

# BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS

On China's Recovery  
Of Xianggang Area



Tianjin Water  
Diversion Project



5th National  
Games Opens



# BEIJING REVIEW

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### *On Recovering China's Sovereignty Over HK*

Dealing specifically with the British theory of "continued British administration in Hongkong (Xianggang) upon recognition of China's sovereignty," Jin Fu's article dissects the British stand with accurate documentation and solid historical facts. It concludes that China's recovery of sovereignty over Xianggang is entirely within international law (p. 14).

### *Project to Relieve Tianjin's Thirst*

The competent leadership and hard work of two PLA units have ensured the completion of the grand Tianjin water diversion project in little more than a year. The project has greatly relieved the acute water shortage in Tianjin and has set a good example for all the country's key construction projects (p. 20).

### *5th National Games Opens*

The Fifth National Games opened in Shanghai on September 18. Vice-President Ulanhu of the People's Republic and other state leaders attended the opening ceremony. Ulanhu called upon Chinese athletes to practise hard and scale the peaks of world sports (p. 5).

### *Prospects for Development of Xinjiang*

Premier Zhao stressed the importance of developing Xinjiang during his recent inspection tour of the region. He listed the favourable conditions for development and designated the key construction projects (p. 6).

### *Road to Common Prosperity*

The production responsibility system has proved, in practice, an ideal way to common prosperity. Although the maximum and minimum income gap between the peasants has not yet been bridged, it will not lead to class polarization because public ownership of the means of production and the socialist distribution principle still dominate the rural areas (p. 4).



The tunnel of the Tianjin water diversion project, 12.3 kilometres long, 5.7 metres wide and 6.25 metres high, is the biggest of its kind in China.

Photo by Yang Baokun

## NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

### Take the road to common prosperity

Some foreign friends lack understanding of China's current agricultural policy of a contracted responsibility system based on the household, which is now being enforced in the rural areas to encourage prosperity among some peasants first. They wonder whether the system will lead to class polarization.

The introduction of the system of responsibility in production is accompanied by the reform of management and the elimination of egalitarianism. It links the peasants' remuneration with their labour and grants them autonomy in management. Introduced in 1979, this system had been adopted by 98.3 per cent of the country's rural production teams by the end of May this year. Today, great changes have taken place in the rural areas. For instance:

- From 1979 to 82, the value of China's agricultural production increased at an average annual rate of 7.5 per cent, as against an average 3.2 per cent in the 26 years between 1953-78.

- China's 1982 grain output rose 8.7 per cent over the previous year. This year's summer grain output was 5 million tons more than that of last year, a record year in China's history.

- The average per-capita income of the peasants rose from 133.6 yuan in 1978 to 270.11 yuan last year.

- The percentage of peasant households with a yearly per-capita income of more than 300 yuan rose from 1978's 2.4 per

cent to 36.2 per cent in 1982. Poor families with a yearly per-capita income of less than 100 yuan dropped from 33.3 per cent in 1978 to 2.7 per cent in 1982.

- Currently, 9.4 per cent of peasant families are engaged in specialized lines of production — a marked increase over the end of last year. The number of households engaged in commerce, transportation, services and processing industries has increased particularly quickly. The development of these specialized households has accelerated the social division of labour and increased opportunities for employment.

These figures show the rapid development of agricultural production and a general improvement in the peasants' standard of living. The production responsibility system encourages the broad masses of peasants to become better-off through their labour and to take the road to common prosperity.

Common prosperity is our goal. Allowing some of the peasants to become affluent first is a strategic measure for securing this goal. More social wealth will be created and a material foundation for common prosperity will be laid by encouraging the peasants to learn from the advanced, improve production techniques and management and achieve better economic results.

It is true that the maximum and minimum income gap among today's peasants is larger than before, and for a time in the future this trend will remain unchanged. But the income gap will not lead to

class polarization, because public ownership of the means of production and the principle of distribution "to each according to his work" still dominate the rural areas. Class polarization means a handful of people, through the accumulation of wealth, rely on the means of production they own to exploit others, while the majority of people lose their means of production and become hired labourers because they have sunk into poverty. The present income gap between peasants only indicates different degrees of improvement in their standard of living on the road towards common prosperity. This is fundamentally different from the class polarization in societies dominated by private ownership.

Our policy is to encourage our people to become well-off through labour, and to strictly forbid anyone to seek exorbitant profits through damaging the interests of the state, the collective and others. As for families in financial difficulty because they lack labour power or management skills, the state and the collective provide them with relief or other kinds of assistance.

From a long-term point of view, with the constant growth of the peasants' incomes, the popularization of scientific and cultural knowledge and the all-round development of a diversified economy in the rural areas, rural labour power, particularly the semi-abled labour power of the poor families, will be appropriately distributed. This, plus the growing assistance provided by the state and the collective, will gradually bridge the income gap between the peasants.

— Economic Editor Wang  
Dacheng

## Fifth National Games opens in Shanghai

China's Fifth National Games, in which some 3,700 top-notch athletes participated, officially opened on September 18 at the 40,000-seat Jiangwan stadium in Shanghai.

This is the first sports meet of its kind since China regained its legitimate seat in the International Olympic Committee. A team will be picked from among the participants of this meet to take part in the 23rd Olympiad to take place in Los Angeles next year.

Ulanhu, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China, Wan Li, Vice-Premier of the State Council, and other state leaders attended the opening ceremony.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee, leading members of international sports organizations, sports delegations from foreign countries and delegations from Shanghai's sister

cities abroad and other foreign guests also attended.

