives a different perspective on world affairs than the Western press does.

On the article "Saudi Proposal: US and Soviet Contention in the Middle East" (issue No. 46, 1981), the Saudi Arabian plan is certainly a step forward, for it gives the Palestinians a homeland without taking away the right of the Jewish people to also have a homeland.

More maps with the international articles, especially those dealing with border conflicts, should be used.

Peter Hunter  
Ont., Canada

## Articles Are Too Long

Had a chance to look over some of your issues from August and September 1981, which I found at the college library, and thought I would offer you a few comments.

In general I liked your "Articles & Documents" section, as well as your "Special Feature." However, sometimes it would be better to condense the material more, like in the articles on the cause and progress of the Sino-Russian border problem, which I think were excellent, but too long.

The "Opinion Digest" is in my opinion the best part of your review.

Hope that in the future you might give some more information and highlights on African and West Asian countries.

Would like personally to see more articles on important conferences taking place in China.

Reinhold Engelmayer  
Taiyuan, Shanxi, China

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## CONTENTS

LETTERS	2
EVENTS & TRENDS	3-5
Spring Festival	
Third Census	
Readjustment of Iron and Steel Industry	
INTERNATIONAL	6-8
Kremlin's "Signal" to US — Di Xin	

Moscow Opposes Better Indo-Pakistan Relations — Tang Tianri	
US Bias Towards Israel — Wan Guang	
Zimbabwe Counters South Africa — Xu Dewen	

## ARTICLES & DOCUMENTS

Basic Ideas Behind the Foreign Policies of West European Countries — Guo Fengmin	9
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## SPECIAL FEATURE

Tongxiang County: Two Years After the People's Deputy Elections — Our Correspondent Tian Sansong	13
Slogan and Facts	
Tongxiang County	14
Visiting the County People's Congress Standing Committee	15

County Government at the People's Service	17
Election at the County Level	18

CULTURE & SCIENCE	20-21
-------------------	-------

BOOKS	22
-------	----

ART PAGE	23
----------	----

COVER: Electing a production team leader. Photo by Li Jin.

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**SOCIAL****Spring Festival**

Jubilant and spirited, the Chinese people celebrated the Spring Festival which fell on January 25 this year.

Spring Festival, or the Lunar New Year, is the biggest festival of the year, a time for family reunions and celebrations. In Beijing, people began enjoying themselves right after a lavish dinner on new year's eve. Amidst the rapping and tapping of firecrackers, the merry making continued until the small hours of the next day. With more money in their pockets and more food on their tables than in previous years, people across China joined the festivities.

The usual three-day holiday was given to those working in factories, enterprises and government organizations, but this year a day was added because new year's eve fell on Sunday. The peasants spent an even longer period celebrating the festival since the winter is a slack season for farming.

**Happy Get-Together.** On the morning of January 24, the day before the Spring Festival, Party Chairman Hu Yaobang, Premier Zhao Ziyang, Vice-Chairmen of the Party Central Committee Li Xiannian and Hua Guofeng, Vice-Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee Peng Zhen and other Party and state leaders joined 5,000 people from all walks of life in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to celebrate the Spring Festival. Sitting around the tables and sipping tea, they exchanged festival greetings and chatted merrily.

Hu Yaobang, who presided over the gathering, wished all present good health and a happy Spring Festival.

Speaking at the get-together, Li Xiannian said that efforts would be made to achieve greater progress in 1982 in socialist construction, both material and cultural. Stress would be laid on two things: 1) streamline the government organizations, overcome bureaucratism and improve efficiency; and 2) deal in real earnest with major criminal cases in the economic and other fields.

Referring to China's relations with foreign countries, Li Xiannian pointed out that, together with friendly countries and peoples of the whole world, China would continue to oppose hegemonism and imperialism, aggression and expansion and play its part in defending world peace. On the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, he said, China would actively develop its diplomatic relations and economic and cultural exchanges with other countries. China would never barter away principles, still less beg for a living. "We will never, never tolerate anyone who tries to encroach upon China's sovereignty, interfere in China's internal affairs and obstruct the reunification of our country," he added.

Among those attending the get-together were also compatriots from Taiwan, Xianggang (Hongkong) and Aomen (Macao), overseas Chinese and foreign experts and friends helping China in building socialism.

**Lively Atmosphere.** Extensive preparations for the holiday had been undertaken by every department concerned, from the

central authorities right down to the grass roots.

To facilitate family reunions, more trains and buses had been put into service for those away from their families. The Changjiang River Navigation Bureau added 12 steamboats and handled over 100,000 passengers every day for several weeks in January.

The markets were filled with a rich variety of commodities. Supplies of meat, seafood, poultry, vegetables and fruit were plentiful in most large and medium-sized cities. More cooked meat and preserved food, a favourite of city dwellers, were sold than last year. Beijing alone supplied consumers with 2.5 million kilogrammes of such food during this period, 9 per cent more than in 1981, including 30 kinds of cooked meat.

The supply of confectionery was also markedly increased. Just before the festival, Beijing had 6 million kilogrammes of candy in stock, a 49 per cent increase over the corresponding period of last year. In Shanghai and Tianjin the increase was more than 10 per cent.

A greater quantity of higher grade cigarettes, wines and liquors were prepared by commercial departments for miners in China's major coal-mining centre, Shanxi Province, and herdsmen in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, one of the nation's main livestock-breeding areas.

Particularly impressive were the quantities and varieties of goods in the urban department stores, where clothes, hats, shoes, cosmetics and children's goods were on sale. Holiday decorations such as lanterns and



A Tibetan troupe performing for the herdsmen in northwest China's Qinghai Province.

balloons as well as firecrackers sold briskly.

Special cultural, recreational and sports activities were held in some areas. Many new films and theatrical works were on show or staged. Beijing residents enjoyed nearly 100 theatrical performances during the festival.

During the festival, Party and government leaders joined many other people in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, where they enjoyed performances by well-known artists.

Civil affairs departments and other units throughout the country sent people to visit family members of PLA soldiers and martyrs, childless senior citizens and others who needed help, giving them gifts and inviting them to attend theatrical performances.

The political and economic situation in the country has steadily improved over the last few years. There has been a gradual improvement in the people's livelihood, and a fine social morality is taking deeper root.

All this accounted for the joyful mood of the nation during the Spring Festival this year.

## ECONOMIC

### Third Census

China will conduct its third nationwide census in July this year. The official time for the census is zero hour, July 1. Figures on the number of households and people will be announced three months after the census is completed, while other breakdowns will be given successively after being processed by computers.

Two earlier censuses have been conducted since the founding of New China in 1949, the first one in 1953 and the second one in 1964.

The third census will ascertain China's population and its population distribution, as well as various social and economic factors in order to provide reliable data for national planning and administration.

The task of taking the census in a country with a population of nearly 1,000 million is unprecedented in world history. It has roused the attention of the nation and won the support of the UN Fund for Population Activities.

Those to be counted are Chinese nationals living in the People's Republic and those working or studying abroad. Foreigners living in China will not be included. The populations of Taiwan, Penghu, Jinmen and Mazu will be counted according to figures collected by the Taiwan authorities.

The third census will ascertain 19 demographic factors, 10 more than the second census. The added factors are all related to economics, including the

trades and occupations of the employed and the status of those not in the labour force. This will be the first all-round survey of China's work force, which should prove significant for future rational use of manpower.

New factors to be surveyed also include family planning and population control information, such as the total number of births in 1981 and the infants' survival rate.

The census design and method were developed through the co-operative efforts of Chinese population specialists and experts from the UN.

For the first time in China, computers will be used to tally the census data. The 29 computers to be used in the survey were jointly provided by China and the United Nations.

Preparatory work for the first stage of the census has been completed. Two experimental censuses were carried out in July 1980 in east China's Wuxi city and Wuxi County, with a total population of 950,000. Trial censuses were also conducted in 1981, covering more than 2.3 million people in 28 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. These preliminary censuses helped to train statisticians for the official census.

### Readjustment of Iron and Steel Industry

"For better economic results" has become the order of the day for China's iron and steel industry. Since readjustment of the national economy began in 1979, the steelworkers have focused their attention on improving the quality and increasing the variety of steel products and on conserving energy. They are doing their best to contribute to the technological transformation of light industry,



agriculture and other sectors of the economy.

In the past, though priority was given to the development of the iron and steel industry, economic results had long been poor because of the one-sided emphasis on output.

