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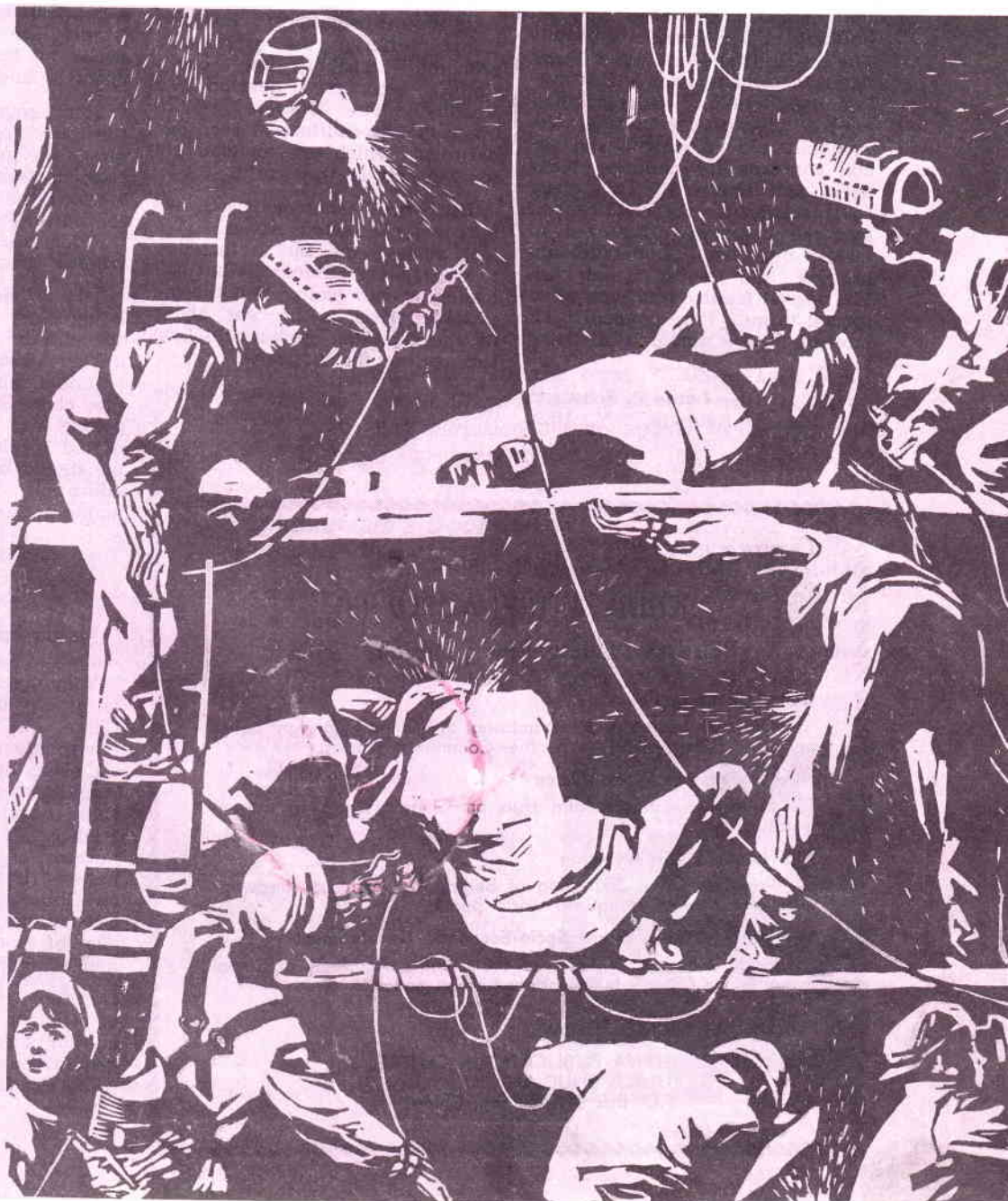
BEIJING REVIEW

北京周报

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

Industrial
Modernization:
Two Key Links

●
Protecting
Infant Girls



LETTERS

After the Tangshan Earthquake

From the very first day of the news, I was keenly interested in the effects of the Tangshan earthquake, its implications for rebuilding the city and its social effects on the people.

When I received the November 29 issue of *Beijing Review* (No. 48, 1982), I found myself reliving all the interest I had about the rebuilding of a city and its people. The article (Tangshan—Six Years After the Quake) was a fascinating one to read. Its description of the physical rebuilding, the economic redevelopment, the social concerns for children, teenagers and family life, the deep consideration for the handicapped and the homeless all served to make my own understanding broader and more meaningful. The special feature was even more special to me. It responded to an interest I have nurtured all these years.

Louis P. Schwartz
Baldwin, N.Y., USA

Statistics Reveal Truths

The new column "Facts and Figures" is very enlightening. What the tables in "National Economy: Major Targets" (No. 48, 1982) show is not only significant to the Chinese people, but also to foreigners who are interested in Chinese politics. I appreciate the effort you have made to improve your national economy and I know the Chinese friends are satisfied with the results. Here in Africa it is exceptional when a country publishes its state revenues and expenditures as well as its national income.

Your achievements were beyond my expectations. Has not China suffered the worldwide economic crisis? How could China's economy develop so steadily? The Chinese people know the expenditure of each department, which sets an example for the rest of the world.

The world economic crisis has not really affected Africa. We lack some items, but is this due to the crisis? I think not but our leaders should realize that the inevitable crisis is brought about by the capitalist system which is subjugating the Africans.

Tshalu-Kalonda
Kinshasa, Zaire

Class Struggle

The article entitled "Scientifically Understand and Handle Class Struggle in China" (issue No. 49, 1982) clarified the economic and political principles and policies adopted by your country. It also reconfirmed my belief in the significance of Sino-Japanese friendship.

The people in both the developed and developing countries are longing for the cultural and economic development of their countries. They are aware that contradictions arise when their economies and cultures do not meet the needs of the citizens. If a political regime fails to gradually meet the material and cultural needs of its people, it will be unstable and eventually fall.

Your country has abandoned the theory of "taking class struggle as the key link," dedicated itself to socialist modernization, adopted the policy of opening to the outside world and invigorated the domestic economy. This contributes greatly to world peace.

The article pointed out that it is necessary to resolutely strike at the hostile elements who endanger socialism, and scientifically understand and correctly handle class struggle between the people and the enemy. Vestiges of old ideologies among the people should be overcome by patient education. I regard these viewpoints as justified.

Hirohichi Kawamoto
Yamaguchi, Japan

Coming soon!

CHINA & THE WORLD (3)

BEIJING REVIEW Foreign Affairs Series

China's Foreign Policy

General Secretary Hu Yaobang on China's foreign policy and the CPC's relations with other Communist Parties.

How to Preserve World Peace

State Councillor Huang Hua on China's stand on current world issues.

The Human Rights Question

Professor Chen Zhongjing of Beijing University on hegemonism and how to safeguard world peace.

Strategy for Third World Socio-Economic Development

Huan Xiang, an adviser to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, on China's independent foreign policy.

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Helps Friendship, But . . .

Your magazine improves the relationship between Pakistan and China. It creates a friendship environment for peaceful living all over the world. However, I would like to say that your magazine devotes too little space to science. If you can increase the number of articles it would be better. If you carried an article on Chinese films, it would help circulation, as would more coverage of sports, science, history, and education.

I don't think your distribution is efficient because the magazine is not easily available to the general public, and not available in college libraries.

Asim Matin Khan
Karachi, Pakistan

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Cadre System Reform

China is reforming its cadre system and overcoming overstaffing and bureaucracy through democratic elections, advertising for professionals and removing incompetent cadres (p. 5).

Response to US Textile Restrictions

China takes counter-measures against US acts of discrimination and restrictions towards China in trade affairs (p. 9).

Gromyko's Bonn Mission

The Soviet Foreign Minister's visit to West Germany focused on the question of Euro-missile reduction (p. 10).

Premier Zhao Returns From Africa

Premier Zhao sums up his successful visit to 11 African countries (p. 14).

How to Accelerate Industrial Development

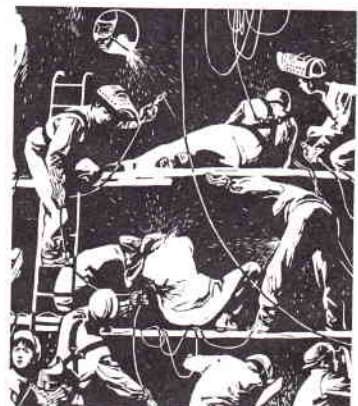
The fourth article in the series "Chinese-Type Modernization" details China's plan to solve energy shortages, to improve transportation and to update technology and equipment in existing enterprises (p. 16).

Communism's Doorstep

Party Propaganda Department head Deng Liqun counters the theory that the current modernization drive is a minimum programme for socialism, asserting instead that it is a part of the maximum programme for communism (p. 21).

Soviet Magazine Refuted

Shijie Zhishi, Chinese fortnightly on world affairs, refutes a Soviet *New Times* magazine article on the Sino-Soviet border issue (p. 25).



The Welders.
Woodcut by Shen Yaoyi

Protecting infant girls

Recently there have been news reports about female infanticide in China. What accounts for this phenomenon? What measures has the Chinese Government adopted to curb it?

It is indeed distressing that cases of female infanticide occur in socialist China, although they are rare.

At the bottom of the whole matter are the special historical conditions of China.

Feudal ideas nurtured by a feudal system thousands of years old die hard in China. For many centuries, the concept of men being superior to women remained deep-rooted in people's minds. A woman's failure to produce male offspring to carry on the family name was condemned, more often than not, as the greatest filial impiety.

As a typical example of this mentality, the birth of a boy in preliberation China was usually celebrated as the arrival of a scholar who would lead the family to prosperity. But when a girl was born, she was seen as no more than a future operator of the family spinning-wheel.

Furthermore, sons usually brought their wives to live in the parental home and supported their parents in their old age, while a daughter moved to her husband's home and owed her allegiance to his family.

In those dark old days, female infanticide was so rampant in Chinese cities and villages, especially in remote and destitute places, that even today, decades later, its serious consequences are still felt daily. In

Anhui Province's Huaiyuan County, for example, quite a few male villagers over 40 years old are not married.

The Chinese people uprooted the rural feudal system during the Land Reform Movement that followed the birth of the People's Republic in 1949. As a result, the people's livelihood improved remarkably. Women increasingly joined men in productive labour and won greater respect from society. For many years female infanticide was no longer heard of.

The feudal idea of favouring boys over girls, however, is not completely gone. Some couples feel unfulfilled if they do not have a son. Thus they go on having children until a son is produced. This explains why a great number of families have more than two children.

The problem was compounded by mistakes committed over a long period of time regarding the nation's population policy. Consequently, the Chinese population grew from 694.5 million in 1964 to 1,008 million in 1982 (neither figure includes Taiwan, Xianggang or Aomen).

To slow down the population growth, China in the last few years has encouraged each couple to have only one child, to strictly control second births and resolutely prevent additional births. This poses a tough challenge for those who crave sons to carry forward their family lines.

The sex of a fetus is not decided by the mother. Yet in their keen desire to have sons, some men torment their wives after they give birth to daughters, and, worse still, kill the

baby girls through neglect or outright murder.