The five-star Chinese national flag and the flag of the Games were flying above the stadium together with the five-ring IOC flag which has been hoisted up at Chinese National Games for the first time since the People's Republic was founded in 1949.

In his opening address Ulanhu said that Chinese athletes, by practising hard and achieving outstanding results in international competitions to win honour for the motherland, have inspired patriotism in the people, heightened the national pride and enhanced the friendship between the peoples of China and other countries.

He called upon Chinese athletes to strive to scale the peaks of world sports and make China one of the world's great powers in sports by the end of this century.

Li Menghua, Minister of the State Physical Culture and

Sports Commission and Chairman of the Games' Organizing Committee, declared the Games open. Mayor Wang Daohan of Shanghai made a speech of welcome. Lang Ping, a member of the women's volleyball world champion team, made a pledge, on behalf of all the athletes participating in the Games, to work hard for better results in sports fields.

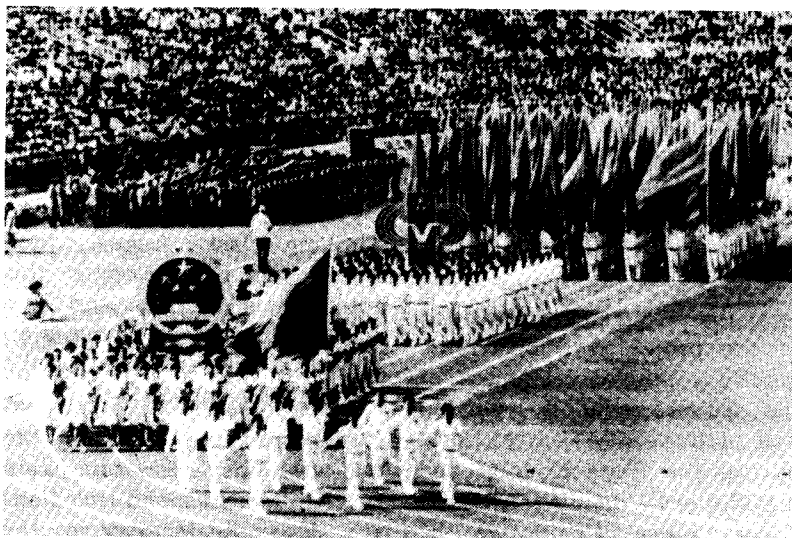
The men's highjump world record holder Zhu Jianhua, the table tennis women's singles world champion Cao Yanhua and the All-England Badminton women's singles champion Zhang Ailing held the torches of the "Reinvigorating-China Torch Relay" and lit the flame of the Fifth National Games.

Twenty-five competitive events will take place in the current Games.

Prior to this Games, China had broken two world records (Zhu Jianhua broke the men's highjump world record by 2.37 metres and Wu Shude snatched 128 kg, to break the world record in the 56-kg class), one youth world record, equalled three world records, broke eight Asian records and 36 national records.

China is now a member of 47 international sports organizations and a member of 27 Asian sports organizations. In the past two years, Chinese athletes won 38 world champions in nine competition events and broke 33 world records in 17 events.

China has applied to host the 11th Asian Games in Beijing.



Athletes file into the stadium as the Games opens.

## State interest is inviolable

Chinese leaders recently severely criticized departments and individuals who take advantage of key construction projects to extort money from the state.

The attack was concentrated on the Liuzhou Cement Plant in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, which has been undergoing expansion. An investigation group had been sent by the State Council before the plant's problem was revealed. Niu Tongxing, director of the plant was dismissed from his post and punished by law. The person in charge of the region's economic work was given an inner-Party disciplinary warning.

Built in the 1960s, the plant, with more than 1,900 workers and staff, produced 700,000 tons of cement a year. Last year, in consideration of the rich mineral resources and convenient traffic services around the factory, the government decided to invest 200 million yuan to expand the factory's production.

Niu, who was a leader of a rebel group during the "cultural revolution," abused his power to appropriate more land than necessary from local peasants. He also wilfully inflated the number of employees and the quantity of building materials used for non-production purposes. Through these methods, he extorted another 100 million yuan from the state, causing heavy losses.

Such problems also exist in other units in charge of capital construction projects. To urge them to draw lessons from the case of the cement plant,

*Renmin Ribao* (People's Daily) published the investigation report on September 9.

The State Council reiterated: Units in charge of key construction projects that have such unhealthy practices should make self-criticism and sincerely correct their mistakes.

## Luanhe River water diverted to Tianjin

September 11 was a red-letter day for Tianjin dwellers. Residents in the city, who for years had tasted to the full the bitterness of salt water, savoured the fresh water diverted from the Luanhe River and felt especially sweet on the day.

A unveiling ceremony of the water diversion project, which was charged with the profound sentiments of the 7.7 million citizens of Tianjin, took place at the junction of the river. Throughout the city, firecrackers were set off, gongs and drums were beaten and coloured balloons were soaring. Singing and dancing, hundreds of thousands of Tianjin dwellers celebrated the completion of the project.

A mass rally to celebrate the water diversion took place on September 12. Party, government and army leaders Yang Shangkun, Yang Dezhi and Yu Qiuli came specially from Beijing to attend the rally.

Addressing the rally, Yang Shangkun said the completion of the project will contribute greatly to the development of the national economy. On behalf of the Party Central Committee, the State Council and the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee, he



In recognition of the PLA soldiers' meritorious deeds in the water diversion project, a monument has been erected on the mountainside in Qianxi County of Hebei Province.

expressed thanks to the project's builders and paid sincere tribute to various departments in more than 20 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions which had given support to the project. For a detailed account of this remarkable project see p. 20 in this issue.