Initial progress, however, has been made in meeting the needs of national economic construction over the last three years, especially in the past 12 months. Steel output in 1981 was 35.6 million tons instead of the original plan of 33 million tons. Output of iron outstripped the state quota by 3.5 per cent, steel increased by 8.2 per cent and rolled steel by 14.3 per cent. The yield of rolled steel from steel billets was also raised. Consumption of coal for making each ton of steel was reduced by 500 kilogrammes as compared with 1978, the year before readjustment began. Production of merchant bars, rod wire, welded tubes and medium-sections, which used to be in short supply, can now meet the demand. Efforts have still to be made to increase the output of steel sheets and strip steel.

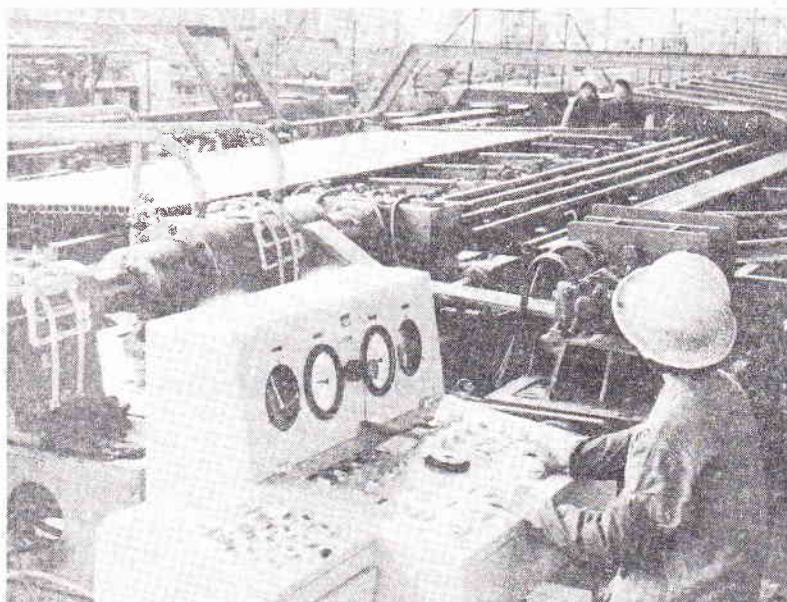
On the basis of a careful study of the market and the needs of the expanding light, textile and energy industries as well as agriculture, the iron and steel plants have in conjunction with related research institutes produced a large number of new products, for some of which China had to rely on imports, thereby saving large sums of foreign currency. With the increase in variety, quality has also been improved. Noteworthy is the fact that home-made steel products, including steel sheets for building ships and other special steel, have in the last few years found their way into nine countries and regions.

While readjusting the product mix and service orientation of the iron and steel industry, much has been done to consolidate the various enterprises. Some large ones, such as the Anshan Iron and Steel Company and the Shoudu Iron and Steel Company, have achieved noticeable progress in improving the management, tapping the production potential and improving the economic results. A number of medium-sized enterprises have made tangible

improvements in management, technical transformation and the training of workers. Meanwhile, a number of small factories suffering heavy losses because of their high energy consumption and production costs or because they had difficulty in selling their products have been closed down. By the end of last year, 300 small blast furnaces had been shut down; if those closed temporarily are included, they all added up to 10,000 cubic metres in capacity. The workers and staff in these factories have been taken care of, most having been transferred to other iron and steel plants or enterprises in other industrial fields.

Much attention has been paid to getting quick returns from projects bought from foreign countries. One of these is the 1.7-metre rolling mill, completed at the end of 1978 in the Wuhan Iron and Steel Company in central China's Hubei Province. After three years' trial production, it was formally put into operation at the end of last year. This mill, which is up to the advanced level of the 70s, consists of 143 individual projects, four major ones being imported from West Germany and Japan. It will play an important role in the period of economic readjustment. First-stage construction of another large imported project, the Baoshan Iron and Steel Complex on the outskirts of Shanghai, is now in full swing.

According to the Ministry of Metallurgy, the iron and steel industry this year will, on the basis of the achievements made previously, continue to carry out the various policies and principles of economic readjustment, lay the stress on technological transformation and strive to maintain a certain increase rate in production.



The No. 1 sheet plant of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company produces water and gas pipes, which are in big demand.

## Kremlin's "Signal" to US

THE Soviet Union has sent a "signal" to the United States, which provides much food for thought: The United States should not seek "security zones" within the Soviet sphere of influence, and any attempt to alter the status quo shaped up in Europe since the end of World War II runs counter to the Yalta agreement.

The Soviet "signal" was sent in the midst of a fresh round of verbal confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States about developments in Poland.

However, the Soviet Union has never confined itself to its "sphere of influence" in its policy of aggression and expansion. Why the emphasis on "spheres of influence" and the repeated "signals" to the United States? Moscow is obviously being shrewd and calculating.

First of all, this is an important part of the Soviet "peace offensive," a means of contention with the United States and also a cover for Soviet global strategy. Nonetheless, the Soviets have encountered numerous problems during the past year. Afghanistan has become a quagmire for the Soviets, and Viet Nam, its surrogate, fares no better in Indochina. The additional burden of the Polish crisis is proving to be too much for the Soviet Union. Hence, it is forced temporarily to resort to the trick of "sphere of influence" to neutralize US opposition in the hope of gaining international recognition of its past aggression and expansion.

### Catering to US Fancy

Second, the Soviet scheme is also designed to cater to the US fancy and to Reagan's notion that the world is divided between the United States and the Soviet Union. The Soviet objective is to get the United States to sit down at the negotiating table.

Soon after Reagan became US President, some Western papers pointed out that there is a "key note" behind the Reagan administration's tough talks against the Soviet Union, that is: both countries are aware of their own positions and spheres of influence in the world.

While the Soviet Union is threatening the US interests in the world, the United States is also trying to soften the Soviet offensive in the same way. Having a tacit understanding of US intentions, the Soviet Union has repeatedly transmitted "signals" to America. In the Soviet view, this is significant.

Many people, in view of declining US strength, have suggested recognizing the Soviet sphere of influence, though the United States is reluctant to do so. US officials have claimed

that the United States is willing to reach a "fair" agreement with the Soviet Union that accords with the legitimate interests of both countries.

According to the Soviet Union's wishful thinking, a positive US response to Moscow's "signal" would be invigorating for its "peace offensive." It would give new momentum to the peace movement in the West and drive a wedge between the United States and its Western allies, thus breaking their united resistance to Soviet hegemonism. It will also give the Soviet Union time to complete its global strategic deployment.

### Seeking World Domination

But how many people will be fooled by the Soviet move? Enlightened politicians in the West realize that the Soviet Union is not seeking shared hegemony with the United States (dividing spheres of influence), but world domination. Sharing hegemony is merely an expedient, complete hegemony is the final goal.

However, the world is no longer under the arbitrary manipulation of the superpowers.

— Di Xin

## Moscow Opposes Better Indo-Pakistan Relations

SUBRAMANIAN Swamy, leader of the Indian opposition Janata Party, said in a recent interview that the Soviet Union has pressured India not to sign a no-war pact with Pakistan,

Swamy, who was quoted in a

New Delhi report, said Soviet authorities told India such a pact with Pakistan would be incompatible with the Indo-Soviet friendship treaty.

India and Pakistan, two strategically important countries on

the South Asian subcontinent, are attempting to normalize relations and promote friendship and co-operation. Improved relations between them are in the interest of the two nations and peace and stability on the subcontinent.

The Soviet Union not only opposes normalization of relations between India and Pakistan, it is apparently seeking to pit them against each other. Swamy said that when the Janata Party was in power from 1977 to 1980, the Soviet Union encouraged India to act aggressively towards Pakistan. Former Indian Prime Minister M. Desai made the same charge in a 1980 speech at a Janata Party meeting. He said that Moscow had "advised" India to "teach Pakistan a lesson." He added the Soviet Union opposes Pakistan because of its criticism of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Since then, the Soviet media have carried numerous rumours designed to disrupt relations between the two countries. On one occasion the Soviets claimed that Pakistani troops had gathered on the India-Pakistan border and were preparing to invade India. On another occasion Moscow claimed that the Pakistani Government had permitted China to establish air and naval bases on its territory to harass India.

Although some Indian newspapers have repeatedly reported that such rumours are "groundless," the Soviet media have continued disseminating them.

The Soviet Union has left no stone unturned in trying to obstruct the normalization process between India and Pakistan. The Kremlin clearly does not want to see a peaceful and stable South Asia resulting from improved Indo-Pakistan relations.

a development which would impede its thrust towards the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. In fact, Moscow's strategic interest

is best served when the subcontinent is torn by strife, turmoil and armed confrontations.

— Tang Tianri

## US Bias Towards Israel

**US** SECRETARY of State Alexander Haig's recent Middle East tour was carried amidst waves of indignant Arab and global protests against Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

According to Haig's explanation, his visit to Egypt and Israel was primarily aimed at promoting the Middle East peace process. However, as a Western correspondent put it, Israel's annexation of the occupied Syrian territory seemed to be a forgotten issue to him.