Ignorance of science and disregard for state law have led these people astray. Although they are a mere handful in society, nevertheless their wrongdoings have drawn grave concern from all quarters.

Many measures have been adopted to curb such barbarity. The masses are being educated to drop the feudal attitude of viewing men as superior to women. This was stressed in a January nationwide drive to publicize planned parenthood.

The mass media have cooperated by exposing and censuring the criminal practices of female infanticide and maltreating women who give birth to girls.

A rural campaign is being conducted to change outmoded customs and practices. Today, men are encouraged to live with their brides' families. Furthermore, much is being done to improve the lot of childless old people and guarantee them a secure livelihood.

In the meantime, law enforcement has been tightened up. The Criminal Law of the Peoples' Republic of China stipulates: "Whoever intentionally commits homicide shall be sentenced to death, or to life imprisonment, or to imprisonment for not less than 10 years or, in less serious cases, to imprisonment for from three to 10 years."

The Marriage Law also states clearly: "Infanticide by drowning and any other acts causing serious harm to infants are prohibited."

Recently, a worker in the northeast city of Dandong was convicted of killing his infant daughter and sentenced to 13 years in prison.

— *Social Editor Xing Lin*

Enterprises reform the cadre system

Reform of the cadre system is being conducted in an increasing number of factories and mines as they introduce democratic elections of directors, advertise for professionals and remove incompetent cadres from their posts.

Reform is necessary because quite a number of China's cadres lack modern scientific or technological knowledge and are advanced in age.

In the past, a cadre would hold a leading post indefinitely once he was appointed, irrespective of his age or competence. He would only be removed as a punishment for making serious mistakes.

This resulted in overstaffing and bureaucracy, which is incompatible with the country's socialist modernization drive.

To reform the cadre system, the 12th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party last September decided to abolish the de facto life-long tenure for leading cadres.

The reform is expected to increase the educational level, professional competence and revolutionary qualities among cadres, and to lower the average age.

During the reform of the Party and government organizations at the central level, many younger and more competent leaders have been promoted to replace veteran cadres. The latter have been either appointed as advisers or retired.

The reform of the cadre system has also been practised at local and grass-root levels.

Since 1982, directors and

managers have been elected by workers in 450 Beijing factories. Leaders thus elected have proved competent, devoted to their work and impartial in handling matters and therefore enjoy extensive support.

In a democratic election at a Beijing radio elements factory, Yang Juwei, 50, was voted in as director. A college graduate, Yang came to the factory in 1969 and became a worker, a vocational education teacher and production dispatcher before being appointed deputy director in 1979. He was elected director because he showed an ability to solve difficult problems in production and management.

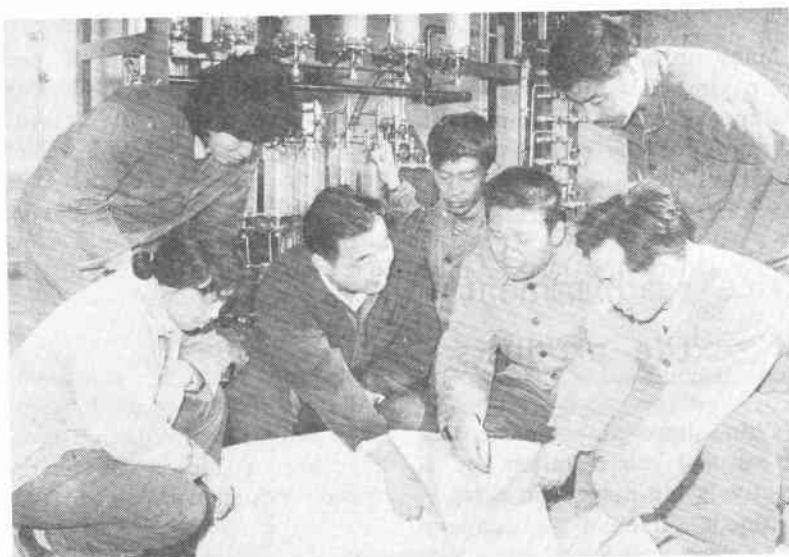
Upon taking office, he presented a plan for raising the factory's annual profits from the 1982 figure of 1.3 million yuan to 1.5 million in 1983 and 2 million in 1985. He also promised to improve the workers' housing and other welfare ben-

efits. "If I fail," he said, "I will resign."

Another defect in our present cadre system is that qualified people cannot fully use their skills in their work. The distribution of professionals is unbalanced. Some units are overstaffed while others are short-handed. This is because, for many years, cadres and other professionals were assigned by the state which could not meet the actual needs of every enterprise.

In recent years, units that need professionals have begun to advertise for scientific, technical and management personnel. More than 200 professionals transferred from Shanghai to east China's Anhui Province in three months last year in response to such advertisements.

To help some enterprises end their prolonged losses, the Liaoning provincial government decided last year to replace some unqualified leaders with more competent cadres. It



Jiang Huaixiao (third from left), an engineer at the Instrument Repairing Factory under the Beijing Yanshan General Petrochemical Company, was recently promoted to deputy director of the factory.

Reform for Modernization

Systematic economic and political reforms must be conducted to ensure the success of the modernization drive, said Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang.

Speaking to the recent National Conference on Ideological and Political Work, Hu said that reforms must be conducted in every sphere of socialist society. This was the most important guideline for the Party to lead a successful modernization drive, he told the provincial, trade union, women's federation and Youth League leaders, and representatives who attended the conference.

Without reforms there can be no modernization for China. Deng Xiaoping has stressed this repeatedly in recent years, with full agreement from the Central Committee, Hu said.

The reforms must be conducted thoroughly, systematically and realistically. Communists and the working class must stand at the forefront of the work and must support, participate in and lead the reforms, he said.

The General Secretary reviewed the Party's recent activities and the successful reforms in agriculture. He said that the work of setting things right had established the prerequisites for modernization. Reforms to break with the old and create the new are needed to guarantee success, he said.

Hu cited the following criterion for judging the effectiveness of the reforms: Are they good for socialism in China? Do they develop the country? and, Do they aid the prosperity of the Chinese people?

also issued instructions that cadres who were removed from their posts should not take equivalent positions in other places.

Many units throughout China are paying close attention to the training of cadres, an important measure for the reform of the cadre system.

Price readjustment of textile products

China lowered some textiles prices and raised others by a relatively big margin in a readjustment effective on January 20. Prices of chemical fibre textiles were reduced 20 to 30 per cent, while cotton textiles went

up about 20 per cent on the average. After readjustment, the ratio of cotton textiles prices to chemical fibre textiles prices fell from 1:2.4 to 1:1.4.

Textiles account for 25 per cent of China's total retail sales of consumer goods. The present price readjustment will affect everyone. Therefore, the Chinese Government issued detailed explanations of the reasons and scope of the price readjustment a few days before it was enacted.

In recent years, China's chemical fibre industry has developed rapidly and production costs have been reduced. But prices of the products were on the high side for consumers, and large amounts were stockpiled. Since 1978, the government has raised the purchasing prices of

cotton three times in a row, for a cumulative increase of about 50 per cent—a move which stimulated cotton production. But the selling prices of cotton textiles remained unchanged, giving little profit to the production units and adding a burden on the state economy.

After readjustment, it is expected that the sales of chemical fibre textiles will increase and that the output and quality of cotton textiles will rise. This will promote the development of the entire textile industry and raise the proportion of chemical fibre textiles in clothing materials.

The Chinese Government has decided to provide 100 million yuan in subsidies to peasants in about 200 remote and poor areas in Gansu and Qinghai Provinces, Ningxia, Tibet and Inner Mongolian Autonomous Regions, who have increased expenditures as a result of the new prices.

At the same time, the State Council has also decided to reduce the prices on some light industrial and electronic industrial products, such as wrist-watches, alarm clocks, rubber-soled cloth shoes, films, colour TV sets and some electric fans.

Because the reductions are slightly greater than the price hikes, the market prices will remain basically stable.

In an interview with journalists, State Councillor Zhang Jingfu stressed that keeping market price basically stable is the unshakable policy of the government. The retail prices for other industrial and agricultural goods listed by the state should not be raised. Cases of indiscriminate price increases in violation of the state decision will be dealt with by disciplinary measures.

Beijing's pilot project in commerce

A pilot project for a responsibility system of management was launched in about 400 state and collectively owned shops, department stores and service establishments along Beijing's Qianmen and Xidan Streets this month.

The project is designed to eradicate the practice of "sharing food from the same big pot," that is, the equal distribution of materials and resources, irrespective of the enterprises' business practices or the contributions of individuals.

Qianmen and Xidan Streets, altogether 7.5 kilometres long, are two of the capital's downtown areas. The success or failure of this project will influence the reform of the commercial system throughout the city.

Establishments involved in the project include general merchandise, garment, non-staple food and household necessities stores, groceries and catering,

repairing and service establishments.

Cinemas, bookshops, drug stores, furniture shops and shops selling certain industrial products along the two streets are not included in this programme.

The forms of the new management system vary according to the size and management characteristics of the establishment.

Some smaller shops simply pay income taxes and are responsible for their own profits and losses.

Some shops sign a contract guaranteeing the state a fixed sum, and keep half the profits they earn over that sum.

The catering and service establishments pay the state 20 per cent of their profits as income taxes and keep the other 80 per cent for themselves.

Under the new management system, the principle of distri-

bution "to each according to his work" is practised. Individuals receive larger bonuses if the shop makes more profits. Shops that fail to fulfil their contracts for basic quotas cut their staff bonuses proportionately or use up to 20 per cent of each staff member's basic wage to make up the unfulfilled sum.

These varied forms of responsibility system are aimed at increasing the state revenue, protecting consumers and increasing the income of both the collectives and individuals.

The new management system will also help increase economic results and improve service.

Beginning in February, similar projects will be implemented in various other districts and counties of the capital.

First highway on Tianshan Mountains

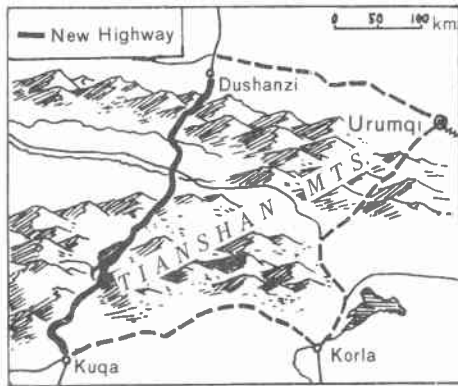
The first highway to cross the previously impassable snow-capped Tianshan Mountains in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is basically completed.

The asphalted road — 532-km long and six-metre wide — runs from Dushanzi, a new oil city north of the mountains, to Kuqa, a fruit centre on the ancient Silk Road south of the range.

Previously it took nearly four days to transport oil by truck from Dushanzi to Kuqa on a circuitous 1,014-km route via Urumqi and Korla. The new highway which cuts the distance in half has reduced the travel time to a little more than one day.



The Xidan Food Market, the largest of its kind in Beijing, has opened more service windows after adopting the management responsibility system.



The highway will allow greater access to the mineral resources along the route such

as gold, petroleum, coal and iron as well as simplifying transport of farm products, fruits, medicine and timber. Opening this route will greatly aid the exchange of goods between northern and southern Xinjiang, which are separated by the Tianshan Mountains.

The highway, which was begun in 1974, crosses three rivers and tunnels through three mountains. The longest tunnel is 1,897 metres. Most of the road is between 1,000 and 3,500 metres above sea level.