## Premier Zhao on developing Xinjiang

Premier Zhao Ziyang toured Xinjiang last August, and stressed that developing this autonomous region and the whole of northwest China is an important strategic plan of the Central Government.

Accompanying him on the two-week inspection tour were Hu Qili, Member, and Hao Jianxiu, Alternate Member, of the



Premier Zhao at the General Petrochemical Plant in Urumqi.

Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. During the tour they inspected more than 10 prefectures, autonomous prefectures and cities, where Premier Zhao called at the homes of workers, peasants, herdsmen and intellectuals of various nationalities. Before leaving, he concluded that in the development of northwest China, top priority should be given to the economic development of Xinjiang.

Xinjiang, in the border region of northwest China, has an area of 1.6 million square kilometres, the biggest in China. Xinjiang is a multinational region inhabited mostly by the Uygur nationality.

The region is of great strategic importance for national defence, and enjoys exceptional economic advantages. It is rich in energy and mineral resources and agricultural and livestock products. Because of these natural resources, the region is on its way to becoming a centre of livestock production, cash crops and petroleum in the country.

Industry in Xinjiang has begun to take shape since the autonomous region was founded in 1955. However, despite its 4,000 enterprises, its industry is not so well developed as other parts of the country. Many of its economic targets are lower than the nation's average. And although 0.25 hectare per capita is under cultivation — which is not low in the country — the average yield per hectare is only 1,500 kilograms, which is low.

Poor communications and long-distance transport seriously hamper the economic development of Xinjiang.

Premier Zhao said that in working out plans, principles and policies for the region's economic development, we should take the above problems into account and take effective measures to solve them.

The premier urged the regional government to work out an overall development plan for the rest of the 1980s. Attention should be focused on prospecting natural resources. Ma-

for projects should be built in water conservation, communications, energy, building materials, food processing and light and textile industries. At the same time, the intellectual development and the training of personnel must not be neglected.

The premier also said that Xinjiang is located near the Central Asian and Gulf countries and so should expand its trade with them.

Premier Zhao stressed that Xinjiang should consider the ecological balance of the region when developing their resources. He also urged greater efforts to implement the Party's nationality policies and promote unity among all nationalities.

People in China have followed the development of Xinjiang with great interest. Many technical personnel and college graduates have expressed a wish to work in Xinjiang. Some 100,000 young people educated in Shanghai volunteered to work in Xinjiang in the 1960s. Fifteen thousand of those who returned to Shanghai in the 1970s have now gone back to their posts in Xinjiang.

## Growing interest in stylish clothes

With rising living standards, the Chinese people are beginning to show interest in stylish clothes made of better fabrics.

This desire was evident at the May sales exhibition of garments, hats and shoes from three municipalities (Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai) and two



provinces (Jiangsu and Liaoning).

The exhibition offered China's first fashion show, staged by 14 performers from Shanghai with a total of 185 garments in traditional Chinese and Western styles.

The exhibition received an average of 20,000 customers a day and sold 60,000 garments, for 400,000 yuan daily.

During her visit to the exhibition, Hao Jianxiu, a former textile worker and now Alternate Member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, told the sponsors: "The minds of the staff of our garment trade should be more emancipated. We should encourage the men to wear Western style suits and sports jackets and women, *qipao* (a sheath with "Mandarin" collar and a slit skirt), Western style suits and skirts. Our clothing styles should be tasteful, with a national flavour and suit our people's customs, and the prices should be low."

Young people were the main customers at the exhibition and 55 per cent of the total retail sales were of clothing for young people. Children's garments came second, accounting for 34.5 per cent. The exhibition displayed more than 200 varieties of children's garments and sold a total of 875,000 pieces. The designers tried to lower the cost of production so that the average cost per garment was 2.8 yuan.

However, the exhibition showed little progress in providing new styles for older and middle-aged people.

A 29-day sales exhibition of spring and summer clothes was held in Beijing earlier. It served 500,000 customers and sold 1.2 million pieces of garments with

a total value of 10 million yuan, an unprecedented event.

Another garment exhibition held in spring this year was the school uniforms design exhibition in Beijing. On Children's Day (June 1), one million children in 10 cities put on their new sky blue and white young pioneer summer uniforms. Stylish uniforms will soon be available for 200 million college and middle and primary school students.

Clothing now accounts for one-fourth of the Chinese people's total expenditures. After a 20-30 per cent price cut on synthetic fabrics in January this year, people became more interested in high and medium-cost clothing made of these fabrics.

## Nansha Islands are China's territory

China's sovereignty over the Nansha Islands in the South China Sea is not to be violated by any country, under any pretext, or in any way, said Qi Huaiyuan, Information Director of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, at his weekly press briefing.

Danwan Jiao (reef) in the Nansha Islands of China was illegally occupied by foreign troops recently. Certain countries have successively made territorial claims on some islands and reefs in the Nansha group, he said.

"The Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China reiterates that China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and the nearby waters, and that the natural resources in these areas belong to China," Qi said.

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## Premier Zhao greets St. Kitts-Nevis

Premier Zhao Ziyang on Sept. 18 sent a message to Kennedy Simmonds, Prime Minister of the Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis, informing him of the Chinese Government's decision to recognize the Federation on the occasion of the declaration of its independence.

Expressing warm congratulations on the independence of the Federation, the Premier hoped the relations between the two countries and the friendship between the two peoples will develop daily.

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"Occupation of any island in the Nansha Islands, and exploitation and other activities in those areas, by any foreign country are illegal and impermissible," he declared.