### Haig's Trip Prods Israel

Shortly before Haig left Washington for the Middle East, the Reagan administration declared that Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights obstructs the peace process. The US also supported the UN Security Council resolution calling on Israel to revoke its annexation decision and suspended talks with Israel on implementation of their agreement on strategic co-operation.

Nevertheless, the Reagan administration almost simultaneously announced that it would continue to provide military and economic assistance to the Begin government. Moreover, when Begin openly criticized the US decision to suspend implementation talks for the agreement on strategic co-operation, officials from Washington quickly sought to placate him. At the UN Security Council recent meeting where sanctions against Israel were proposed, the United States vetoed the resolution. Washington announced that US

differences with Israel are a thing of the past.

Given the US Government's official support of Israel, the only thing which Haig could have hoped to accomplish during his recent trip was prodding Israel to continue its provocations in the area and sabotage the peace process.

Haig's activities in Cairo and Tel Aviv indicated that his primary objective was getting Israel to withdraw from the Sinai in April as scheduled and obtaining an agreement on Palestinian autonomy before the withdrawal. US sources concede that the Reagan administration still has not managed to formulate a clear policy towards Palestine.

The administration continues to reject PLO's participation in the peace talks and also rejects the Palestinian people's legitimate right of self-determination. This obviously makes it extremely difficult for Washington to convince others that it is sincerely interested in promoting a just resolution of the Palestinian question.

Given this, it is clear that Washington's comments about promoting an agreement on the stalled autonomy talks are designed to place the issue in the broader context of an "enlarged Camp David process," and put the future talks in the framework of the process. Observers familiar with the situation suggest that this policy will block new channels for the development of a Palestinian settlement.



## Israeli Intransigence

The autonomy talks have been bogged down because of Israel's intransigence.

While Haig was in Israel, officials there announced that they are not prepared to make any concessions on the issue of Palestinian autonomy. Some observers suggest that they did this in order to get the US to pressure Egypt to make concessions.

The talks conducted by Haig in Egypt did not turn out as he had expected. Cairo's newspapers have reported that Egypt's President, Hosni Mubarak, told him that Egypt cannot make any concessions on the question of Palestinian and Arab rights. Furthermore, Egypt is urging the Palestinians and the Arab states to participate in future negotiations.

During his first Middle East visit in April last year, Haig only emphasized strategic consensus regarding Soviet expansion. He did not mention the Palestinian question. This time he addressed the autonomy talks, but was reticent regarding Israeli provocations.

The crux of the matter is that the United States has consistently ignored Palestinian and Arab rights and exhibited unconscionable bias towards Israel. It is clear that Israel's repeated provocations are direct outgrowths of US bias.

Most Arab countries have vehemently criticized the manner in which the US has handled matters in the region, particularly its bias towards Israel. Instead of containing Soviet expansion in the Middle East, Washington has actually provided the Soviet Union with an opportunity to enlarge its foothold.

— Wan Guang

## Zimbabwe Counters South Africa

**T**HE Zimbabwean Government recently issued a decree which authorizes the confiscation of the property of those engaged in spying and other subversive activities.

The measure was adopted in order to curb the activities of persons who assist South African efforts to destabilize the political and economic situation in Zimbabwe.

**Multiple Explosions.** South African authorities have recently adopted a provocative attitude towards the Zimbabwean Government. Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has charged that South Africa is responsible for the December 18, 1981 bombing which took place at the Headquarters of the Zimbabwe African National Union. He has also charged that South Africa was assisted by a few whites in the Zimbabwean army and police force.

The explosion killed seven people and injured more than 120. It has been called a premeditated act, one of several South African actions designed to undermine Zimbabwe's Government.

Zimbabwe's success since independence has generated considerable hatred in South Africa. Those familiar with the situation suggest that this is due to the fact that South Africa's leaders fear that Zimbabwe's success will encourage its severely oppressed blacks to step up their struggle for majority rule.

Given this, the South African Government has engaged in collusion with white Zimbabweans who oppose majority rule in

their country. Reports indicate that South Africa has recruited and trained a small number of white Zimbabweans to engage in destructive activities.

Saboteurs set off a number of explosions in Zimbabwe during August of last year. The most destructive explosion destroyed a major portion of the National Army's ammunition dump in Inkomo, northwest of Salisbury. Ammunition worth 36 million Zimbabwean dollars was destroyed in the attack.

**Threatened Military Action.** In order to obstruct Zimbabwe's economic development, South Africa has adopted a number of measures designed to hamper its exports and imports of goods. Because it is landlocked, Zimbabwe has to transport its goods by train through South Africa and Mozambique. Most goods are transported along the railroad through South Africa.

South African agents bombed the railway and highway bridges across the Pungue River in Mozambique last October in an attempt to put pressure on Zimbabwe.

South Africa has also threatened to adopt military action against Zimbabwe because Zimbabwe supports "terrorists" who oppose the racist regime in South Africa.

Despite these actions, the people of Zimbabwe remain resolute and unified. Mugabe has warned the leaders of South Africa that if they continue their aggressive policies, the people of Zimbabwe will not hesitate to take up arms to defend their sovereignty.

— Xu Dewen



# Basic Ideas Behind the Foreign Policies Of West European Countries

by Guo Fengmin

*This is the second and concluding part of an article carried in the quarterly "Journal of International Studies" issue No. 2, 1981. The first part appeared in our last issue. — Ed.*

## IV. Western Europe's Reformist Efforts in the Third World and Their Limits

To be an independent force in international affairs, Western Europe must minimize its primary weakness of insufficient resources. Therefore, it attaches great importance to developing good relations with resource-rich third world countries.

To sum up briefly, Western Europe's basic policies towards the third world are: 1) to seek stabilization of the situation in some third world regions through political and economic means; 2) to make economic concessions which do not impair the basic interests of the industrialized countries; 3) to form (through preferential arrangements and various kinds of "assistance") a Western Europe-centred political and economic system in some third world regions. These policies reflect the basic attitude of the West European countries, which act as middle-of-the-road forces, in the international class struggle, in their attempt to keep the third world riding on the coattails of the industrialized countries by carrying out the policy of reformism.

West European countries worry most at present that turmoil in the Middle East and Persian Gulf regions might endanger the supply lifeline of their resources. They generally claim that the basic reason for turmoil rests with various local contradictions. They view the declining influence of the two superpowers in this area with a mixture of joy and anxiety. Their joy results from their recognition that unrest might spread throughout the region. In order to contain Soviet expansion by making use of turbulence in this region, they are prepared to take concerted action with the United States in some fields, while worrying about Washington's

rash behaviour. They are also afraid of military conflicts which could bring disaster to them. So they are opposed to extending the scope of NATO defence to the Middle East and Persian Gulf region. They also believe that in the Middle East and Persian Gulf (as well as other areas in the third world), military forces are best held as deterrents. They think that the West should primarily depend upon political and economic means to influence third world countries.

In order to impress the third world, West European countries actively support the "north-south dialogue." Some politicians hope to use practices developed during their domestic labour-capital disputes to handle the problem of north-south relations. They are attempting to continue, by making some partial and inconsequential concessions, to safeguard the old international economic order by which the industrialized countries exploit the developing ones.

Developments in recent years prove that the concessions previously made to the developing countries are extremely limited. Although Western Europe generally displays more flexibility in the north-south dialogue than the United States, their positions are essentially identical on fundamental issues.

Western Europe is also attempting to maintain its "special interest" in some areas through limited concessions. EEC is trying to establish step by step a multi-layer structure of association with third world countries: First of all, establishment of the most favoured economic connection with the coastal countries on the Mediterranean Sea; secondly, establish collective favoured relations with African countries and some scattered island countries—Lome Convention; then, on the basis of favoured economic relations, gradually establish comprehensive long-range co-operative relations between the community and Arab and African countries politically and economically through Europe-Arab-Africa dialogue. Lastly, to develop extensive relations with other regions in the third world, encourage north-south dialogue, practise

universal preferential treatment and sign co-operative agreements with some regional organizations of third world countries. The community hopes, through the above-mentioned arrangements, to form an EEC-centred political and economic system, including certain countries of Africa and the Middle East.

During the past two years, Western Europe has made some headway in the third world and it has, in particular, formed closer political and economic relations with the Arab states. Nonetheless, West European countries have been talking much but doing little in their relations with the third world. The statement on the Middle East adopted at the community summit, held in Venice in June 1980, is an example. Members of the community announced their support for the Palestinian people's national rights, but do not have enough strength to take practical actions. Their ability to play a greater role in the third world in the future depends upon the following: firstly, whether or not they can formulate views consistent with third world demands and make more concessions to the third world countries; secondly, whether or not they can unite to enhance their ability to take action.