Soong Ching Ling science park planned

The Soong Ching Ling Foundation will build a children's science park. This was decided at its first council meeting in December.

Established in the capital on May 29, 1982, exactly one year after the death of the first Honorary President of the state, the foundation is pledged to carry on its namesake's work. Honorary President Soong Ching Ling, the widow of Sun Yat-sen, dedicated her life to children's welfare, promoting friendship with foreign countries and world peace.

The foundation was initiated by Deng Xiaoping and other Chinese leaders.

The planned children's science park will be named after Soong Ching Ling and located in Yuyuantan Park in western Beijing. Donations from China and abroad have already begun to pour in.

As soon as the plan was made public, the Ministry of Space Industry said it will donate one fighter plane and one helicopter to the park. Dr. Lynne Belaief, an American professor of philosophy at the City University of New York, imme-

diately sent a donation through the Bank of China. Paul T.K. Lin, a relative of Soong Ching Ling, and others have so far collected US\$200,000 from their friends in the United States and Canada. Lin also has sent the foundation a series of children's science films.

Other donations and letters came from teachers, workers and cadres. After he heard the news over the radio, Huang Wenhua, a Shanghai government worker lost no time in sending 100 yuan to the foundation.

Wang Yongdui, a worker at a Tianjin instrument and meter-making factory, contributed 2,000 yuan to express his respect



Soong Ching Ling Foundation emblem.

and admiration for Soong Ching Ling and his support for the popularization of science among children. He said he has asked his kinsfolks in Taiwan to support the project.

Lin Qiyuan, a primary school teacher in Fujian Province's Minhou County, has a monthly income of only 50 yuan. But as he works with children, he sent 10 yuan to show his support for the park.

Zhou Baohong, a student of Kunming Teachers' College, wrote the foundation that he was very happy to learn about its decision. He donated 50 yuan, a reward he had received for his help in arresting a criminal, for the training of successors to the future of the motherland.

The largest donations so far were two 10,000 yuan sums, one from Huang Zhicheng, a Kuomintang major who crossed over to the mainland in 1981 and the other from Fang Zheng of Shenyang.

Handicapped people cared for in China

Although handicapped people in China face many difficulties, government regulations ensure them work and educational opportunities like other people.

Included in the designation of handicapped people are the blind, deaf and mute and mentally retarded. It is reported that more than 100,000 handicapped people are employed by people's governments at various levels and receive equal pay for equal work.

Factories and workshops run specially for the handicapped

Chinese leaders praise Sino-Yugoslav relations

Hu Yaobang spoke highly of the friendship and co-operation between China and Yugoslavia. He said that friendly relations between the two Parties and two countries have developed very well. "We share identical views on many issues," Hu said, "the relationship between us is one of genuine equality and comradeship, I'm convinced that the friendly relations, including economic co-operation, between our two countries will make further progress."

The General Secretary of the

Central Committee of the Communist Party of China made these remarks on January 16 when he met with a delegation of the Yugoslav Federal Assembly led by its President, Raif Dizdarevic. The delegation paid a friendship visit to China from January 13 to 20.

In his talks with Raif Dizdarevic, Wei Guoqing, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said: "Sino-Yugoslav relations have entered a new stage of all-round development since President Tito's

China visit in 1977. Co-operation has been going very well. The relationship between our two countries is based on mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, and prospects for the future are broad." He said that China firmly stands on the side of the third world countries, and the non-aligned and developing countries, and that China consistently supports Yugoslavia's non-aligned policy and sincerely hopes that Yugoslavia will play a greater role in the non-aligned movement.

are tax exempt. They produce about one thousand products, including electronic and chemical industrial products, machine parts, instruments and meters, light and textile industrial products, hardware, handicrafts and sundries.

About 1,300 blind people are engaged in medical work. For instance, many trained blind people work in a massage hospital where they have successfully treated diseases such as sciatica, acute sprains and gastroptosis.

Handicapped people in the rural areas are also given the opportunity to work. They are placed in sideline production jobs or other light work in small industrial enterprises.

Relief funds are provided by the government for handicapped people who are unable to work and have no one to support them. The government also provides education for handicapped children. The re-

cently founded national special educational research society is considering the problems of special education. China now offers courses in 302 blind-deaf-mute schools with an enrolment of 33,200.

US trade controls draw response

China will immediately stop approving any new contracts for importing cotton, chemical fibres or soybeans from the United States and reduce its planned imports of other US agricultural produce this year.

This announcement was made on January 19 by Shen Jueren, Director of the Foreign Trade Administration under the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, after the US authorities announced on January 13, 1983, unilateral controls on China's textile exports to that country despite China's repeated objections.

The new US controls on China's textile export cover as many as 32 categories, 14 were already limited through past agreement. The other 18 are newly restricted.

Quotas on the categories restricted by past agreement were reduced by nearly 30 per cent through unilateral US controls. The quotas on the major category of Chinese textile exports were cut by as much as 45 per cent. In the newly restricted categories, the quotas set by the United States are 16 per cent lower than the present level of Chinese exports.

The 1980 Sino-US agreement on textile trade, the first between the two countries, expired at the end of 1982, and should have been replaced with a new agreement. But talks, including the fourth round held recently in Beijing, ended unsuccessfully as a result of deliberate US acts of discrimination and restriction towards China (see issue No. 4, p. 10).

*Moscow-Bonn***Gromyko's 'peace offensive' visit**

SOVIET Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko concluded his three-day visit to West Germany on Jan. 19. It was the first tour by a Soviet leader to a Western country after the new Soviet leadership came to power last November, and it followed the recent arms reduction proposals of Soviet leader Andropov.

Year of the Euro-Missile

The aim of Gromyko's tour focused on the question of Euro-missile reduction. According to NATO's 1979 "two-track" decision, if the United States and the Soviet Union fail to reach an agreement on medium-range missile reduction in Europe, NATO will begin to deploy 572 Pershing II and cruise missiles in five West European countries by the end of this year, most of which will be deployed in West Germany.

1983 is being called the year of the "Euro-missile." Recent NATO and Warsaw Pact actions, and the superpower rivalry, all revolve around the missile issue. To upset the Western plan, the new Soviet leadership recently put forward a series of "peace" proposals. On Dec. 21, it agreed to reduce its missiles in Europe to the number of missiles possessed by the British and French if the United States gives up the planned deployment of medium-range missiles. Then, the Jan. 5 statement of the Warsaw Pact summit held in Prague called for a non-aggression treaty between the Warsaw Pact and NATO. The Western press suggests that Moscow has now launched a carefully planned "peace offensive."

Soviet leaders regard West Germany's rising peace movement and the coming March general elections as "positive factors." Thus this country is considered the most important target for the Soviet "peace offensive."

During his talks with West German leaders, Gromyko restated Soviet disarmament proposals and once again rejected the US "zero option" proposal. Chancellor Helmut Kohl made it clear that his country continues to back the US "zero option" plan and NATO's "two-track" decision. West Germany welcomed the Soviet proposals with reservations, but demanded that Moscow clarify certain questions.

Dividing the Western Alliance

It is evident that there are reasons for these Soviet gestures. First, the deadline for the US missile deployment plan is

approaching. Since the United States put forward its "zero option" proposal in 1981, talks between Washington and Moscow have been deadlocked. The economic recession, the mounting anti-nuclear movement, and the political instability in Western Europe, and the serious differences between the United States and the West European countries over the issues of trade, the Soviet-European natural gas pipeline deal and policies towards the Soviet Union have all contributed to the split in the Western alliance. Western Europe is now also worried that Washington will not reach agreement with Moscow on nuclear arms reduction. Therefore, differences between Washington and the West European countries on the "zero option" proposal emerged at the end of last year. Moscow saw this as a good chance to sow discord in the Western alliance and to extend its influence in Western Europe.

With the change in the leadership of the West German government and the rise of Chan-

Rumour That China Trades With South Africa Refuted

CHAIRMAN of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid Yusuf Maitama-sule in his statement of January 20 said that stories that China has sold enriched uranium to South Africa have proved to be a blatant lie.

The statement was contained in a press release issued by the special committee on January 20 in response to a letter addressed by Chinese Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ling Qing on January 19 on allegations that China was trading with South Africa and supplying it with enriched uranium.

Ling Qing reiterated in his letter to Mr. Maitama-sule that "China supports the position and demand of the African countries and the special committee regarding comprehensive sanctions against the South African authorities, and refuses to have any political, economic, trade or cultural relations with South Africa, directly or indirectly."

cellor Helmut Kohl, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union, last September, the pro-US conservative forces have been strengthened. Since Moscow is not sure of the new government's intentions the Soviet leaders have been giving much attention to West Germany.

In the past year, the debate among the various West German political forces over the issue of the NATO missile deployment plan and the US "zero option" proposal has intensified. Earlier, the three major political parties had agreed to NATO's decision and the US proposal, but now the Social Democratic Party and Free Democratic Party have changed their positions. When former Chancellor Schmidt announced his early resignation, the forces opposing the missile deployment, headed by Willy Brandt of the Social Democratic Party, gained the upper hand. Hans-Jochen Vogel, the newly nominated candidate running for Chancellor in the forthcoming general elections, upon returning from his visit to the Soviet Union, expressed his opposition to deploying new missiles in West Germany. This situation has put a great deal of pressure on the West German Government and its main party, the Christian Democratic Union.

Carrot-and-Stick Tactic

West Germany occupies an important position in Moscow's foreign policy. The Soviet Union has always used the carrot-and-stick tactic in dealing with the Federal Government. During his recent visit, Gromyko advanced two innovations in Soviet arms proposals, trying to appease West Germany. He said, if NATO scraps its missile deployment plan, Moscow is prepared to destroy some of the Soviet SS-20 missiles and move others to more distant parts of

the Soviet Union from which they could no longer reach the countries of the Western Europe. At the same time, Gromyko stressed the need to strengthen Soviet-West German relations and bilateral economic trade. He warned that if NATO refuses to abandon the missile deployment plan, West Germany will become embroiled in the nuclear confrontation between the two superpowers.

Like Brezhnev's 1981 visit, Gromyko's tour of Bonn was made on the eve of the resumption of disarmament talks between Washington and Moscow. Though Gromyko made a number of speeches and gestures on disarmament, Moscow has not made any essential concessions. Western Europe, as the West German and other West European press pointed out, is still subject to the Soviet nuclear threat.

— Jiang Jianguo

Japan-US

Nakasone-Reagan summit talks

THE four-day (Jan. 17-20) Washington visit by Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone provided an opportunity for the two sides to reaffirm their "alliance relationship" without solving many of their differences on trade and defence issues.

Nakasone's US trip came when relations between the two countries were described as the worst since the war. Before embarking, Nakasone, who took office about two months ago, adopted a series of measures to mend the strained relations.

The measures included further opening Japan's market to US exports. The Nakasone cabinet has announced that it will cut tariffs on 108 commodities, increase quotas for six others including cigarettes, and simplify import formalities for some more.

In the field of defence, Japan, pressed by Washington to further expand its armed forces and to assume more military duties, has decided to increase its 1983 defence spending by 6.5 per cent over last year and to approve transfer of its military technology to the United States.