## Compensate jet victims' families

The spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Sept. 16 that families of the victims of the Soviet downing of a south Korean airliner have the right to demand compensation.

The spokesman said that the Chinese Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Lin Qing, has expounded China's position at the Security Council. The airliner incident, he said, highlights two issues: how to safeguard the established norms ensuring the safety of international civil aviation in the future, and compensation for the bereaved families.

"We stand for an investigation into the facts involved in the incident," he said. "At the same time we maintain that the bereaved families have the right to demand compensation in accordance with relevant international conventions on civil aviation.

"The Chinese Government holds that as several dozens of our compatriots from Taiwan Province and Xianggang (Hong-kong) are among the victims, their families should also receive due compensation."

## Distinguished guests in China

**Solomon Islands Parliamentary Delegation.** On Sept. 7 a delegation from the National Parliament of the Solomon Islands led by Speaker Maepeza Gina arrived in Beijing on the first leg of its visit to China.

Before leaving the capital to tour Nanjing, Wuxi, Shanghai and Guangzhou on Sept. 12, Speaker Gina said that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole government to represent China and that the Solomon Islands should establish diplomatic ties with it.

**Soviet Vice-Foreign Minister.** Soviet Vice-Foreign Minister Kapitsa paid a week-long visit to China from Sept. 10 at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen. The two vice-foreign ministers had talks on questions of mutual concern and on the question of removing obstacles to normalizing relations between the two countries.

**Yugoslav Vice-President.** Vice-President Zarkovic of Yugoslavia visited China from Sept. 11 to 13. President Li Xiannian met with him on Sept. 12 and expressed his satisfaction with Sino-Yugoslav relations and firm support to the non-aligned movement.

**Egyptian Deputy Premier.** Deputy Premier Ghazala of Egypt visited China from Sept. 10 to 13. When he met with the Egyptian Deputy Premier, President Li Xiannian said that the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon should be maintained. Li said China hoped the parties concerned in Lebanon would solve their internal disputes peacefully through negotiations so as not to let them be exploited.

**Iranian Foreign Minister.** From Sept. 13 to 17 Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati visited China. Chinese leaders Li Xiannian and Zhao Ziyang met with him separately.

Li told Velayati that China appreciates Iran's independent foreign policy and wishes to further develop friendly relations between the two countries. Zhao expressed his appreciation of Iran's opposition to hegemonism and its emphasis on developing relations with other third world countries.

**Sri Lanka Special Envoy.** On Sept. 14 Premier Zhao Ziyang reiterated the Chinese Government's support for Sri Lanka's stand on safeguarding its national independence and territorial integrity when he met with Hector Jayewardene, Special Envoy of the Sri Lanka President. Zhao said that the ethnic problems of a country were its internal affair, and no

other countries had the right to interfere.

**Mozambique Foreign Minister.** On Sept. 13 the Mozambique Party and Government Delegation, led by Joaquin Aberto Chissano, arrived in Beijing on a visit to China. Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian met with the delegation and said that China fully supports Mozambique in its struggle to safeguard its national independence and oppose foreign aggression.

**General Secretary of Tanzania.** Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, and Rassidi Mfaume Kawawa, General Secretary of the Tanzanian Revolutionary Party, joined in expressing their satisfaction over the development of relations between the two parties and countries when they met on Sept. 15.

Qiao Shi, Alternate Member of the Secretariat of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, and Kawawa had talks during which they exchanged views on the international situation, especially the situation in southern Africa.

**Belgian Parliamentary Delegation.** A delegation from the Belgian Parliament, led by Senate President Leemans and Chamber of Representatives President Defraigne, arrived in Beijing Sept. 13.

Premier Zhao met with them and reiterated China's policy of opening to the outside world. He said that economic and technical co-operation between China and Belgium, as well as with the European Economic Community as a whole, had already made a good start, but great potential still remained and there were still many fields to be opened up.



*UN Security Council***Need to investigate airliner incident**

**T**HE Soviet Union, Sept. 12, vetoed the UN Security Council draft resolution proposed by the United States and other countries on the shooting down of a south Korean airliner by the Soviet Union. China abstained from the vote.

Countries voting for the resolution were the United States, Britain, France, Malta, Jordan, Pakistan, the Netherlands, Togo and Zaire. Poland voted against it along with the Soviet Union. Guyana, Nicaragua and Zimbabwe abstained along with China.

**China's Attitude**

Before the vote, Chinese Permanent Representative Ling Qing explained China's position. He said the Chinese delegation had already deplored the incident and expressed its shock. (See *Beijing Review*, No. 37 p. 12.)

"Available information from various sources indicated that the south Korean civilian aircraft strayed from the usual course and entered the airspace of the Soviet Union," Ling said. "However, it was a serious violation of the established norms ensuring safety of international civil aviation for the Soviet Union to shoot down the south Korean civilian airliner on the ground that it had entered the Soviet airspace."

"The Chinese Government is deeply concerned over the safety of civil aviation. The Chinese delegation agrees to the proposal of some delegations that investigations be conducted into this incident," he said.

"In view of the serious dispute over certain aspects of the incident," he continued, "the Chinese delegation will abstain when Document S/15966 Revision containing the draft resolution is put to a vote."

**US-Soviet Accusations**

Throughout the debate, the United States and the Soviet Union attacked each other. The United States accused the Soviet Union of "lying openly, brazenly and knowingly" and committing "wanton, calculated, deliberate murder." The Soviet Union charged that the United States had used the airliner on a spying mission, disregarding the lives of the people on board, and that after the incident the United States was trying to shirk its responsibility while whipping up anti-Soviet hysteria.