## **V. Some Characteristics of the Foreign Policies of Western Europe**

The unity of Western Europe, its relations with the Soviet Union, the United States and the third world are undergoing great changes. This is a reflection of the impending collapse of the old world system established at the Yalta Conference.

Western Europe is very dissatisfied with the "bi-polar" pattern of the international situation. It hopes to create a situation beneficial to the emergence of a "multi-polar" political order. But it also realizes that its strategic position as a focal point of global contention between the two superpowers leaves it very vulnerable. Therefore, it hopes to bring about a "multi-polar" world through gradual evolution.

Western Europe has sought to alter its position by relying on the strength of the third world, but it does not completely recognize the independent position of the third world. Some Western observers have said that Western Europe's diplomacy is "semi-conservative" and "semi-reformative," which is different from the "conservative diplomacy" of the United States and the Soviet Union, and also different from

the "revolutionary diplomacy" of the third world.

Specific political factors determine Western Europe's foreign policies. Internationally, it is the middle-of-the-road force in the international class struggle. In addition, West European countries are not able to unite completely. This will make it difficult for the various countries to overcome the weakness mentioned above. Domestically, the middle class has expanded during the postwar era in Western Europe and, as a result, reformist political ideas have flourished. The primary representative of this tendency is the Social Democratic Party in each country, which exert major influence on other bourgeois parties. They also affect the internal affairs and foreign policies of all West European countries. Given the Social Democratic influence, West European countries tend to adopt indirect methods in their foreign relations, trying to turn the flank of contradictions and difficult problems.

In foreign relations, West European countries devote considerable effort to maintaining as many options as they possibly can. This is due to their recognition of the difficulty of controlling many factors in the international situation. Take the sensitive issue of defence for instance: West European countries have to maintain close ties with the United States as the primary source of present security for the West, but at the same time, they are afraid of Washington's unreliability. Furthermore, because they are encountering economic and political difficulties connected with their efforts to expand armaments, they insist on promoting negotiations of arms control and other issues with the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, they worry that negotiations will lead to a compromise between Washington and Moscow which will infringe upon the interests of the West. Thus they retain the option of establishing an independent defence system. Owing to various difficulties regarding the establishment of defence systems in Western Europe, every country develops its own system in accordance with its particular strategic ideas. "Keep all options open" is not simply a means for tactical manoeuvring, but an outlet for meeting all possibilities.

In comparison with the situation prior to World War II, the international position of West European countries has greatly weakened. Given the emergence of the two superpowers, strengthening West European unity in various fields is the most reliable way out for them and



also the only way for them to reinforce their international positions. Therefore, in the past two years, despite all sorts of hardships, they have been promoting West European unity as much as possible. But several countries, which are rivals on the world scene and which have their own special interests to maintain till today, are finding close unity difficult to achieve. As a second world, Western Europe has a dual character and, depending upon the international situation, emphasis is shifted from one dimension to another.

## **VI. Whither Western Europe In the Immediate Future?**

Western Europe will encounter a severe test in this decade. Nineteen eighty-one was one of the most extraordinary years in the history of postwar Europe. A series of major events which directly affected the security of Western Europe occurred, including upheavals in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf regions. The most outstanding is the continued intensive turmoil in Poland. The Polish situation, no matter how it turns out, will have a far-reaching impact on the whole of Europe, as well as the policy of Western Europe.

There are a lot of problems within the West European countries. Though varying in degrees, indications of sharpening class and social contradictions appeared in all the West European countries in 1981, mainly in the new development of the struggle against unemployment and cuts in social welfare programmes. At the same time, protests against nuclear weapons and increases in military expenditure are increasing. Several major countries have also experienced a realignment of various political forces. Following Mitterrand's election to the Presidency of France, the Socialist Party has again gained an overwhelming majority in the National Assembly for the first time since the war. Britain's two-party system has begun to change. The Social Democratic Party evolved from the Labour Party and differences of policy in the Conservative Party have also expanded. It is particularly worth noting that West Germany's balance of political power may be changing.

With the unstable situations in Eastern and Western Europe in the background, Washington and Moscow engage in sharp contention on a series of questions, the most prominent will be the proposed deployment of theatre nuclear weapons in Europe. It seems that the Reagan administration will push forward the plan of

deploying medium-range missiles in Western Europe to maintain a theatre nuclear balance and enhance the strength of the United States against the Soviet Union as well as its leadership in the Western alliance. The Soviet Union will certainly do whatever it can to undermine the plan. The Soviet Union will probably increase its coercion and wooing by baiting Western Europe in order to drive a wedge between Europe and the United States, inducing Western Europe to pursue a neutral policy.

During the past decade and more, the situation in Europe has been relatively calm. This will probably change in the 80s. Turbulence in other regions will continue to trouble Europe and contradictions inside Europe will also be accentuated. Furthermore, contention in Europe between the two superpowers and contradictions between European countries and the two superpowers will possibly become acute.

Given these circumstances, where will Western Europe be heading? What role will it play in international affairs? Can it become a "pole" in the international setup? What kind of "pole"? According to current conditions, as far as the 80s are concerned, it might be assumed that there are four prospects for Western Europe:

1. Riding further on the coattails of the United States — As a result of their serious internal political and economic difficulties, as well as their lack of significant progress towards unity, the West European countries must continue hanging on the coattails of the United States in face of the Soviet threat. Therefore, the policies of Western Europe towards the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe should be formulated in accordance with the development of US-Soviet relations.

2. Becoming further an incomplete independent "pole" — Western Europe may continue strengthening unity in the economic and political fields in order to achieve greater independence from the United States. But because of its reliance on Washington for defence, its independence is limited. In its relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Western Europe will find it impossible to get rid of the restraints imposed by US-Soviet relations, but it should prove possible for Western Europe to adopt some actions which are not completely identical with those of the United States.

3. Becoming a genuine independent "pole" — Western Europe could not only strengthen unity politically and economically,

but also establish its own defence system. This would permit it to assume a position of equality in the alliance with the United States. This sort of Western Europe might contend effectively with the Soviet Union and prove appealing to Western Europe.

4. The so-called "Finlandization" — Western Europe could not unite, and the Europe-US alliance would suffer damage and Western Europe would gravitate towards the Soviet Union because of its coercion and wooing.

Though the first prospect cannot be completely ruled out, it is improbable. Because, as a whole, US strength is still relatively declining. The GNP of the EEC member states surpassed that of the United States for the first time in 1979.

Even though US economic development is better than that of Western Europe, within three to five years, it will prove difficult for the US to strengthen its control over Western Europe. If EEC expands and absorbs Spain and other countries whose latent capacity for economic development is significant, then in the late 1980s, EEC could possibly be in a more favourable position in regard to US economic strength. Therefore, the general trend of Western Europe should be to strengthen its independence by not riding on the coattails of the United States.

In the mid-80s, the second prospect is that Western Europe will gradually become a quasi-independent "pole." This is the goal of "semi-Gaullism." Internal contradictions in some West European countries and the changes in groupings of power may compel their governments to make some adjustments in their foreign policies. Given current conditions, however, it seems that West European countries cannot fundamentally transform the policy of "semi-Gaullism." Intensified competition between the Soviet Union and the United States, as well as their declining capabilities to control the world situation, are also motivating Western Europe to strive for a relatively independent international position.

Western Europe cannot be entirely ruled out as a potentially independent "pole." But this cannot occur in the mid-80s unless a tremendous change occurs in international affairs and a new alignment beneficial to a closely united Western Europe emerges inside the West European countries.

There used to be a lot of talk about the possible "Finlandization" of Western Europe,

but it is hardly possible. Generally speaking, various strata in Western Europe maintain vigilance against the Soviet Union. In addition, the United States would not allow Western Europe to pledge allegiance to the Soviet Union. Therefore, the possibility of "Finlandization" in the mid-80s is very remote.

Is the West European desire to become an independent force in international affairs beneficial to the struggle against hegemonism, especially against Soviet hegemonism? Concerning this question, scholars on international problems hold different views. Regarding the long-term strategic situation, it should be stated that Western Europe's desire to become an independent force will have a positive impact on the struggle against hegemonism, particularly the struggle against Soviet hegemonism. An independent Western Europe will not only be a check to the domineering attitude of the US, but will also be an obstacle to the Soviet ambition to dominate the world. Furthermore, it can impede US-Soviet attempts to consolidate a "bi-polar" agreement at the expense of others' interests. A strong, independent Western Europe would also affect Eastern Europe and weaken the Soviet hegemonist position. Finally, an independent Western Europe would motivate the third world to make use of the "multi-polar" contradiction and grow stronger as the main force against hegemonism as well as in its struggle for political and economic self-determination.