"Alliance Relationship"

The outstanding feature of the US-Japan summit talks was that both sides emphasized their "relations of alliance." Speaking at a news conference in Washington, Nakasone said: "I said Japan will be defending our own archipelago, utilizing fully the security treaty with the United States. But I did emphasize that our defence posture will always be on the basis of, and within the spirit of, the constitution of Japan."

In a statement on his talks with Nakasone, President Reagan praised the prime minister on defence and said Japan "is now willing to do more to share in the burden of peace and stability."

What is noteworthy is that Nakasone went a step further than his predecessors on the topic of Japan-US alliance. While former Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira mentioned Japan-US "alliance" during his trip to Washington in 1980 and former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki referred to "relations of alliance" in 1981 when he visited the United States, Nakasone stressed that the two countries

are "a destiny community on both sides of the Pacific." He also said in unequivocal terms that the Japan-US relations of alliance involve military aspects.

In an exclusive interview with the *Washington Post* on January 18, Nakasone reportedly said that Japan must become a huge fortress, "like an unsinking aircraft carrier," to resist the infiltration of Soviet Backfire bombers.

He described this as Japan's first defence goal, the report said. The country's second goal is to gain complete and full control of the four straits around the Japanese archipelago, in order to prevent the passage of Soviet submarines and other naval warships. The third goal is to ensure and maintain the ocean lines of communications.

These remarks touched off strong reactions from Japanese media and opposition parties. Many were unhappy with Nakasone's statement that Japan would lean on the United States. The prime minister can be expected to be questioned on defence matters in the parliament.

Trade Frictions Remain

Although Washington welcomed Tokyo's trade liberalization measures announced prior to Nakasone's visit, US officials insisted that Japan has a long way to go to provide the kind of access to its market that Japanese and other foreign products enjoy in the United States.

On the issue of Japan's imports of US beef and citrus fruits, a symbol of Japan-US trade frictions, Washington openly expressed dissatisfaction

with Nakasone, who expressed nothing more definite than a willingness to hold further negotiations.

It is estimated that the 1982 trade imbalance will be US\$20 billion in Japan's favour. Even if the issue of free imports of US beef and oranges is resolved, these items would involve only several hundred million US dollars and could not change the tremendous trade imbalance between the two countries. One Japanese official said trade frictions will remain as long as there is no quick US economic "recovery."

However, Prime Minister Nakasone's Washington trip has somewhat restored Japan-US relations. With the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, locked in an

increasingly fierce rivalry in the Asian and Pacific region, Washington is paying greater attention to the strategically important position held by Japan. At the same time, Tokyo needs the United States to ensure its security.

The two need each other, politically and strategically. So, in spite of their emotion-charged trade frictions and differences on defence matters at present and in the future, their interdependence will not change.

Now the concern is whether the military element in the Japan-US alliance will be expanded, how much it will be expanded and what impact it will have on the Asian and Pacific region. This question warrants close attention.

— Sun Dongmin

Britain-Denmark

Conflict over fishing rights

THE British-Danish conflict over fishing rights has heated up anew since the beginning of 1983.

On January 6, the British Royal Navy searched and took into custody a Danish trawler in waters northeast of Britain, arrested its captain, Kent Kirk, a member of the European Parliament, and fined him 30,000 pounds.

Long-Standing Dispute

Disputes over fishing rights within the European Economic Community date back many years. Most EEC members are coastal countries with developed fishing industries. In addition

to fishing in their own coastal waters, the fishing fleets of each country used to fish in the higher latitudes of the Atlantic Ocean. After 1975 when Norway and Iceland banned the fishing fleets of EEC member states, they assembled to catch fish in the North Sea off Britain where they netted two-thirds of the total EEC catch. Britain is quite rich in fish resources, but as the fish resources have been depleted, it has implemented a series of protectionist measures. In 1975 Britain announced a special fishing zone and placed strict limits on the valuable cod and mackerel catch of other EEC countries. This evoked

complaints from West Germany, France and Denmark.

In 1970 the EEC countries signed a fishing agreement specifying that the then six EEC members could freely enter the sovereign waters of other member states to catch fish. On January 1, 1973 when Britain, Ireland and Denmark joined the EEC, this agreement was revised to state that after 10 years (beginning in 1983) every member state might freely enter the waters of other member states to catch fish. In the period 1973-82 Britain maintained a 12-mile fishing zone. The 10-year EEC fishing agreement expired. Before the December 31, 1982 fulfilment of this 10-year EEC agreement, the heads of state and fishing ministers of the EEC countries held marathon negotiations that finally reached a new fishing accord on December 21 last year. The accord specifies that other member states may enter Britain's 12-mile fishing zone with permission. It also fixes fishing quotas for each EEC member. Within three years the EEC is to give Britain more than US\$220 million as a financial grant.

New Fishing Accord Opposed

The Danish Government has opposed this new fishing accord. Denmark has one of the 10 largest fishing industries in the world and ranks first in the EEC. The Danish Government claimed that the percentage allotted it was too small. It demanded an increase from 23.5 per cent to 30 per cent. And it also asked Britain to allow it to catch sprat in the waters off the Shetland Islands, because this is its traditional fish export product.

Before the EEC meeting at which the new fish accord was

signed, Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter paid a special visit to Britain in the hope that Britain would compromise on these two questions, but his proposal was rejected.

On January 1 of this year Britain announced that Danish fishing trawlers could not enter British coastal waters. The Danish Government does not recognize the new fishing accord and believes that as of 1983 it should be able to freely enter the British fishing zone in accordance with the previous 10-year agreement. The Western press said that the sea conflict of January 6 had been expected. The provocative Danish action was designed to attract international attention.

Following the "mutton war" and "wine war," the fishing dispute between Britain and Denmark represents yet another conflict of economic interests within the EEC. This indicates the difficulties facing the EEC's attempt to achieve economic unity during a period of economic depression.

— *Zheng Yuanquan*

Korea

Proposal for a conference

THE Workers' Party of Korea and 20 other organizations of north Korea issued a joint statement on January 18 in Pyongyang proposing a joint conference of all political parties and public organizations from both northern and southern Korea to end the US military presence in the south.

The US military presence in south Korea, the statement said, constitutes an outrageous interference in the country's internal affairs and is the root cause of the tragic split of the Korean nation and the main obstacle to its reunification.

"It is none other than the US imperialists who have thrown cold blankets over the earnest wish of our people for reunification, fostered confrontation and antagonism between north and south, and barred the reunification of our country," the statement said.

A UN resolution passed at the world body's 30th General Assembly in 1975 called for withdrawal of foreign troops from south Korea so that the armistice agreement could be replaced by a peace agreement. However, the US Government, which regards south Korea as one of its strategic bases in East Asia and maintains its policy of long-term control, has since refused to implement the resolution.

Strengthened US military cooperation with the south Korean authorities can only further split Korea as a nation without contributing anything to the stability of the peninsula or the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Therefore, as the statement emphatically pointed out, reunification necessitates first of all the withdrawal of US troops from south Korea, and a north-south dialogue should, first of all, include the issue of US troop pullout.

The Chinese people firmly support the statement. Washington should carry out the 30th UN General Assembly's resolution and withdraw all its troops from south Korea.

— *Geng Yu*

Premier Zhao on His African Tour

In a January 16 interview with Chinese journalists at the Chinese Embassy in Kenya, Premier Zhao summed up his 11-nation African tour. He appraised his trip, examined the current situation in Africa and discussed relations between China and the African countries. Following are excerpts of his remarks. — Ed.

THE visit was successful and fruitful. This is not rhetoric, but a summary that conforms to actual conditions. In my exchange of views with the leaders of 11 African nations on international and bilateral problems, there was common ground on a series of issues.

We agreed on opposition to imperialism, colonialism and racism; opposition to big powers' domination over small countries and their power politics; defence of world peace; strengthening unity among the third world countries; reforming the unjust and unreasonable old international economic order; taking practical measures to establish a new international economic order and developing South-South co-operation, and showing willingness to

actively develop mutual relations. Such common ground forms the basis for further co-ordination of action.

The visit fulfilled its purpose as defined by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the State Council: to improve understanding, friendship, solidarity and co-operation, and to learn from the African people.

In Africa, people are fighting for independence, unity and development. When examining the situation in Africa, we must take these three things into account.

Situation in Africa

During the past 20 years or so, the national-liberation movement engulfed Africa. There were only a few independent states when the Asia-African Conference was held in 1955. Now there are more than 50. The national-liberation movement in Africa has gained major and decisive victories although the struggle is far from over. The Namibian and South African peoples are waging arduous struggles for independence and freedom. These are the final struggles that will destroy the remaining bastions of imperialism, colonialism and racism in Africa. They have won support from the entire African people. We will continue to show concern and support for their struggles.

Those countries which have won independence are consolidating their political independence. Unity, first of all, is a must for consolidating independence. It is understandable that there are still some problems left over by history among the African countries which had been under imperialist and colonialist domination for centuries. It is also understandable that with different conditions, African countries



General Secretary Hu Yaobang and other Party and state leaders welcome Premier Zhao Ziyang's return at Beijing Airport.

A Successful Visit

● Zhao Ziyang's trip, the second visit to Africa by a Chinese Premier since Zhou Enlai travelled there in the 60s, was an important milestone in the history of Sino-African relations.

● Developing friendly relations with African countries has always been an extremely important part of China's foreign policy. In today's international climate, unity and co-operation between China and the African countries are of tremendous significance for the defence of world peace.

● The Chinese Government and people firmly support the African countries and people in their struggle for economic independence and their efforts to establish a new international economic order, just as they supported the African countries' struggles for political independence in the 1950s and 60s.

● The four principles for economic and technological co-operation between China and the African countries—equality and mutual benefit, emphasis on practical results, adoption of varied forms, and mutual development—completely conform with the basic interest of China and the African countries and will greatly help open up new spheres of economic and technological co-operation between China and Africa. China will apply these principles in developing South-South co-operation with other third world countries.

● China will never seek hegemony, nor will it seek a so-called leadership position. China seeks only the equal participation in international affairs of all countries, big or small, weak or strong, and their friendly and peaceful coexistence. The success of Premier Zhao's visit marks the victory of this spirit of equality.

*(Excerpts from "Renmin Ribao"
January 20 editorial)*

are adopting different policies, domestic and foreign, since their independence.

The problem is that things become complicated when the superpowers poke their noses into them.

Through the joint efforts of the African countries, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was set up in 1963. In the past 20 years, it has been a symbol of African solidarity. But it has faced great difficulties in recent years as a result of disputes within the organization.

I was gratified by the fact that the leaders of the African states I met all expressed their opposition to a split and showed a desire for unity. African unity is indeed most important because it is not only a weapon for winning national independence but also a guarantee for consolidating national independence.

In my view, the OAU's difficulties can be overcome so long as the African brothers take the interests of the whole into account, conduct patient consultations, and seek common ground while reserving differences.

Political independence must be backed by economic independence. The African countries I visited have achieved great economic successes. In my entourage, not a few comrades who previously had visited Africa said that the face of Africa has undergone tremendous changes. National economies and educational and cultural undertakings have developed, and living standards have risen.

Of course, these countries have encountered difficulties to varying degrees. As they strive to develop and advance they are bound to meet with difficulties. Some developed nations have shifted economic crises on to them, thus aggravating their difficulties.

In response, they are assessing their experiences in order to alter policies to make them more suitable for their concrete conditions. China's experience suggests that these efforts will certainly bring about positive results.