**Contadora Group****New achievements gained in Panama**

**T**HE progress of the fourth conference of nine Latin American foreign ministers held in Panama City recently will bring a new impetus to the peaceful settlement of the problems in Central America.

Between September 8 and 9, the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela) and five Central American countries (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica) discussed in detail the various

proposals set forth, found their common ground and worked out a unified "Document of Intention" on which to base Central America's peace, democracy, security, stability, economic co-operation and social progress.

Recently, both sides have produced various materials to show that the other was to blame. Nevertheless, it is still difficult for other countries to do more than listen, as some key questions remain to be answered: Did the airliner intentionally or unintentionally penetrate Soviet airspace? Was it on a spying mission? Did the Soviet pilot know it was a civil airliner before shooting it down? It is reasonable, therefore, that representatives of other countries demanded an investigation into the shooting.

Although the south Korean airliner incident has affected relations between the two superpowers to a certain extent, both the United States and the Soviet Union, however, have been loud in their rhetoric but restrained in their actions.

— *Chen Hong*

ious proposals set forth, found their common ground and worked out a unified "Document of Intention" on which to base Central America's peace, democracy, security, stability, economic co-operation and social progress.

This is the first time the five Central American countries have agreed on concrete steps to reduce tension in the region.

If the document is approved by the the five Central American governments, the technical

section of the Contadora Group will form a supervisory body to implement it.

### Agreement in Principle

The document is not available and the details of its contents are not known. However, according to Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega, who presided over the conference, its main aims are:

- making an inventory of the armed forces in the region;
- immediate and progressive steps towards disarmament;
- reduction of the number of foreign advisers in the region;
- establishment of permanent dialogue between governments and internal opposition groups;
- setting electoral processes in motion.

Ortega said the recent talks would strengthen efforts the Contadora Group has been making for the last eight months to reduce tension in Central America. The foreign ministers of the group have met seven times since January.

### Situation in Nicaragua

At the time of the recent meeting, two planes of the anti-government forces bombed Managua, capital of Nicaragua. Another two planes attacked Port Corinto on the Nicaraguan Pacific coast.

Nicaragua's rebel guerrilla organization, the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE), claimed responsibility for the airstrikes. The ARDE, with Eden Pastora Gomez as one of its leaders, is now engaged in anti-government guerrilla activities in the south of the country. Pastora is a former Deputy Defence Minister of the ruling Sandinista government, and is known as "Commander Zero."

The Nicaraguan Government has lodged a strong protest with the US Government, because the planes and bombs used by the anti-government forces were proven to have been supplied by the US Central Intelligence Agency.

Activities of anti-government forces also have increased recently in the north, where once the situation was much calmer.

The attacks in Nicaragua were undoubtedly aimed at disrupting the on-going meeting of the nine Latin American foreign ministers. Condemning the bombing of Managua, the Mexican Senate called it "an evident provocation to the peaceful intent of the gov-

### USSR-France

## What Gromyko's Paris visit shows

SOVIET Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's 24-hour working visit to France, which ended Sept. 10, was striking evidence that both countries desire to keep up a dialogue.

The French Government attached considerable importance to Gromyko's visit, the first by a top-ranking Soviet official since the French Socialist Party took office in May 1981.

It was noteworthy that only five hours after Gromyko arrived in Paris, he was received by French President Francois Mitterrand. The two men discussed all important issues in a two-hour meeting, according to a French official spokesman. Shortly afterwards, French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy received the Soviet foreign minister.

Franco-Soviet relations have evidently cooled since the Socialist Party came to power. This

ernments forming the Contadora Group."

Nevertheless, the meeting at Panama has made definite progress. This clearly shows the strong determination of the Latin American countries to eliminate external interference and solve their own problems.

Of course, the agreement is now only in principle and on paper. The root causes of the conflicts in Central America remain, and the interference of outside powers will not stop. There will be many difficulties before this document can become official policy and finally be put into effect.

— Ren Wenhui

was partly because the Socialist Party, after the Communist Party's participation in the government, did not want to maintain close relations with the Soviet Union for fear they might affect the stability of the government. Furthermore, the two countries had divergent views on some important international issues.

At present, three problems mar Franco-Soviet relations. First, France has had deficits in trade with the Soviet Union in recent years. This problem, nevertheless, is relatively easy to solve. This year, France's deficits in trade with the Soviet Union have dropped and are expected to drop to about half of last year's 8,000 million francs. During the economic recession, France may favourably consider Soviet demands for purchasing French technology.

Second, France and the Soviet Union have conflicts of interests over some regional issues, such

as Poland, Afghanistan, and more recently, Lebanon and Chad.

Third, on the crucial missile issue in Europe, the French Socialist Party holds that the Soviet SS-20 missiles have tilted the nuclear equilibrium in Europe and threatened the fundamental interests of France. Therefore, it energetically advocates deployment of US Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe. France is also firmly opposed to counting the British and French nuclear weapons at the US-Soviet disarmament talks in Geneva.

These problems explain why Franco-Soviet relations cannot make great progress. But it will not be inconsistent to say that both sides need dialogue.

### Britain

## Mrs. Thatcher's economic policy

WHEN conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher took office in May 1979, the British Government was facing three severe problems: high inflation, economic stagnation and rising unemployment. The new government abandoned the Keynesian economic policies which had been followed by the previous British governments after World War II. Mrs. Thatcher was trying to find a way to curb inflation by carrying out a tight monetary policy. The past four years have shown that the Conservative Party's economic policies have achieved good results in the monetary field, but exacted a high price from the country's production levels.