Nevertheless, so-called "semi-Gaullism" reflects the limited strength of Western Europe. It is only a state of transition. To become a genuine independent force, Western Europe must travel a long and tortuous road. Moreover, it cannot rule out the possibility of setbacks.

As Engels said in the "Preface to the Second German Edition on 'The Condition of the Working Class in England'" in 1892: "A large class, like a great nation, never learns better or quicker than by undergoing the consequences of its own mistakes."\* The West European countries experienced catastrophes during two world wars in the 20th century. During the 30 years since the last war, they have undergone all sorts of twists and turns. Entering the 1980s, people have reasons to believe that the nations of Western Europe will learn from their experiences and begin to master destiny with their own hands. □

\* Marx and Engels, *On Britain*, Second Edition, p. 32.



# Tongxiang County: Two Years After The People's Deputy Elections

by Our Correspondent Tian Sansong

*More than two years ago, the voters of Tongxiang County, which is located in coastal Zhejiang Province, elected 494 deputies to the county people's congress. The election was covered in detail in issue No. 8, 1980.*

*How are the deputies carrying out their duties? How does the standing committee of the county people's congress exercise its function as the local organ of state power? Is the county people's government responsive to the will of the people?*

*The following articles provide answers to these questions. — Ed.*

## Slogan and Facts

THE slogan "People elect their deputies, people's deputies work for the people" could be seen everywhere in Tongxiang County more than two years ago. It was used to promote community participation in local elections.

### Wuzhen Deputies

One of the election sites was Wuzhen, the birthplace of the noted writer Mao Dun. The town, which is economically and culturally developed, has approximately 13,000 residents. They elected 26 deputies to the county people's congress in 1979.

During a recent series of interviews, seven deputies recounted their experiences. Although their stories differed, each indicated a continuing commitment to his pledge to "serve the people."

Deputy Jiang Guanghui, who is a 57-year-old teacher in the Wuzhen Middle School, said he

has performed a variety of services during his two years in office. These have included participation in elections of standing committee members for the county people's congress, the head and deputy heads of the county, the president of the county people's court and the

chief procurator of the county people's procuratorate. He has also participated in examinations of the county's economic plan, its budget and final account.

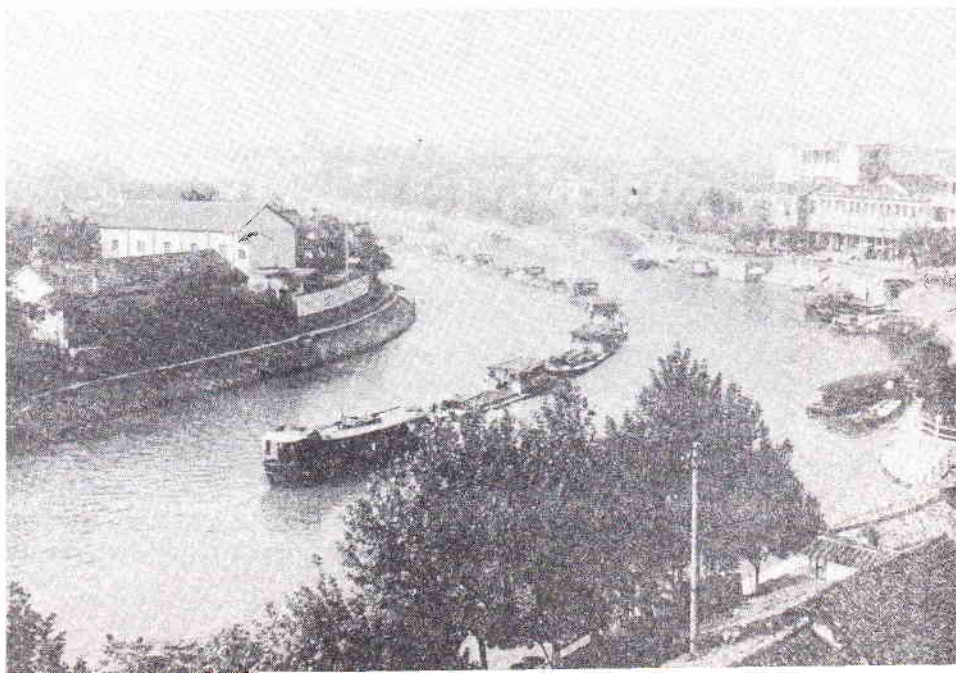
Deputy Jiang has participated in discussions and decision-making in the fields of politics, economy, culture and education. He has also forwarded 13 voter motions to the congress.

At the conclusion of congressional sessions, he relays the decisions made to his constituents. He is also responsible for keeping them informed of progress made on the 13 motions which he introduced for them.

Once every two months Jiang attends deputy meetings at which documents are studied and experiences shared.

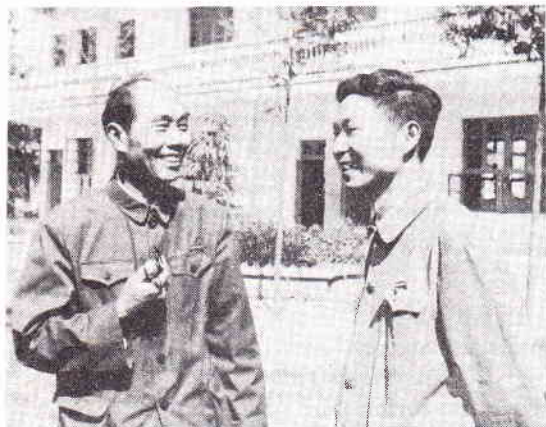
Sometimes he goes on inspection tours organized by the

Shimen Town, Tongxiang County.



standing committee. On such occasions he solicits the opinions of local residents and supervises government work.

He frequently distributes materials produced by the county



Jiang Guanghui (left), a people's deputy.

standing committee. This makes it possible for local residents to keep abreast of developments throughout the county.

One of his most important tasks consists of relaying the concerns of his constituents to the county government. For example, when people in his district complained because a street leading to the local suburbs was not lighted, he passed this information on to the town government. Three days later the street was lit.

When a group of residents complained because of heavy pollution in a local river, he passed their comments on. This problem also required him to visit four local factories where he recommended that steps be taken to reduce the number of pollutants discharged into the river. Although the river is now cleaner, Jiang says more work needs to be done in order to eliminate the pollution problem.

Jiang's constituents appear to be satisfied with his efforts on their behalf.

"He has reported all our opinions and demands to the government and many of them have been settled," said Gu Huimin, a woman who lives in his district.

"Our long-awaited movie theatre has been built, streets have been surfaced with cement (they were formerly paved with pebbles) and a new water works has been constructed," she added. "Credit should go to our deputy."

"Jiang respects the voters," said Huangfu Tao, who also teaches in the Wuzhen Middle School.

"He frequently solicits our opinions on government work and promptly tells us of responses to our requests.

"So it's really convenient for us to get in touch with the government, although indirectly."

Not all deputies are as good as Jiang. Some simply haven't been so conscientious in the performance of their duties.

"We can only say that most of the deputies are good," said Zhang Fuhe, deputy head of the office under the standing committee.

"Some have little contact with the voters," he added. "The people say that they are 'deputies in name only.'

"One deputy has led a loose life and the people are trying to replace him."

### Then and Now

Shi Youyi is a 62-year-old deputy from Buyuan town, which is located in the eastern section of Tongxiang County. He is a well-known pharmacist of traditional Chinese medicine in the county. He has been a deputy ever since the 50s. According to

him, there is a big difference between today's deputies and those of the past.

"There are many reasons for the change," said Shi Youyi. "The main reasons are: first, the daily routine work has been taken over by the standing committee, which did not exist before. Second, the deputies are now organized."

The 494 Tongxiang County deputies were organized into 88 groups after the first session of the seventh people's congress. The groups are responsible for maintaining direct contact with voters, studying and publicizing laws and decrees, assisting the government, investigating important problems and exchanging experiences with each other.

The Zhicun People's Commune's deputy group has 15 members. They are led by Zhang Borong and they meet once a month.

In August 1980, the group devoted major attention to a

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### Tongxiang County

Tongxiang County, which is situated on the northern plain of Zhejiang Province in east China, encompasses 700 square kilometres. It has 580,000 people, 90 per cent of whom are peasants. The county has numerous rivers, and the Grand Canal linking Beijing and Hangzhou flows through it. It has 5 towns, 29 people's communes and 4 state farms. Its primary products are grain, rapeseed, silk cocoons, tobacco, chrysanthemums, pigs, sheep and rabbits. The county's silk, light and building materials industries are fairly well developed. Industrial output value in 1980 constituted 53.3 per cent of the county's total industrial and agricultural output value.