On the other hand, the African countries, along with other developing nations, are strongly demanding the reform of the old international economic order and are promoting South-South co-operation. We should firmly support and co-operate with them. South-South co-operation is very important and of broad strategic significance.

Africa is a vast continent with rich resources. The African people are highly capable and prospects for Africa's construction are bright.

Sino-African Friendly Co-operation

I was deeply impressed by China's excellent image in Africa. African leaders told me that China is seen as their friend in need; a reliable,

(Continued on p. 24.)

Two Keys to Industrial Development

by Zhang Shuguang*

CHINA intends to quadruple the gross annual value of its industrial and agricultural production and achieve a relatively comfortable standard of living in the two decades between 1981 and the end of this century. This will require a 7.2 per cent average annual growth rate in industrial and agricultural output. As the leading factor in the national economy, industry must have an even larger growth.

However, energy is in short supply and transport is not well developed. Moreover, much of the industrial technology and production equipment is outdated.

Solving these problems are the keys to a sustained development of China's industry. These "tigers" are among the reasons for China's slow industrial development now and in the near future.

Although they are combined in our national planning, for clarity's sake I'll deal with the subjects of energy and transport under separate subheads in this article.

Energy

China's total 1981 energy output was 632 million tons of standard coal, 13 times the 1952 figure (shortly before the First Five-Year Plan). The average annual rate of increase has been 9.3 per cent. The pace is not slow, I would say.

However, problems exist. Energy supply has become a pressing problem since the 70s. It has become a weak link in the development of China's national economy, in part because of our previous inconsistent energy policy, one-sided focus on extraction and neglect of exploration. These resulted in disproportionate relations between mining and tunnelling and between oil extraction and increasing our known reserves. In addition, the scale of national construction has been small in recent years because of the state's economic difficulties. A

* The author is a staff member of the Economic Research Centre under the State Council.

third factor was the huge waste of energy due to inefficient old equipment in the enterprises and to bad management.

The energy shortage has idled around 20 per cent of the industrial equipment in the last few years, resulting in an annual loss of 70,000 million yuan in industrial output value. Many enterprises were forced to determine their output quotas based on how much energy they could get.

This already has come to the attention of the government. Energy development is now regarded as strategic to the overall development of the national economy.

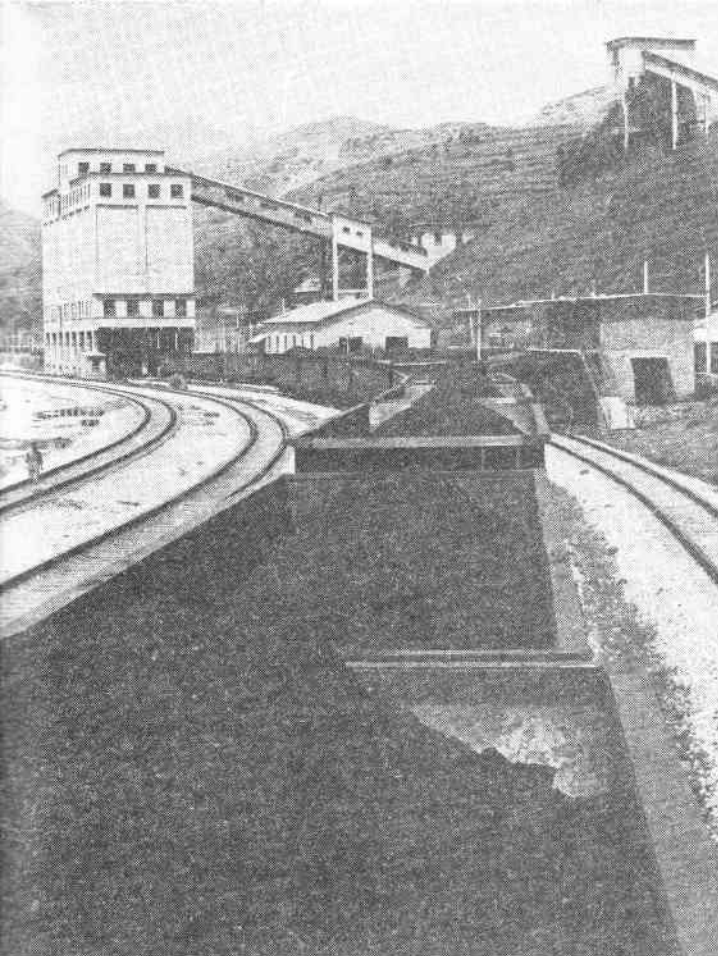
Formulating Energy Policy. China has large coal reserves and rich water power resources. Thus, for a period of time in future, priority will be given to opening more coal mines and more water power re-

sources. Oil and natural gas exploration and exploitation will be systematically pursued, and nuclear energy and other new types of energy resources also will be developed.

Furthermore, some concrete policies have been set forth, such as incentives for localities to open more local coal mines, and guarantees that if an area builds a small hydropower station, it will benefit from it, and no others will have the right to use it unless they pay.

Increasing Investment. During the period of the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85), the state will allocate nearly 60,000 million yuan, one-fourth of the total budget for capital construction, to the exploitation of energy.

It has been decided that within the three years starting from 1983, a 20,000 million yuan construction fund for energy and transport will be raised by the localities and enterprises. Localities and enterprises will be helped to put the funds they collected into energy and transport construction.



The newly built Liupanshui Coal Mine in Guizhou Province.

ing energy and depending on technological progress.

China's energy waste is serious. China's energy output ranks fourth in the world, yet its gross national product is eighth because of its low energy utilization rate. Energy authorities say that China's utilization rate is only 30 per cent, while for industrialized countries like Japan, it is 57 per cent and the United States 51 per cent.

In terms of the total output value and national income produced from consuming one ton of standard coal, Japan, France and West Germany are more than five to six times higher than China, and India is more than twice China's figure.

Domestic per-unit energy consumption also varies considerably. In 1980, Shanghai consumed only 29,000 tons to produce 100 million yuan of value, while Tianjin, Zhejiang and Jiangsu consumed 40,000 to 43,000 tons. The figure for not a few provinces and autonomous regions is above 100,000 tons.

Thus, we must raise the energy utilization

rate of the less-developed provinces and autonomous regions and close down a group of outdated enterprises that contend with advanced enterprises for energy and transport facilities. These measures will move the country's average energy consumption towards the level of Zhejiang. This will reduce the energy consumed in producing a value of 100 million yuan from 1980's 91,000 tons to 45,000 tons.

We clearly have a big potential for saving energy and experience in recent years also indicates that we have the capability as well. (See Table 1.) More than 60 million tons of energy have been saved in 1980 and 1981, an important factor in China's increased total industrial output value over the last few years, despite the

Energy Consumed to Produce 100 Million Yuan of Value

Unit: thousand tons

	1978	1979	1980	1981
Energy consumption	100.4	94.7	91.0	86.2

slow growth rate for energy. Things will be much better in the coming three years.

In sum, our response to the energy shortage is to open new energy resources, while simultaneously saving energy and increasing our technological efficiency. These goals conform to China's specific conditions. The Chinese people will surmount all kinds of difficulties to try to turn the goals into reality.

Transport

Transport and communications is another key factor which conditions the development of industry. Although we have achieved a fair amount in this field (see Table 2), it remains a weak link in the national economy because it falls far behind industrial development as a whole.

Mileage Increases

Unit: thousand km

	1949	1980	Percentage increase
Railway (open to traffic)	22.0	51.9	136
Highway	80.7	888.2	1,001
Inland waterways	73.6	108.5	47
Civil air routes	11.4*	191.6	1,581
Oil pipelines	-	8.7	-

* 1950 figure.

Insufficient transport facilities are also an important aspect of the current energy shortage. In 1981, more than 17 million tons of coal were waiting to be shipped out of Shanxi Province, one of the country's major coal producing centres. Some coal mines fix their production quotas according to the transport capacity.

How will this primitive situation be changed? The state has listed the development of energy industry and transport and communications as strategic for developing the national economy. During the Sixth Five-Year Plan, 29,800 million yuan will be invested mainly for railway and port construction.

Railway. China's major energy resource is coal, which mainly is moved by rail. It is estimated that, by the end of this century, an additional 20,000-30,000 kilometres of railway will be built; 15,000 kilometres double-tracked; 15,000 kilometres of the existing lines electrified, and steam locomotives be replaced by diesel and electric ones. These efforts are expected to increase the railway transport capacity four- to fivefold.

In the Sixth Five-Year Plan period, we will build 2,000 kilometres of new railway lines, double-track 1,700 kilometres and electrify 2,500 kilometres. It is estimated that China's capacity to transport coal by rail from the major coal producing centres in Shanxi, western Inner Mongolia and Ningxia, will increase from 72 million

tons in 1980 to 120 million tons by 1985. Coal shipped to the northeast China industrial base will be at least twice the present level.

Water Transport. China's 18,000-kilometre coastline and 430,000 kilometres of inland water ways provide favourable conditions for developing water transportation. Since the founding of New China, considerable but not sufficient progress has been made in water transportation. There are serious shortages of deep-water berths and inland water transport.

The state has decided to step up port construction and the dredging of inland waterways and to encourage the localities and enterprises to build their own ports and establish their own fleets.

The Sixth Five-Year Plan includes the building of 132 deep-water berths for 15 coastal ports, which will increase the handling capacity of the nations' seaports by 46 per cent, from 217 million tons in 1980 to 317 million tons in 1985.

At the same time, projects along the Changjiang (Yangtze) River, the Grand Canal and other inland waterways will be accelerated so as to achieve marginal growth in the country's inland water transport capacity.

China will build its coast and the Changjiang River into two trunk lines of water transport, one north-south and the other east-west,

A coal dock in Qiphuangdao under construction.



and gradually link them with other rivers to form a complete water transport network.

Technical Transformation

China has about 400,000 industrial and transport enterprises. They are the foundation for continual development of the country's industry. However, only 20 per cent of these enterprises are equipped with relatively advanced technology and machinery. In another 20-25 per cent, although the equipment is well maintained, the technology is outdated. In the remaining 50-60 per cent of the enterprises, not only is the technology outdated, the equipment also needs to be replaced.

Neither economic improvement nor industrial development is possible without the technical transformation of these enterprises.

In deciding the strategic objective of quadrupling the gross annual value of industrial and agricultural production, this great potential was taken into consideration.

Why not build new enterprises? Of course, some new enterprises are indispensable. However, the investment for new enterprises is much greater than for transforming the existing enterprises. In future, the development of China's industry cannot rely mainly on building new enterprises and we must concentrate on renovating the technology of the existing enterprises and tapping their potential.

Some initial experiments with technical transformation in the past few years have shown satisfactory results. For instance, after technical transformation, the comparable energy consumption for producing one ton of steel at the Shoudu Iron and Steel Company in Beijing was reduced from 1,247 kilogrammes of standard coal in 1978 to 993 kilogrammes. In 1981, the company handed to the state 270 million yuan in profits, 50 per cent more than in 1978. Shanghai has carried out technical renovation of all oil-burning heaters for steel rolling. As a result, the calorificity rose from the former 30 per cent to 60 per cent, saving 100,000 tons of crude oil per year.

China is now gradually accelerating technical transformation. In the Sixth Five-Year Plan period, the state will invest 130,000 million yuan for this purpose, 36 per cent of the planned total investment in fixed assets.