### Achievements

The tight monetary policy has markedly improved Britain's

France desires to have talks with the Soviet Union because it wants to play its due role and make its voice heard in handling East-West relations now that such relations have become more and more strained because of the keener rivalry between two superpowers and increased regional conflicts. The talks on Euromissiles have also a direct bearing on France's interests.

As for the Soviet Union, Gromyko's visit showed its clear intent to woo France. Determined to prevent the deployment in Western Europe of US Pershing II missiles, Moscow hopes to coax France into making some concessions in the bargain so as to attain its aim.

— Yang Qi

financial condition. The main achievements are:

1. The inflation rate has dropped remarkably. In April 1979, on the eve of the Conservative Party coming into office, the British inflation rate was 10.1 per cent. It had gone as high as 21.9 per cent in a year during the seventh postwar economic crisis. But last May Britain enjoyed one of the lowest inflation rates of any Western country — a mere 3.7 per cent.

2. Britain achieved a 400 million pound sterling surplus in international payments in the first half of this year, after an enormous surplus in international current accounts for three consecutive years.

3. Financial conditions have improved. While the government had to borrow 13,200

million pounds for public spending in fiscal 1980-81, it needed only 9,200 million pounds in 1982-83. The government budget deficit in the fiscal year 1983-84 is hoped to be under 8,000 million pounds.

### Problems

However, the British Government is also facing many problems. First, the number of unemployed is still rising. Unemployment has increased by 1.7 million since 1979, to a level of 3.17 million, the highest in Europe. The unemployment rate has set the record at 13.7 per cent.

Second, industrial production is still at a standstill. Production fell by 14.9 per cent from July 1979 to May 1981, which is even worse than the economic crisis of 1973-75. The total industrial production at present is 14 per cent lower than in 1979. Although production took a slight turn for the better early this year, the improvement has been unsteady.

Third, industrial investment is sagging badly. A total of 3,970 million pounds were invested in 1979, but only 2,640 million pounds in 1982. Although the interest rate has been lowered since 1982, investment has not increased. All this will certainly check the economic recovery, and the "all-round reduction of taxes" promised by the Thatcher government will be only empty talk.

These problems clearly demonstrate that while Thatcher's economic policies have brought about some economic recovery and improvement, rising unemployment and slack investment has slowed down its progress.

## Counteractive Measures

The Conservative government will continue its tight monetary policy in the present situation. It has taken the following measures:

1. Reducing public spending and implementing an austerity policy for public credit. These measures are used to control the money supply and balance this supply with the rate of economic growth. The aim is to check inflation.

2. Speeding up the privatization of national industries. Mrs. Thatcher has always opposed government intervention in the economy. She supports free market competition and tries to create favourable conditions for developing private enterprises so as to increase economic efficiency. Her government is therefore selling more and more national enterprises.

3. Stimulating economic recovery by such measures as cutting taxes, lowering interest rates, limiting wage increases and cutting back the number of employees. In the fiscal year 1983-84, the government will raise the base-rate above which income can be taxed. It is reported that a new law to significantly cut taxes will also be proposed. Also, the government insists that wage increases for employees of both government institutions and state-owned enterprises be lower than 4 per cent.

Mrs. Thatcher's government maintains its policy of tight monetary control because it has brought about some improvement and helped the Conservatives win the election. In addition, Keynesian economics, which once dominated Britain, has already lost its effectiveness in the face of the unemployment and inflation.

However, monetarism is not a miraculous cure-all. It can

not deal with both inflation and economic stagnation simultaneously. In order to reduce the inflation rate, the government has had to cut public spending and raise the interest rates, resulting in low investment, rising unemployment and slower economic development.

If the government wants to strengthen economic development, it has to increase investment, relieve unemployment and give more help to business.

But this will tie up the reduction in spending and tax cuts, and further increase the inflation rate.

The British press maintains that the economy will limp along slowly with high unemployment for the next two years. Thatcher's tight monetary policy can only postpone the decline of the British economy.

— Chen Dean

## Moscow should cut missiles in Asia

THE daily *Renmin Ribao* in a commentary on Sept. 17 urged the Soviet Union to considerably reduce its missiles deployed in Asia, if it really hopes to lessen the danger of a nuclear war.

Referring to Yuri Andropov's proposal to "liquidate" the Soviet missiles to be reduced in Europe instead of relocating them in the Asian region, it said: "This is a step forward, but inadequate to truly lessen the danger of nuclear war.

"Since world peace and security are indivisible, it is far from adequate just to limit nuclear arms, including medium-range missiles, in a given region.

"It is well-known, that a large number of SS-20s have been deployed in the Asian part to the Soviet Union and they pose a considerable threat to China and other countries of Asia.

"China has asked the Soviet Union to remove three hurdles in the way of developing relations between the two countries. One of the hurdles is the Soviet armed forces in the Sino-Soviet and Sino-Mongolian border areas, and that naturally includes the missiles."

The commentary said that "China has consistently called for the thorough destruction of all nuclear weapons, including medium-range missiles. The two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, should take the lead to demonstrate, by deeds, their good faith for nuclear disarmament."

It stressed that any Soviet-US agreement for that matter must not impair the security interests of other countries or regions.

In conclusion, it said that it is quite obvious that "failing to limit and reduce the number of its nuclear missiles deployed in Asia, the Soviet Union is hardly in a position to talk seriously about serving the interest of world peace and that fo mankind."

# China's Recovery of Xianggang (Hongkong) Area Fully Accords With International Law

By Jin Fu

- The three treaties concerning the Xianggang (Hongkong) area imposed on China by Britain in the 19th century are null and void according to the basic principles of international law and the provisions of international law concerning treaties.