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storm which hit during the rice harvest season. After studying the situation, the deputies concluded that the storm's damage would be minimal. This information was quickly passed on to peasants in the area so that they could plan accordingly.

When a local school teacher informed the group that some commune members with big families were complaining that they could not afford to pay school tuition for their children, the deputies took up the matter. After studying the situation, they recommended free primary school education. They also recommended that the cost of primary education be subsidized with profits from commune-run enterprises.

The commune's administrative committee accepted the proposal and it was subsequently adopted by the commune people's congress.

### Supervising Government

Supervising the government is one of the most important tasks performed by the deputies. The practical dimensions of this responsibility were made quite clear in April 1981 after the county finance director presented the government's plan for the allocation of disposable funds.

The original plan called for far more money to be spent on urban than rural construction. After rural deputies expressed dissatisfaction with the plan, the government revised its budget: the fund for rural construction was raised to 771,000 yuan while the fund for urban construction was cut to 690,000 yuan.

In the summer of 1980 the deputies achieved a similar change in the government's edu-

cation budget. The problem arose when the education bureau proposed bonuses for school administrators, but none for teachers. When the teachers complained, the deputies invited the director of the education bureau to attend their meeting to discuss the matter.

Having learnt the ins and outs of the matter, the standing committee recommended that the problem be solved by the county government which responded by allocating extra funds for teacher bonuses.

Thus, the problem was promptly solved.

## Visiting the County People's Congress Standing Committee

CHINA'S people's congresses are local organs of state power. Congresses functioning at the county level and above have set up standing committees.

This article presents the manner in which these permanent organizations function as local organs of state power.

### A Capable Body

Song Qisheng, 60, is vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Tongxiang County People's Congress.

The committee, which was formed in December 1979, is composed of 19 members: a

chairman, 5 vice-chairmen and 13 committee members — all of whom are deputies to the county people's congress. Standing committee members include 6 Party and government cadres, 3 responsible members from people's organizations (trade unions, women's federations and the Communist Youth League), 2 workers, 3 peasants, 2 educators, a doctor, a scientific worker and a soldier.

The standing committee has an office with three staff members. "Our principal task is to oversee the implementation of decisions of the people's congress or its standing committee



Members of the Standing Committee of the Tongxiang County People's Congress discussing their daily work.

by the county government," said Song Qisheng.

### Regular Meetings

The standing committee members have numerous responsibilities.

"Besides doing their own work well, they have to attend a regular meeting of the people's congress standing committee every two months, take part in several inspection tours every year, participate in deputy group meetings and maintain extensive contacts with the deputies and electorates," said vice-chairman Song.

Ten meetings have been held since the founding of the standing committee. At the 10th standing committee meeting held between September 2 and 4, 1981, the following questions were discussed:

1. A report on the implementation of the county's economic plan for the first half of 1981.

2. A report on the handling of motions from deputies.

3. A report on the major work of the law court between January and August 1981 and a report on procuratorial work during the first half of 1981, and

4. A report on the discussion of the fourth draft of the Law of Civil Procedure of the People's Republic of China.

According to the *People's Congress Bulletin*, the primary agendas of the regular meetings (1st-9th) of the county people's congress standing committee included

— Appointing responsible personnel to departments of the county government;

— Examining the county's economic plan, its budget and final accounts for 1980-81;

— Hearing reports on health, public order and prices; and on the handling of motions from deputies, reports made by departments of the county government; appropriate decisions were made and requirements laid down;

— Deciding to form deputy groups and defining methods

for increased contact with people's deputies;

— Discussing the laws, decrees and regulations issued by the Central Government and provincial authorities; deciding on methods for their implementation in the county; and

— Discussing and deciding on inspection tours of certain cities, towns and communes.

It is clear from these regular meetings that the county people's congress standing committee is effectively exercising the functions and powers of a local organ of power.

### On-the-Job Committee Members

Zhu Shengtang, a committee member of peasant origin, lives in the Minxing commune.

His home is located in Chenjia village, which was inhabited by poor farm labourers and beggars before liberation. Now two-thirds of the village's residents either live in or are constructing their own homes. Zhu Shengtang has been leading the peasants in Chenjia since the 1950s.

"Because I was elected to the standing committee of the county people's congress, I play an important role in various fields of work," said Zhu. A major portion of his time is devoted to solving family problems which arise among local residents. For example, when a young teacher named Zhao fell in love with a worker named Cao, her mother objected. The villagers tried unsuccessfully to persuade her not to interfere with her daughter's marriage. Finally, the young couple went to Zhu Shengtang and requested assistance. Zhu responded by taking copies of the Marriage Law and the Criminal Law to the mother and getting her to study them. "Freedom of marriage is protected by the state



People's deputies inspecting rice paddies in the Linan commune.





Zhu Shengtang (left), a standing committee member of the county people's congress, talking with commune members about state law and Party policies.

law and it is wrong to meddle in children's marriage," he told her. After learning that she could be prosecuted if any serious consequences resulting from her interference with the proposed marriage arise, the mother relented. In addition to explaining laws and Party policies, Zhu also supports democratic rights for peasants.

A recent confrontation between a production team leader and a commune member named Wei can be cited to demonstrate his tactful approach to resolving conflicts. The problem arose when Wei severely criticized the team leader for allegedly setting his son's work-

points too low. Faced with Wei's antagonistic criticism, the team leader rejected his complaint and countered by suggesting that he publicly engage in self-criticism.

Zhu Shengtang stepped in at this point. After pointing out the team leader's mistake, he requested that the commune's leadership support Wei's democratic rights. Zhu also reminded Wei that it is necessary to have a proper attitude when criticizing others. The matter was settled when the commune leadership accepted Zhu's assessment, criticized the production team leader and helped him to change his attitude.

## County Government at the People's Service

**M**A Chuanfeng is a 55-year-old county government leader. His opinion of county congresses is exemplary. "The people's congress is the organ of power and the government its executive body," he says. "To respect the people's will is to respect the people's congress. This means we should earnest-

ly carry out the congress' resolutions, humbly listen to the opinions and proposals submitted by the people's deputies and place the government under the people's supervision."

### Implementing County People's Congress Resolutions

To make his point, county head Ma cited three examples.

A resolution adopted by the first session of the seventh people's congress of Tongxiang County stipulated that the county's 1980 total industrial and agricultural output value should exceed the 1979 figure of 405.52 million yuan by 6.87 per cent. It also stipulated that light and textile industries should increase by 12 per cent. The county government formulated its plans accordingly. As a result, total industrial and agricultural output value in 1980 amounted to 470.92 million yuan, a 13.6 per cent increase over the previous year. Of this, light and textile industries increased 35 per cent.

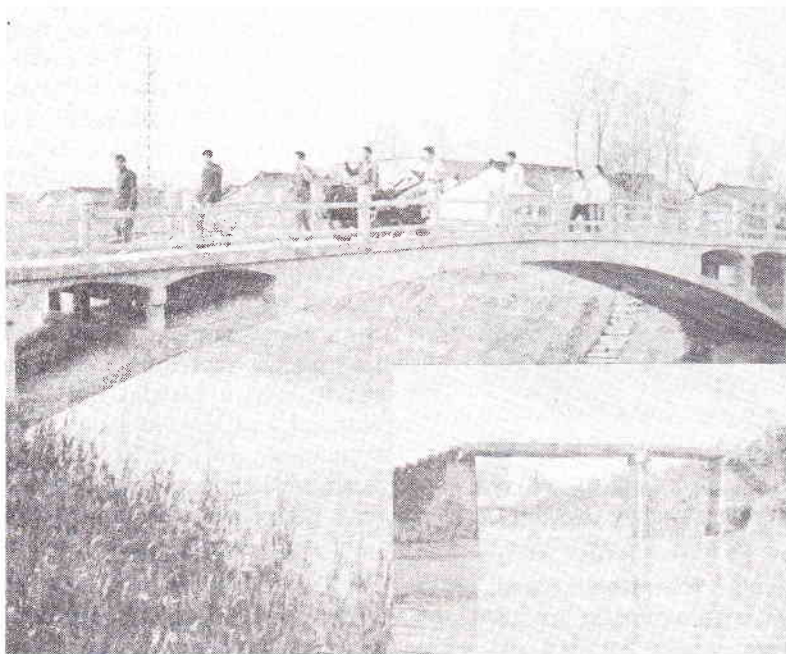
The resolution also required that job opportunities be created for 2,600 residents over and above the 7,000 who had been given jobs during the two previous years. The government did all it could to meet the requirement. New enterprises and service trades were set up in the county seat and other towns. They provided jobs for 3,894 people. As a result, there



Ma Chuanfeng, the county head.

are very few jobless people in Tongxiang today.