During the period of 1981-85, technical transformation will be carried out in the two large iron and steel companies in Anshan and Baotou, in the Changchun No. 1 Motor Vehicle

Plant, in power equipment manufacturing bases in Shanghai and Harbin and in the big coal mines of Datong, Kailuan and Fushun, as well as in the large caustic soda plants in Tianjin and four provinces.

The calorificity of China's equipment is far less than the developed countries (see Table 3). Experts calculate that the average calorificity of China's 180,000 industrial boilers is just over 50 per cent. If it is raised to the advanced level of the developed countries through technical transformation, more than 50 million tons of standard coal will be saved each year.

Comparison of Caloricity

	China	Industrially developed countries
Thermal power plants	29%	35-40%
Industrial boilers	56-60%	80%
Furnaces and kilns for industrial use	20-30%	50-60%
Home stoves	15-20%	50-60%
Locomotives	6-8%	25%
	(steam locomotives)	(diesel or electric locomotives)

Therefore, not only must China technically transform its existing enterprises, but there is much room for it to do so.

One Chinese economist estimates that China's technological level is roughly equivalent to that of the economically developed countries at the end of the 1950s and the beginning of the 60s. Thus, by eventual utilization of advanced Western technology from the 1970s and the early 80s that suit China's specific conditions, we can quadruple the gross annual value of our industrial and agricultural production by 2000.

China is actively introducing foreign advanced technology. Some have been imported in the past few years. In the next three years, several thousand items of advanced technology will be introduced. In addition, the state will adopt both administrative and economic means to stimulate the enthusiasm of the enterprises and that of our scientists and technicians in order to maximize their role in technical transformation.

In short, emphasizing on energy and transport and technical transformation of the existing enterprises will allow us to gradually accelerate the pace of China's industrial development. □

The Initial Stage of Communism

Is socialist construction the minimum programme of the Chinese Communist Party? Deng Liqun, a Deputy to the National People's Congress and Head of the Propaganda Department of the Party Central Committee, addressed this question at a panel discussion last month during the Fifth Session of the Fifth National People's Congress. He also discussed the required conduct for Party members. Following are excerpts of his speech. — Ed.

A VIEWPOINT with some credence that emerged recently is that the lines, principles and policies drawn up for socialist construction, including the strategic goal for the end of this century, constitute the minimum programme of the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people.

At the Threshold of Communism

Although it is senseless to quibble over a simple choice of words, the assumption underlying this concept raises the question of whether we are capable of correctly summing up and reflecting the objective processes of our socialist society. Chairman Mao once metaphorically compared the Chinese communist movement to two chapters of an article: the first chapter was the democratic revolution and the second, the socialist revolution.

Democratic revolution is our Party's minimum programme; its maximum programme is socialist revolution carried out to the final realization of communism. The programme for democratic revolution, i.e., the minimum programme, has long been achieved. The socialist transformation of the ownership of the means of production also has been accomplished. At present, we have entered a new historical period. Our task is to build a modern socialist country with a high level of civilization and democracy. We have entered a period in which we will be able to realize the Party's maximum programme. It is confusion to describe our present programme as the minimum programme.

According to Marxism, socialist society is not an independent social form; it is a stage in communist society. It is inappropriate to describe the general task of the present stage as the minimum programme.



Recently, we criticized the theory that "communism is dim and remote." Some comrades have argued that what they meant was that the higher stage of communism was dim and remote. True, it will require the efforts of several generations to reach the higher stage of communism.

But we must acknowledge that we have entered the initial stage of communism. If we compare communism to an edifice, then we are now not roaming outside the gate of the edifice but have entered it.

Recently I visited a mansion that had nine successive courtyards. It was quite a distance from the first gate to the final hall in the last courtyard. But entering the gate and remaining outside of it were essentially different.

Then, are there communist factors in this initial stage of communism? Certainly there are. Heroes and models like Luo Jianfu and Jiang Zhuying* have emerged on various fronts, in whom we can see the glimmerings of communism. Clarifying our current stage is of great importance to heightening Party members' ideological consciousness and strengthening their conviction in communism.

Hired-Hand Attitude Discarded

Distribution according to work is a socialist principle. During the socialist stage, the developmental level of productive forces only allows exchanges of an equal amount of labour among members of society. Labourers' individual income can only be linked with the quantity and quality of work the labourer contributes to society; it can be disconnected with his labour only when we reach the higher stage of communism. Communists have waged persistent struggle for accurate implementation of the principle of distribution according to work in

* These two were accomplished middle-aged scientists and engineers who worked so selflessly and untiringly that they delayed treatment of serious diseases. They both died in June 1982 from overwork.

China and we will continue to do so. But as Communist Party members, we should conduct ourselves on a higher ideological level; we should not limit ourselves to the principle of distribution according to work. Because we are the advanced elements of the proletariat and are fighting for communism, we should, as Lenin admonished, work voluntarily without bothering about payment or about how much work we are assigned.

Marx once said that at the higher stage of communism, people would regard labour as the primary need of life. Are there many Party members in our society who feel this way? Undoubtedly there are. Some comrades feel it hard to live on without work and study; they work day and night and take pleasure in this. Isn't this the primary need of life to them? In the early post-liberation days, we criticized the "hired-hand" attitude towards the country — the attitude of one who will do no more than he is paid for. Today Communist Party members should sternly criticize the hired-hand mentality, because it is incompatible with being a Party member.

Communist Morality

One opinion is that in socialist society, only socialist morality, not communist morality, should be advocated and followed. Exponents of this view oppose promoting communist morality in socialist society on the grounds that trying to force communist morality upon people transcends the stage of development. However, it is clear from the history of the communist movement that this viewpoint is untenable. In the semi-colonial, semi-feudal societies, and in capitalist and imperialist societies, our revolutionary leaders, revolutionary forerunners and revolutionary martyrs were exemplary proponents of communist morality, who required their own words and deeds to meet these standards. Is it skipping a stage of development to set a standard of communist morality for Communist Party members and other advanced elements in the initial stage of communist society?

We should not look upon morality as an abstract or mysterious thing. Morality expresses

itself in an individual person and in the words and deeds of the person who cultivates it in practice. To judge whether a Communist Party member has communist morality or not, it is necessary, first of all, to see whether he or she can correctly handle the relationship between personal interests and the interests of the Party.

Guard Against Capitalist Corrosion

Democratic revolution is our Party's minimum programme; its maximum programme is socialist revolution carried out to the final realization of communism.

The stipulation of the Constitution on combating decadent capitalist ideology is very important. We are pursuing a policy of opening to the outside world and of stimulating the economy at home. Within these societal changes, Communist Party members should maintain the purity of communism. The new economic activities that are permitted by these policies (for instance, fixing output quotas for each specialized line of production, transporting goods for sale, individuals hiring a few helpers, etc. — Ed.) must never give way to unscrupulous profiteering or lawlessness. Com-

munist Party members must never forget that they are Party members and should therefore work for common prosperity for the people. They should not hide facts about their own business management, including the profits they have gained, from the Party. They should pay taxes according to the law.

Some may even choose to pay more membership dues than are required or to contribute a portion of their income to help needy households to develop production. Should Party members do so? I think so. An outstanding Party member does his or her best to maintain the purity of communism.

Seek Neither Personal Gain Nor Privilege

As the Communist Party assumed leadership of the state, many Party members were installed in leading posts. This represented a rigorous test for them. Some Party members failed to pass the test and committed errors. After the Party came to power, every Party member faced a great danger. Previously, this was not an outstanding problem. The danger was that some Communists would abuse their

power to seek personal gain and privilege. Most discussions of the unhealthy Party style and a lack of a fundamental turn for the better in Party style refer principally to this problem.

The assumption of power offers many temptations for misconducts. Not only can those in leadership seek personal gain and privilege, but those who are not in leading posts but who have power in particular fields also can pursue personal interests and privileges. We should learn from and be warned by this. Nevertheless, we cannot agree with the erroneous conclusion that once a Communist Party assumes power, it — not certain individuals, nor small groups, but the Party as a whole — will essentially turn into its opposite. We do not agree that the people's servants automatically turn into overlords sitting on their backs.

To avoid bureaucracy and degeneration, it is necessary to maximize inner-Party democ-

racy and people's democracy and to supervise from below Party organizations and state functionaries at all levels. The new Party Constitution and the new state Constitution have far more detailed provisions than previous ones on inner-Party democracy and the democratic rights of the people. Each Party member is duty-bound to guarantee the implementation of these provisions. The new state Constitution stipulates that no organization or individual has the privilege to transgress the Constitution and the law. Moreover, it is stipulated in the Party Constitution that no Communist Party members may seek personal gain or privilege. Party members are required to actively implement these stipulations; they must earnestly accept supervision from the masses and non-Party people and must never be special figures alienating themselves from the masses. Any Party member who violates Party discipline or state laws must be dealt with seriously. □

Policy Discussion

Is This Way to Wealth Permitted?

A SHORT time ago, a debate took place in a workshop section of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, the largest iron and steel base in China.

The person at the centre of the issue, Xu Xinfu, 50, is a crane operator in the section. He was in the spotlight because he quickly built up a family fortune, although three years ago everyone knew he was always hard up for money.

The section's more than 140 workers held opposing opinions about Xu's new-found wealth. About 60 per cent agreed that Xu's fortune was gained legitimately through his family's hard work. The other 40 per cent disagreed, fearing that his example would encourage workers to line their pockets from outside work while ignoring their proper occupations.

An Zhide, the section Party branch secretary, decided to take this opportunity to help workers study the Party's policies. He led three workers in an investigation of Xu Xinfu's prosperity.

The investigation report is, briefly, as follows:

In the past, Xu, as a fifth-grade worker (in an eight-grade wage scale), earned a monthly wage of less than 90 yuan and supported six people, including four children who were too young to work. Furthermore, his eldest daughter suffers from encephalitis aftereffects, his wife was in bed with a prolonged illness and he has chronic stomach trouble. These exacerbated his financial problems and made it necessary to receive an annual subsidy of about 80-100 yuan from the trade union. For years he dreamt of finding some means to make money and once became addicted to gambling. But the more he gambled, the more he lost. His wife's health deteriorated and his life became increasingly unbearable.

The principles and policies formulated at the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in 1978 were the first ray of hope for solving his problems. With the help of departments concerned, his wife, who had recuperated, was granted a private business license and started a snack stall with borrowed capital of 26 yuan. Her moderate profits increased the family's income. She began to add more items to her menu and worked extremely hard from

early morning until late at night. Concerned about her health, Xu often lent her a hand after work and their children also helped out.

Over the last three years, Xu's wife earned 10,000 yuan (net; after taxes and overhead were deducted) and his family was better fed and clothed. They now have a new 16-inch black-and-white TV set, two bicycles, two wrist-watches and a set of new furniture, as well as 8,000 yuan savings in the bank.

For some time Xu feared that the Party's policies might be short-lived and that he might suffer from doing well. Previously politically indifferent, Xu now became very interested in state affairs and tried to keep informed by listening to the radio, reading newspapers and watching TV news every day. He became convinced that his wife's private business was consistent with Party policies that acknowledge individual economy in China as a supplement

to socialist public ownership, and the work of individual labourers as necessary to socialist construction. To fend off gossip from fellow workers, he became attentive to his workshop job, observed labour discipline and completely gave up gambling.