- The concept of sovereignty naturally covers administrative power. Certain sections of British opinion advocate exchanging sovereignty for administration. This amounts to recognition of China's sovereignty in word but denial of it in deed.

- China has a whole set of policies for maintaining prosperity in Xianggang. It is false to say that British administration is indispensable to Xianggang's prosperity.

- The British Government is not qualified to represent the Chinese inhabitants of Xianggang at the current Sino-British talks.

**I**N September last year, Chinese and British leaders met and discussed the future of Xianggang. It was reported that the two sides explained their respective positions and agreed to hold talks through diplomatic channels with the common aim of maintaining the prosperity and stability of Xianggang. Subsequently, however, British official sources openly claimed that the three unequal treaties concerning the Xianggang area imposed on China by Britain during the 19th century were "valid according to international law," and that Britain had a "moral obligation to the people of Xianggang." Moreover, they deliberately described the Xianggang question, which is a bilateral issue between China and Britain, as a trilateral one among China, Britain and Xianggang, like a "three-legged stool." Before and after the start of the second phase of the talks between the Chinese and British Governments over the Xianggang question last July, the British side, through its mass media, actively spread the view that British administration was indispensable to the prosperity of Xianggang and called for "exchanging sovereignty for administrative power" and for

"continued British administration in Hongkong upon recognition of China's sovereignty." At the same time, it amplified its "three-legged stool" theory by calling for "respect for the opinion of the people of Hongkong" so as to "achieve a solution acceptable to the British parliament, to China and to the people of Hongkong," and so on and so forth.

With regard to the question of Xianggang, the spokesman of the Information Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry stated solemnly last September: "Xianggang is part of China's territory. The treaties concerning the Xianggang area signed by the British Government and the government of the Qing Dynasty of China are unequal treaties which have never been accepted by the Chinese people. The consistent position of the Government of the People's Republic of China has been that China is not bound by these unequal treaties and that the whole Xianggang area will be recovered when conditions are ripe. Both the Chinese and the British sides hope to maintain the prosperity and stability of Xianggang and, therefore, will hold discussions

through diplomatic channels." In his "Report on the Work of the Government" last June, Premier Zhao Ziyang reaffirmed: "We shall, at an opportune moment, recover Chinese sovereignty over Xianggang and take appropriate measures to maintain its prosperity." While meeting a group of Japanese journalists on August 15 this year, Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, told them that China would recover her sovereignty over Xianggang by 1997 and the current negotiations between China and Britain were confined to the ways of preserving Xianggang's prosperity and stability and to the gradual transition between now and the time of recovery. He added: "We have a complete set of policies for maintaining the prosperity of Xianggang."

It can be seen clearly from the public statements emanating from British official sources and the press under their influence that to date the British side is still clinging to its colonial stand aimed chiefly at continuing its colonial rule in Xianggang. This not only goes against the historical trend but holds no legal ground. The statements by Chinese leaders fully express the national feelings of the one billion Chinese people and their firm determination to fulfil the great cause of national reunification. They are considered appropriate and reasonable in terms of policy and sound in legal basis.

This article makes some comments on a few major questions from the viewpoint of international law.

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### **Whether the Three Treaties Concerning The Xianggang Area Are Legally Valid**

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British official sources claimed that the three treaties are "valid according to international law." Such a claim is totally baseless. It is true that "pacta sunt servanda" is an established principle of international law, but international law does not recognize the validity of all treaties, irrespective of their nature and the circumstances in which they are concluded. All the three treaties concerning the Xianggang area which Britain forced the Qing government of China to sign in the 19th century, namely, the 1842 Treaty of Nanking, the 1860 Convention of Peking and the 1898 Sino-British Convention for the Extension of Hongkong are null and void according to the basic principles of international law or the provisions of international law concerning treaties.

1. According to a basic principle of international law, wars of aggression are unjust and unlawful, "ex injuria jus non oritur." Therefore, treaties concluded in connection with the spoils of such wars are all invalid. Hugo Grotius, who is regarded by the Western world as the "father of international law," maintained as early as 300 years ago that there were differences between just and unjust wars and he condemned the latter. Later some well-known scholars of international law, such as Samuel Pufendorf, Christain Wolff and Emerich De Vattel shared the same view. After World War I, a large amount of international conventions and resolutions not only confirmed more than once the principle of international law that unjust wars of aggression are illegal, but also explicitly declared these wars an international crime. After World War II, there has been a great number of international treaties and instruments containing provisions to the same effect. For instance, the Charter of the United Nations stipulates that all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force "against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state" (Article 2, Paragraph 4). The Resolution on the Definition of Aggression adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1974 stipulates: "No territorial acquisition or special advantage resulting from aggression is or shall be recognized as lawful" (Article 5, Paragraph 3).

2. According to a principle of the law of treaties, a treaty is null and void if it is imposed by a contracting party by the threat or use of force against another. This is also a time-honoured principle. Grotius said that peace treaties, in principle, were binding, but if a treaty was forcibly concluded by illegal threats or in violation of good faith, no one was obligated to implement it. Similar views were expressed later by Vattel, Heffer and others. The same principle has been confirmed by the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Article 52 of the Convention stipulates: "A treaty is void if its conclusion has been procured by the threat or use of force in violation of the principles of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations."