The people's congress also decided to expand the production of building materials in order to facilitate the local boom in house-building. The county government carried out the deci-



In response to a motion submitted by people's deputies, the county water conservancy bureau tore down the old bridge (right, below) and replaced it with one built with concrete.

sion by increasing cement production from 56,795 tons in 1979 to 93,371 tons in 1980. Brick production increased from 493.65 million to 719.90 million. Output continued to rise during the first six months of last year.

"Despite such impressive efforts, the production of building materials still falls short of the increasing demand of the people," said the county head.

### Conscientiously Handling the Deputies' Motions

Shi Wenzhen is a people's deputy from Buyuan, a small town located in the eastern suburbs of Tongxiang's county seat. "We submitted to the county people's congress motions for building bridges, resurfacing the streets, improving the potable water supply and widening the river courses in the centre of the town," she said. "A short while later, our deputy county head, Zhu Guoqin, came with bureau leaders in charge of finance, material and

equipment to investigate the situation in our town in order to devise ways to act on the motions.

"Now we have the bridge. The streets have been resurfaced with cement and the tap water pipes extended. We haven't got the river courses widened because there's not enough money."

According to *The People's Congress Bulletin*, 50 per cent of the 699 motions submitted by deputies to the first session of the seventh county people's congress have been acted upon. Forty per cent have been submitted to higher authorities either because the county does not have enough money to act on them or because they require higher authorization. Ten per cent have been overruled because they do not conform with state policies. No matter how proposals are handled, the county government reports the results to the deputies concerned.

At the second county people's congress session held last April, 618 motions were submitted by the deputies. According to Wei Dihua, deputy director of the county government office, each one was discussed at meetings presided over by the county head. Deputy head Zhu Guoqin has been given responsibility for forwarding them to appropriate bureaus and committees. Bureaus and committees receiving proposals are required to do all they can to act on them. They are also required to provide answers to the original sponsors of the proposals. By the end of last August, 405 proposals had been handled, accounting for 65.5 per cent of the total. The various bureaus and committees have been urged to tackle the rest.

The county water conservancy bureau has handled 85 proposals last year. This included building 97 bridges and 49 hydropower, drainage and irrigation stations. The bureau's staff does whatever it can to act on the motions from the deputies. Before starting a project, they make careful surveys and then map out construction plans according to their finan-

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### Election at the County Level

Since the latter half of 1979, people's deputies have been elected at the county level (including counties, cities with no district divisions and city districts). By the end of 1981, 95 per cent of the nation's 2,756 administrative units at the county level had elected people's deputies, set up people's congresses and their standing committees and elected county or district heads and deputy heads or mayors and deputy mayors.

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cial and material capabilities. At the end of last August, the water conservancy bureau reported to deputies on the manner in which their proposals were handled. One report read as follows:

"This bureau has received your proposal concerning the construction of new bridges. After careful deliberations, we would like to tell you: The problems you have raised cannot be solved all at once as there are too many bridges to be built in this county. But we have put the Tankuang, Xichangban and Beidao bridges, which you have strongly recommended, under construction. The other bridges which you want us to build have to wait until sufficient funds are available."

To speed up bridge-building, the water conservancy bureau has arranged for some communes and brigades to build bridges with state financial and technical help. Twenty-four bridges have been completed in Tongxiang in this manner. Construction of another 50 bridges is in high gear.

### Achievements in Two Years

Tongxiang has changed a great deal during the past two years.

In Wutong town where the county government is located, the few three-storeyed structures have given way to dozens of buildings of novel design. Some are as high as six floors. The downtown workers' cultural palace and the department store, which tower over the town, are particularly impressive. Row upon row of workers' apartment buildings line the low-lying areas. The lanes, which used to be muddy and

Item	Units	1979	1980	January-June period of 1981
Total industrial & agricultural output value	million yuan	405.53	470.92	
Industrial output value	million yuan	180.44	251.20	155.12
Agricultural output value	million yuan	225.09	219.72	
Grain	million jin*	793.77	597.55	407.83
Rapeseeds	million jin	13.43	16.06	27.63
Cocoons	million jin	18.52	21.53	12.18
Silks and satins	million metres	1.42	2.18	1.20
Cement	ton	56,795	93,371	74,195
Bricks	million	493.65	719.90	409.64
Workers newly employed		5,054	3,894	3,396
Workers' annual per-capita income	yuan	562.55	675.83	
Rural bank savings	million yuan	34.93	23.68	29.136
Urban bank savings	million yuan	7.88	10.49	9.28
Expenditures on culture & education	million yuan	2.481	2.984	
Natural population growth rate	per thousand	6.09	3.64	

\* One jin equals 0.5 kilogramme.

slippery, have been surfaced with cement. Local fairs are thriving and the women, in their colourful attire, are no less fashionable than those in Beijing.

The Lingan commune lies five kilometres southwest of the county seat. Its members have pooled money and built a 1,000-seat theatre. Its Zhaojiajiao production team has built a water tower with public accumulation funds and extended tap water pipes to every kitchen in the 60-family community. Dotting the land are many spacious, attractive houses, all

built by the commune members.

Tao Ruiming, a county people's deputy from Wuzhen aptly expressed the sentiments of local residents. "The county government has really been doing a good job for us during the last couple of years," he said. "For many years people wanted a cinema of their own, now we have one. We have a new park, a new library next door to Mao Dun's old home and many new houses. They were all built recently. Not to mention the

(Continued on p. 21.)

## RECREATION

### *Peasants Seek More*

More than 500 delegates representing the vast and growing network of libraries, theatres, clubs and film projection teams in the rural areas held their first national conference to exchange work experiences from December 24 to January 3 in Beijing.

The 10-day conference included an awards presentation by the Ministry of Culture which gave citations, radios and tape-recorders for outstanding achievements in rural cultural work.

In recent years, great changes have taken place for China's 800 million peasants. The demand for more entertainment and recreation is growing in the countryside. For many years peasants mainly depended on radios for cultural presentations, although an increasing number have TV sets in their homes. But now, with the success of the Party's policies in

invigorating the rural economy, the peasants have more money, more grain and more spare time. Thus it has become a national priority to enrich their cultural life through art and literature, science and entertainment.

An increasing number of locally supported cultural centres have sprung up across the country. Their scale depends on the size and relative economic prosperity of the sponsoring unit. Production brigades are usually able to set up cultural rooms, while communes can often afford to establish several rooms as a cultural station and separate cultural halls are more common at the district level. County-level cultural organizations give leadership to the local groups and provide professional assistance.

The most common grassroots cultural organizations are clubs where peasants can play chess, read and watch TV. These are also used to set up exhibitions, hold rehearsals

for performances and offer cultural classes in subjects like painting and calligraphy.

Movies are among the most popular entertainment forms. On any day of the week, an average of 40 million peasants are watching films.

Currently, 200,000 projectionists are touring the countryside, showing films in remote and mountainous areas, despite personal hardships. Some projectionists from minority nationalities simultaneously translate the film dialogues into their own languages.

A national plan is unfolding to build larger cultural centres in county towns for the benefit of the surrounding communes. The Ministry of Culture has together with the China Construction Bank earmarked a fund of 60 million yuan in low interest loans for building theatres and cinemas in these centres.

Live drama is also in great demand. In addition to plays performed by troupes from the big cities, which travel through the countryside at irregular intervals, plays are put on by thousands of county level troupes. Some peasant performance groups are even more locally based and are sponsored by communes.

Rural libraries are being established to meet the demand for information that will serve agricultural production. Care is taken to provide books for peasants of different educational levels and interests. The libraries are not only stocked with books on popular science and technology, but also with works of art and literature.



The cultural hall of Chuxian County in Anhui Province runs a spare-time music class for urban and rural music lovers throughout the county.



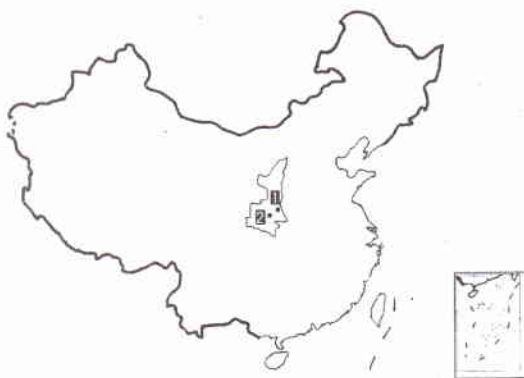
## ARCHAEOLOGY

### Large Ancient Granary

The remains of a state granary dating back 2,100 years were unearthed in central Shaanxi Province. Excavated between last June and September, it was the largest ancient granary so far discovered in China.

Archaeologists working at the site estimate that the granary was originally a large double-eaved building and that the east eave was 5.3 metres long. The building itself was 63 metres long and 25.5 metres wide, with three 3.9-metre-wide gates facing east. Its walls were 1.4 metres thick and the remnants found range 10 to 95 centimetres high. It had facilities for ventilation and humidity prevention.