This investigation report brought the debate to an end. Those who had held negative views finally nodded their heads, and all the section workers have deepened their understanding of the Party's policies.

These comments summarize their responses: Xu's family became better-off through their own hard work and is now contributing to the state instead of applying for financial help which should be commended. The increased family income freed Xu from worrying about his family's livelihood and he has changed from a backward worker to a devoted one, for which he should be praised. □

(Continued from p. 15.)

"all-weather" and real friend. We Chinese comrades, however, should bear in mind that the African people are our good friends who have consistently sympathized with and supported us.

They had played a major role in having our seat in the United Nations restored to us. During the past two or three decades, in spite of the many great changes in the world and some people's attempts to isolate us, our African friends have always united with us. Their friendship with the Chinese people has stood the test of time as has ours with them. Our African friends' kindness and confidence in us indicate the correctness of the policy for Sino-African friendship developed by Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai.

When the superpowers attempt to meddle in Africa, we, as well as the African nations, insist that African affairs should be settled by the Africans themselves and oppose any outside interference.

As we treasure Sino-African friendship, we shall unswervingly adhere to our policy of Sino-African friendship and carry it out even more effectively in today's new situation.

We must implement the four principles for China's economic and technological co-operation with African countries that we announced during the visit. These are genuine principles and they will be effective.

China also is readjusting its economy and we have our own difficulties. Are we in a position to launch economic and technological co-operation? In my view, not only can we do it, but we can do it in a big way. It is precisely because we have difficulties that we urgently need mutual help.

The developing nations each have distinctive economic features, with both strengths and weaknesses. As long as we compensate for these weaknesses by exploiting our strengths, our co-operation will be mutually beneficial.

We must not strain to do what is beyond our country's capabilities, nor do our friends expect us to do such things. However, if our friends ask us to do something within our ability, we should do it enthusiastically. We should thoroughly study and investigate the needs of our African friends to determine what we can do for them. We should stress efficiency, quality and economic results so that our friends can benefit and we can make progress as well.

To do a good job of construction at home is the basis for our work in foreign economic and technological co-operation.

Our visit was successful and fruitful, and has achieved the expected purpose. Nevertheless, this is merely a beginning. We must work to further strengthen friendly co-operation between China and Africa. □

A Reply to 'Observer' in the Soviet Weekly *New Times*

THE Soviet weekly *New Times* recently published a long article by its "observer" under the title "What Is the Purpose?" While professing Soviet desires to improve relations with China, the article attacks statements of some Chinese scholars and academic journals concerning the history of Sino-Russian relations and the Sino-Soviet border. It accuses them of wanting to "misrepresent history," "present territorial claims on the Soviet Union" and "Keep the border issue 'in reserve' as a ready-made 'sure' expedient for retarding the process of normalization" of relations between the two countries.

History after all is history and no one can change historical facts at will. The history of Sino-Russian relations, including the evolution of the boundary issue, has always been the subject of research and discussions among Chinese historians.

Chinese scholars, with the serious approach of accepting historical facts, have been studying it in a scientific and factual way. To do so is not only their academic vocation but also their right.

Numerous indisputable historical data and historical facts testify that in the latter half of the 19th century and in the early 20th century when the people of both China and Russia were powerless, Tsarist Russia annexed 1.5 million square kilometres of Chinese territory through a series of unequal treaties imposed on China.

Karl Marx, Frederick Engels and Lenin recognized the historical fact of Tsarist Russian aggression against China long ago.

Even the Soviet *Dictionary of Diplomatic Relations*, published as late as in 1961, acknowledged that the "Sino-Russian Treaty of Peking" is an unequal one.

It is therefore totally groundless for the "observer" of the *New Times*, while going to great lengths in defending Tsarist Russia's aggression against China, to blame the academic studies done in China's historical circles for violating Soviet national interests and for being detrimental to the Soviet people's honour and dignity.

The Soviet weekly still takes and even flaunts as a credit the inglorious history of Tsarist Russia's aggression against China. This is indeed detrimental to the honour and dignity of the Soviet people.

The stand of the Chinese Government on the Sino-Soviet border issue is well known at home and abroad. China has no territorial claims whatsoever on the Soviet Union nor does it demand the return of its territories ceded to Tsarist Russia under a series of unequal treaties.

Instead, China desires an overall solution to the border issue through peaceful negotiations by taking into consideration the actual conditions, and on the basis of the above-mentioned treaties. This stand fully conforms to the fundamental interests of the Chinese people and the Soviet people and to the spirit of good neighbourliness. Anyone free from prejudice can see for himself that China's stand is constructive and reasonable.

China and the Soviet Union, as two great neighbouring countries, should live in friendship. China, on its part, sincerely hopes to see barriers removed from relations between the two countries, and will make continuous efforts towards that end in the belief that the normalization of relations between the two countries fully corresponds with the fundamental interests of the Chinese people and the Soviet people and will serve peace in Asia and the world.

We have noted that the Soviets have indicated a desire to improve relations with China and we deem it a good thing that consultations between the two countries recently began as a result of efforts by both sides. At such a time, that the "observer" of the *New Times* came out with groundless attacks on the Chinese Government's principled stand on the border issue by harping on time-worn tunes in open defence of Tsarist Russia's aggression against China cannot but make one ask: What is his purpose?

(An abridged translation of an article by the Commentator of "Shijie Zhishi," a Chinese fortnightly on world affairs, issue No.3.)

Letters to newspapers

Readers' letters carried in China's newspapers express criticisms, proposals and commendations on a multitude of issues. Not all letters received are published, but the newspaper offices forward the letters to the relevant departments which are urged to handle them appropriately. Following are letters originally published in "Renmin Ribao." — Ed.

RESERVOIRS

Reservoir polluted

Ours is a county deficient in water. Whenever sources dried up during a drought year, the communes and production brigades had to send large numbers of people, trucks and tractors to locate and haul water dozens of kilometres.

Later, with a total of 710,000 yuan from the county and four communes, we started building a reservoir and conveyance systems in 1972, which were completed in 1974. This solved the drinking water problem for 20,000 people and 7,000 draught animals.

In 1979, the Jinzhong (central Shanxi) Iron and Steel works built an ore-dressing centre upstream. It discharges 70-80 tons of tailings a day and contaminates the mountain spring flowing into the reservoir. In the past few years, over two-thirds of the storage capacity has been filled with silt. Further, the 200,000 fish we stocked the reservoir with all died because of the pollution.

People have repeatedly reported this to the higher authorities, but the problem remains unresolved. The reservoir will all be silted up soon. We appeal to the higher authorities

to solve our drinking water problem at an early date.

— Qun Sheng, Yuxian County, Shanxi Province.

Immediate action

Having read in the newspapers the urgent appeal about the polluted reservoir, we have consulted with leaders of the provincial environmental protection bureau and the department of metallurgical industry and sent people to Yuxian County to look into the matter. Investigations confirmed the validity of the report. We concluded that the

matter required an immediate solution, and decided that another reservoir should be built in a nearby valley thus effectively supplying fresh drinking water. The prefectural administrative office has instructed the water resource bureau to quickly make a survey, design the reservoir and draw up a budget estimate.

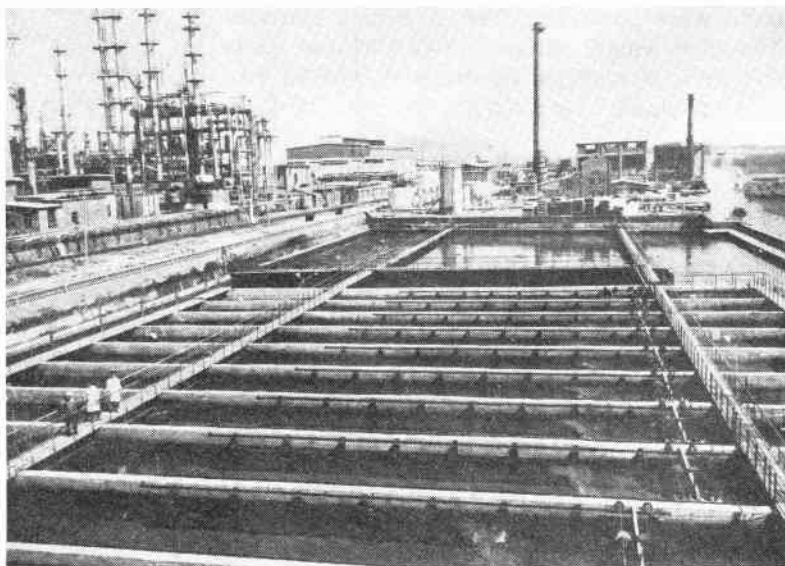
— The Secretariat of the Prefectural Administrative Office of Central Shanxi Province.

LIBRARIES

Construction delayed

There is not a single public library in Qinhuangdao with a population of 380,000.

Before 1966, there was a reading room in the municipal cultural centre. Although it was simply equipped, it was well managed. At that time, the city Party committee attached great



Waste-water treatment in the Dalian No. 7 Petroleum Plant has reduced water pollution and recovered many oil products.

importance to the reading room and the mayor was a frequent visitor. The reading room not only dispatched people to deliver books to reader's homes, but also organized storytelling, scientific lectures and other activities which were acclaimed by the citizens.

Since 1976, the reading room has been turned into a dormitory for actors. To meet the needs of Qinhuangdao, there should be a library with a stock of 300,000-500,000 books; the original reading room was too small. The departments concerned have repeatedly written applications and urged action, but the answer was always "the matter is under review." In May 1981, a preparatory office for construction of the library was set up and a dilapidated building with a floor space of less than 60 square metres was rented. At present, only 6,000-plus books are loaned out and less than 700 library cards have been issued. The municipal authorities allocated a sum of 200,000 yuan in 1982 for the construction of the new library (the total cost was estimated to be about 600,000 yuan). It seemed that the problem would soon be solved. However, when it was submitted to the provincial authorities, the matter was postponed again. While the construction of Qinhuangdao's public library has been slowed, the city has over 100 film projection units, averaging one for 3,000 citizens. Why such a disproportion between libraries and cinemas? To put it bluntly, because one is money-losing and the other is profitable.

—Zhang Guoying and
Huo Yongcheng, People's
Broadcasting Station,
Qinhuangdao.



Peasants of the Baogou commune in Tengxian County, Shandong Province, in their own library of 5,000 books and 54 newspapers.

Qinhuangdao takes steps

The letter of criticism published in your newspaper concerning the delay in the construction of Qinhuangdao's library has received the attention of the city administration. The project has now been included in our city's capital construction plan and preparations for the construction are under way. We plan to build the library in two stages. The first allocation is 820,000 yuan, the second-phase will be funded later.

—The Planning Commission of Qinhuangdao City, Hebei Province.

More libraries needed

In 1979, on my holiday home I visited some libraries in Beijing and Guangzhou and exchanged views and raised some principled suggestions on the modernization of the motherland's libraries. In the last three years, I have heard that library work has much improved. After reading the letter criticizing the delay of the building of the Qinhuangdao municipal library, I felt I should not keep silent. The following are some of my views:

1. The building of libraries, a capital construction project that concerns the education of

generations to come, must not be viewed and handled in a shortsighted or profit-making approach.

2. Governments, from the central down to the local levels, should allocate funds for public libraries in their annual budgets. This will aid the effort to build a spiritual civilization and relieve the library staffs of the fear that the allocation will not reach them or funds will be withheld by the next higher authorities.