Archaeologists believe that the structure was an example of the advanced architectural technology of its day. They cite



the deep base of the building, the fine tile-ends with painted designs and the protective walls outside the granary.

The granary was built on a terrace of land between the Weihe River and Mount Hua-shan in Huayin County<sup>1</sup>, more than 100 kilometres east of Changan<sup>2</sup>, capital of Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-24 A.D.). It was located near Tongguan pass, a place of strategic importance. In case of war, grain could be conveniently stored and easily evacuated. As Hua-

yin was at the terminus of a canal leading from Changan to the Huanghe River, it would have been relatively easy to ship grain from there.

Archaeologists are of the opinion that the granary was built during the reign of Emperor Wu Di (140-87 B.C.). According to historical records, the economy was becoming prosperous at that time and the granary in Changan was brimming over with grain, so new granaries were built. The Huayin granary was probably one of them.

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(Continued from p. 19.)

17 new enterprises run by the county itself, which have provided jobs for so many young people."

The table on p. 19, provided by the county government office, indicates that during the last two years or so Tongxiang's total industrial and agricultural output value has increased by a big margin. Industrial output value has surpassed that of agriculture, cash crop output has increased and the employment problem has been basically solved. Personal income has gone up and progress has been made in the areas of family planning, culture and education.

Unfortunately, the county experienced a decrease in 1980 grain output. According to county head Ma Chuanfeng, the decrease resulted from the worst natural disaster in six decades and shortcomings in government management techniques.

"Commune members got 20 yuan less in 1980 from collective distribution than in 1979 because of the losses in grain output," said Ma. "In 1979, average per-capita income stood at 189 yuan, whereas in 1980 the figure was 169 yuan. But they made more money from household sideline occupations. So, on the whole, they still earned

more than the previous year.

"In 1981, thanks to the introduction of a responsibility system in farm production and our policy of encouraging household sideline occupations, coupled with the burgeoning development of commune- and brigade-run enterprises, the commune members' income from public distribution and household sideline occupations increased by a big margin."

The county has made remarkable progress during the last two years. Facts show that this is inseparable from the efforts of the people's deputies and the assistance of the people's government. □

### *China's First Atlas On Medicine*

**Atlas of Cancer Mortality in the  
People's Republic of China**  
(in Chinese and English)

« 中华人民共和国恶性肿瘤地图  
集 »

*Edited by the National  
Cancer Control Office of the  
Ministry of Public Health,*

*Published by China Map Press,*

*Price for both Chinese and Eng-  
lish editions: 100 US\$ in  
Asia and Africa, 110 US\$ in  
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regions. Discount 30 per cent  
for more than 10 copies,*

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China; or write direct to  
Tumour Research Institute of  
the Chinese Academy of Med-  
ical Sciences, No. 2 Yabao  
Road, Chaoyang District, Bei-  
jing, China.*

The *Atlas of Cancer Mortality in the People's Republic of China*, the first of its kind in China, constitutes a major achievement in medical studies. It presents information on the amount of malignant tumour in China and its geographical distribution.

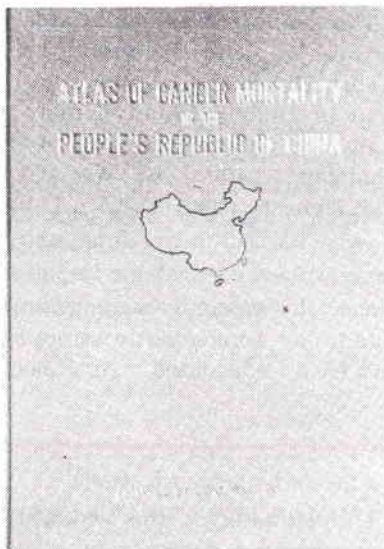
Malignant tumour is a common disease which seriously endangers people's health and life. Statistics of cancer incidence and geographical distribution are of great significance for discovering the causes of cancer, its prevention and research and methods of evaluating the effects of cancer prevention programmes.

During recent decades, developed countries have used registration, research projects

and special reports to collect and distribute information about cancer.

Reliable statistics and data about cancer incidence and mortality in developing countries have been essentially unavailable.

China, which is a developing country with a vast territory and a big population, recently began to provide major programmes for preventing and treating cancer.



In order to acquire data on cancer incidence, mortality and distribution in China, the National Cancer Control Office of the Ministry of Public Health organized 600,000 cancer epidemiologists and medical workers to conduct a retrospective survey during the 1970s.

The survey, which focused on cancer deaths and causes of death between 1973 and 1975, was completed in five years. It covered 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions (Taiwan Province was not included), containing a total population of 850 million.

This atlas is based on data

collected during the survey. It clearly delineates the areas with high rates of cancer incidence, the different types and their distribution. Such information should provide important clues for those studying the possible causes of cancer.

The atlas indicates that in China stomach cancer ranks first in mortality. It is found mostly in the northwest, northeast and southeastern coastal areas. Esophageal cancer, which is primarily concentrated in Henan Province's Taihang Mountains, is second on the list of national cancer mortality. The third is liver cancer, which is concentrated in the mountainous area in Guangxi, and northern Jiangsu. These three types of cancer are directly related to local eating habits.

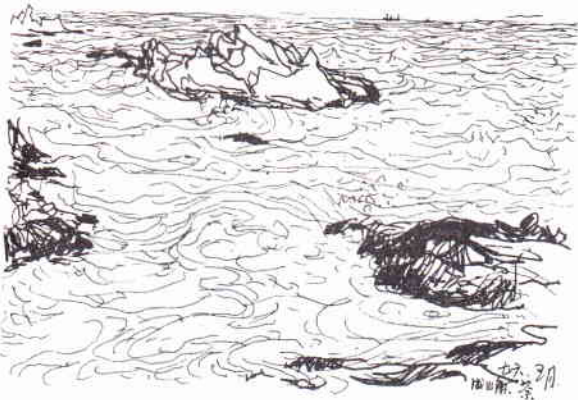
The atlas is in tabloid form containing colour plates for both Chinese and English editions. It depicts male and female cancer death and distribution patterns for the types of cancer most commonly found in China — stomach, esophagus, liver, cervix, lung, colon and rectum, leukemia, breast, nasopharynx, brain, malignant lymphoma, bladder, penis, and choriocarcinoma.

The atlas, which was published in 1981, has been well received by cancer researchers at home and abroad. Professor Paul A. Marks from Cornell University in the US said: "The *Atlas of Cancer Mortality in the PRC* represents a contribution not only to the studies in cancer control in the PRC but clearly to the much larger world community in which cancer is a major health problem." Professor Hidematsu Hirai from the Department of Medicine of Hokkaido University in Japan said: "All of them [cancer researchers] were very excited to see this book."



## Wu Guanzhong's Landscape Painting

Born in 1919 in Yixing County, Jiangsu Province, Wu Guanzhong furthered his study in Paris at l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts after he graduated from the National Institute of Fine Arts in Hangzhou. He returned to China in 1950 and taught at the Central Academy of Fine Arts and Qinghua University. Now he is a professor in the Central Institute of Applied Arts. In recent years, the artist has focused his studies on formal beauty in both his creative practice and theoretical research. China's art circles are now discussing this question as well as the relationship between content and form.



Off the Shore (sketch).



A wood and a house (sketch).

The Great Wall (traditional Chinese painting).

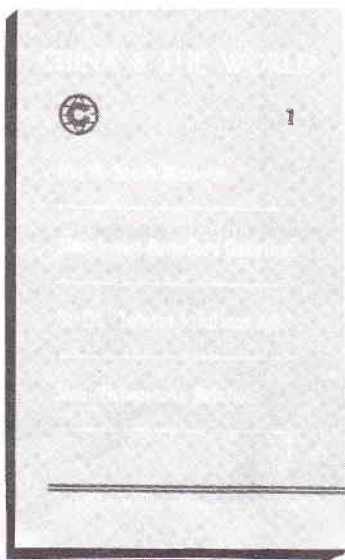


*Just Off the Press*

## CHINA AND THE WORLD (I)

The first of *Beijing Review's* newly launched foreign affairs series, this anthology presents China's position on several issues of global importance. In addition to Premier Zhao Ziyang's speeches at the Cancun Summit last October, it contains articles on the North-South dialogue, China and the Third World, the Sino-Soviet boundary question, the US "Taiwan Relations Act" and Sino-Vietnamese relations. Analyses as well as important background information are provided.

This booklet and others in the series should prove valuable to scholars, political analysts and general readers who want to acquire a comprehensive perception of the way China sees the world and its relations with other countries.



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