3. Public libraries should serve all the citizens. In larger areas, such as Qinhuangdao, one library is obviously not enough. In addition to the city library, district libraries should be built in different residential areas to provide convenient access to citizens living in all parts of the city.

4. Libraries are places for reading books; this is different from seeing films. The reading ability of American students today has generally dropped because they spend too much time on watching TV and films. I hope the people of the motherland will pay attention to this question. The government should build more libraries and not solely invest in cinemas which are money-making.

—Shen Jiyao
Washington D.C., USA.

LITERATURE

Six prize winning novels

The first Mao Dun Literature Prizes were awarded to six novels in December 1982. Each winner received 3,000 yuan in addition to a token bronze medal. These prizes, presented in Beijing, were the first awarded to any novel since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949.

Mao Dun was the pen-name of Shen Yanbing (1896-1981), one of China's celebrated writers of novels, novelettes and short stories. He was also a literary critic and translator of several foreign works. In 1979, he was elected the Honorary Chairman of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles and Chairman of the Chinese Writers' Association.

Before his death in 1981, Mao Dun contributed 250,000 yuan for the establishment of the literature prize which is to be awarded every three years. The best novels for 1977-81 were chosen by a 15-member committee headed by Ba Jin, the current Chairman of the Writers' Association. They were selected by secret ballot from

among 143 recommendations forwarded by 58 publishing houses and literary journals and the branch writers' associations in various localities. China has published more than 400 novels since 1977.

Following is a brief description of the winning novels and their authors.

Xu Mao and His Daughters, set against the background of the "cultural revolution" in the winter of 1975, is the story of a family in a small village in Sichuan Province. The action begins with a work-team that arrives to rectify the work in a people's commune where morale is low and production is stagnant. The tragedy and romance, hopes and fears of one peasant, Xu Mao, and his daughters are a microcosm of the perplexity, despair and sufferings of the peasants who gradually come to comprehend "what went wrong" in the "cultural revolution."

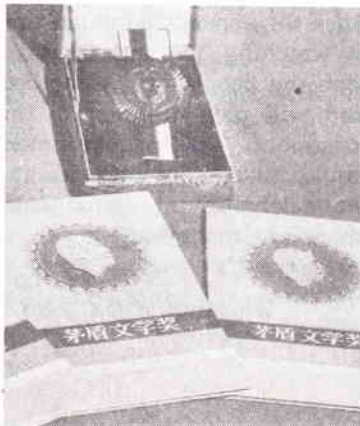
The author, Zhou Keqin, was born in 1937 in a desolate mountain village in Jianyang County, Sichuan Province. After his graduation in 1958 from an agro-technical school in the provincial capital, Chengdu, he returned to his home county to work in the fields.

Later he worked for some time as an agro-technician. In 1979 he was transferred to the Sichuan branch of the Chinese Writers' Association and became a professional writer. His first novel appeared in 1960. He has won prizes for the best national short stories in 1980 and 1981 for his *Forget-Me-Not* and *The Moon Does Not Know My Heart*.

The East by Wei Wei depicts the epic War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea in the early 50s through the experience of Guo Xiang and his company. It contrasts the heroic battle front lives of the Volunteers with events at Guo's hometown, where people's lives are closely related to the ups and downs of the war. It examines the transformation of the hero's hometown, Fenghuangbao (Phoenix Village), and reveals the roots of the patriotism and internationalism of the Volunteers who were able to defeat a powerful enemy. Many of the characters are realistically portrayed.

The writer was born in 1920 in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, and took part in the anti-Japanese war when he was 17. For many years thereafter, he worked in the army. In 1939 his poems and other pieces be-

Left: (from right) writers Zhou Keqin, Wei Wei, Yao Xueyin, Mo Yingfeng, Li Guowen and Gu Hua. Right: Mao Dun Literature Prize bronze medal and awards.



gan to appear in newspapers and periodicals. After the war broke out in Korea in 1950, he went to the front to join the Volunteers, and to write about the war.

Among his most popular works is a collection of war reports entitled *Those Most To Be Loved*, published in 1951.

The prize was also awarded to the second volume of the novel *Li Zicheng*. The title character, Li Zicheng (1606-45) was a peasant who led a rebellion against the feudal rulers at the end of the Ming Dynasty. The second volume centres on the uprising army as it gains strength and fortitude under extremely difficult conditions. The novel also delineates Emperor Chongzhen, the last ruler of the Ming Dynasty, and the complex relations among his royal family members and his courtiers. It captures many vivid characters and fascinating plots and acquaints the readers with the habits and customs in China in the 17th century.

Its writer, Yao Xueyin, is 72 years old. A native of Dengxian County, Henan Province, he began writing in 1938. Later he was elected a council member of the Anti-Japanese War Association of the All-China Art and Literary Circles. After the war was won, he became a professor at Daxia University in Shanghai. His famous works during the period were *Niu Quande and the Reddish Turnips*, *When Flowers Blossom in Spring* and *A Love Story on the Battlefield*. He became a professional writer in 1951 when he worked in the Henan Provincial Federation of Literary and Art Circles. Two years later he was transferred to the Wuhan Writers' Association. The first three volumes of, *Li*

Zicheng were published in 1963, 1977 and 1981 respectively.

Another winning novel details the experiences of Peng Qi, an air force commander who stood up to persecution during the 10 years of turmoil. By depicting the different fates of three generals, *A General's Lament* reflects the "cultural revolution" as it was carried out in the army and faithfully portrays the vicissitude of the decade.

The author, Mo Yingfeng, was born in 1938 in Yiyang, Hunan Province. He joined the army in 1961 when he was studying at the Hubei Art College, and later worked at the Guangzhou army unit art troupe. After he was demobilized in 1970, he worked at the cultural centre of Changsha, the capital of Hunan Province, where he was in charge of the centre's literature group. In 1978, he was transferred to the Hunan Xiaoxiang Film Studio as a script writer. He began to publish short stories in 1972, and in the following years, devoted himself to novel writing.

Spring in Winter is a novel with a unique structure and way of presentation. Following the footsteps and the train of thought of Yu Erlong, the leading character, the story depicts 40 years of struggle and the social life of the four historic periods of the War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-45), the first 17 years of socialist construction (1949-66), the 10 years of turmoil (1966-76) and the years afterwards.

Its author, Li Guowen, was born in 1930 in Yancheng, Jiangsu Province. Between 1950 and 1953 he was in charge of literary and artistic creation at the Tianjin Railway Art Troupe and an art troupe of the Chi-



Yao Xueyin at work.

nese People's Volunteers to Korea. In 1954 he worked as an editor at the propaganda department of the All-China Railway Trade Union. In 1957, he was wrongly labelled as a Rightist and thenceforth worked for a long time at railway construction sites. He was exculpated after the downfall of the gang of four. In recent years, he published a collection of short stories entitled *The First Cup of Bitter Wine*, of which "Lunar Eclipse" was awarded a national prize for excellent short stories in 1980. *Spring in Winter* is his first full-length novel.

A Small Town Called Hibiscus, a tale about the life in a Hunan rural town, weaves the changes in the political situation and the times into the fates of its characters. In examining the controversy surrounding Hibiscus, a woman who builds a family fortune through hard work, the story exposes erroneous "Left" policies. It also unfolds the tremendous changes that have taken place in recent years by depicting Hibiscus' ability to regain love and a stable life. The novel's language is appropriate for its rural setting and evokes a colourful and attractive picture of small town life.

The author, Gu Hua, was born in 1942 in Hunan Province's Jiahe County. He studied at the agricultural school of the Chenzhou Prefecture in 1961 and later became an agricultural worker at the agricultural research institute. In 1975, he was transferred to the prefecture's song and dance ensemble to become a member of the writing staff. In 1979, he began to work at the prefecture's association of literary and art workers. His recent works include *A Log Cabin Overgrown With Creepers* which won the national prize for excellent short stories in 1981.

PHILATELY

Individuals display stamps

The recent exhibition of stamps from individual collections was just one more sign of the Chinese people's resurging passion for philately.

The rarest item displayed was a block of four stamps (see illustration I) issued by the New Fourth Army in Huainan Base Area in 1942. This block is unique in China and was printed on the back of a *Xinhua News Bulletin*. The Chinese character *gao* (news scripts) in the centre of a red star signifies that these stamps were only for use by

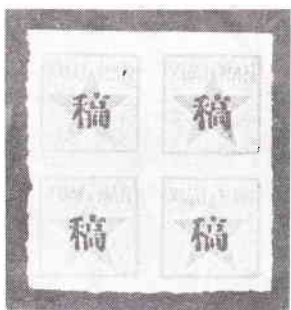


Fig. I.

newsmen. Its collector, Shen Zenghua as a youth crazed over stamps and he continued the

hobby after he, at 18, joined the New Fourth Army. Nothing could force him to part with his collection which he kept in his knapsack.

Another rare exhibit was a set of five red revenue stamps issued in 1897 by the Qing Dynasty with face values of one cent, two cents, four cents (see



Fig. II.

illustration II for a block of four), one yuan and five yuan, based on the silver dollar used in China at that time. The one-yuan stamp is extremely rare with about 30 known extant. The Qing Dynasty officially established the post office of the Qing government and commenced parcel service in 1897. To ease the shortage of stamps, the government used red revenue stamps with postmarks on them as postage stamps.

Also displayed were China's first stamps. Issued in 1878, these three dragon stamps in green, red and yellow are of one, two and five cents denominations. The first commemorative set of nine stamps marking the 60th birthday of Empress Dowager Ci Xi issued in 1894, two of them with a Chinese character *shou* (longevity), were also shown.

Other items exhibited included a message envelope from 1885 with remains of one of the four feathers attached as a sign of urgency (see illustration III), kept by Li Dongli from the Transistor Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. It

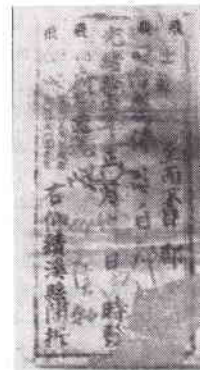


Fig. III.

has the date, time of dispatch and these words: "Urgent message, when sealed please deliver as quickly as possible. Punishment will be meted out if delayed." Further the Chinese character *fei* (fly) was written four times with a red circle around each.

China was one of the first lands to have a dispatch system. Stone relief carvings (see illustration IV) excavated in 1972 from a third century tomb in Gansu Province show the mail delivery by horses in ancient China. This type of dispatch delivery service existed until the Qing Dynasty when it began to evolve into today's modern postal service.



Fig. IV.

Philately is experiencing a boom in China; philately associations have been set up in 22 provinces and municipalities and more than 100 cities. The All-China Philatelic Federation was established a year ago. *Jiyou* (Philately), a monthly magazine published in Beijing in Chinese, is distributed 250,000 copies per issue and *China Philately* in English has subscribers in over 60 countries and regions.

ART PAGE

Zhang Dazhuang's traditional paintings

A native of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, Zhang Dazhuang (1903-80) taught at the Shanghai Academy of Traditional Chinese Paintings.

He was especially noted for his paintings of flowers and birds. His early works were exact and meticulous. His later works were painted in free, bold and vigorous strokes. Both impress people as a lucid, harmonious style of beauty.



Stone-Like Root of a Plum Tree.



Lotus and Fish.



Prawns and Bamboo Shoots.

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