3. According to the relevant provisions of the Law of Treaties, any treaty that violates the peremptory norms of international law is null and void. This is a generally acknowledged principle. For instance, Bluntschli, the noted Swiss scholar of international law of the 19th century wrote in his book *Modern International*

*Law of the Civilized Nations*: "A treaty becomes void if its content violates the commonly recognized rights of mankind and peremptory norms of international law." In 1937, the Austrian scholar of international law Verdross also pointed out in an article entitled *Forbidden Treaties in International Law* that a treaty which violates a peremptory norm of general international law is void. It is also clearly stipulated in Article 53 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties that "a treaty is void if, at the time of its conclusion, it conflicts with a peremptory norm of general international law." That means the content of any treaty should not violate the peremptory norms of international law, otherwise the treaty is void.

It should also be pointed out here that international law not only requires that a treaty should not violate extant international law at the time of its conclusion, but also invalidates a treaty whose content conflicts with international law that emerges after its conclusion. For instance, it is stipulated in Article 64 of the Vienna Convention of the Law of Treaties that "If a new peremptory norm of general international law emerges, any existing treaty which is in conflict with that norm becomes void and terminates." As is known to all, since World War II, a series of principles have been established or reaffirmed in a number of important international documents, such as the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence jointly initiated by China, India and Burma and universally endorsed by the international community, and the 10 principles of the 1955 Asian-African Conference. All these constitute currently accepted principles of international law. And the principles of defending the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all states, prohibiting aggression and opposing colonialism, etc., all fall under the category of peremptory norms of international law. Any treaty that has been concluded becomes void if it is in conflict with these principles.

Let us review in the light of the above-mentioned principles and stipulations, how the three treaties concerning the Xianggang area came into existence. The whole world knows that, as early as the late 18th century, the British colonialists used opium as a means of aggression against China. They sent pirate ships to smuggle large quantities of opium into China and subjected her to rapacious plunder. In 1840 the British Government, in pursuance of its

colonialist policy of aggression, launched the Opium War against China by invading coastal areas in south and east China and, while closing in on the city of Nanjing, compelled the Qing government to conclude in 1842 the Treaty of Nanking, by which it annexed the Hongkong Island which was then under the jurisdiction of Xinan County (now the city of Shenzhen) of China's Guangdong Province and acquired a series of prerogatives. To expand its aggression and legalize its opium trade, the British Government launched in 1856 the Second Opium War and, while Beijing fell under occupation by the British-French aggressor troops, forced the Qing government to conclude in 1860 the "Convention of Peking," by which it annexed Kowloon which was under the jurisdiction of Xinan County of Guangdong Province, namely, the territory south of the boundary street in the southern part of the Kowloon Peninsula. In 1898, taking advantage of the Qing government's defeat in the 1894 Sino-Japanese War, the British Government forced the Qing government to conclude the Sino-British Convention for the Extension of Hongkong, by which China was forced to lease the area south of the Shenzhen River in Xinan County and north of the boundary street on the Kowloon Peninsula as well as the adjacent islands — the so-called New Territories — for a period of 99 years. The above historical facts show that both the Treaty of Nanking and the Convention of Peking were the direct outcome of the wars of aggression launched by Britain. The Sino-British Convention for the Extension of Hongkong resulted from the efforts of Britain and other powers to carve up China and seize concessions in China. All the three treaties were the product of unlawful acts; they were all concluded by Britain's use or threat of force; their contents constitute serious encroachments upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and violation of the peremptory norms of international law. Therefore, in the light of any of the principles and stipulations mentioned above, these treaties should be considered null and void.

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### Is There Any Legal Ground for "Exchanging Sovereignty for Administration"?

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Certain sections of British opinion claim that British administration is indispensable to Xianggang's prosperity and advocate "exchanging sovereignty for administration,"



which means "continued British administration in Xianggang as in the past while recognizing China's sovereignty." Judging from international law or from international practice, no such claims are tenable.

From the legal point of view, (1) when the territory of a state is occupied by another state, the injured party has the right to recover its occupied territory and resume the exercise of its sovereignty by any means and at any time. Since the sovereignty over the occupied territory belongs in the first place to the injured party and not the occupationist, the question of the occupationist "exchanging sovereignty for administration" simply does not arise.

(2) Sovereignty as a legal concept is indivisible in itself. What is sovereignty? It is the inherent right of a state, which manifests itself internally as supreme authority, namely, the exclusive jurisdiction of a state over its territory and all the persons and materials on the territory and, externally, as the right of independence, namely, the complete independent exercise of right by a state in international relations free from any outside interference. What is administration? It means administrative power, the power of a state to rule in its territory. It is a concrete expression of sovereignty. The concept of sovereignty naturally embraces administration. Since the two are indivisible, there can be no question of exchanging one for the other.

It can thus be seen that the claim made by certain sections of British opinion for Britain to "exchange sovereignty for administration" and to continue its administration in Xianggang is devoid of any legal basis whatsoever.

According to international practice, when a state recovers its occupied territory from another state, it automatically resumes the exercise of sovereignty, including administration, over the territory. There is no lack of precedents in this regard. Particularly after World War II, a number of Asian, African and Latin American countries won independence after freeing themselves from the colonial yoke. They regarded the imperialist powers' occupation of certain parts of their territories, whether by treaty or not, as illegal and resolutely demanded the recovery of such territories. Most of these territories were recovered through bilateral negotiations, some of them were recovered as a result of unilateral actions taken by the injured party. For instance, following

India's independence in 1947, five pieces of its territory, namely, Chandernagore, Yanam, Pondicherry, Karikal and Mahe were still occupied by France. As a result of bilateral negotiations, India recovered Chandernagore in 1949, and the other four places were turned over to India by France in 1954. Portugal had occupied Indian territories Goa, Damao and Diu and refused to return them to India. India sent a note to the Portuguese Government in 1950, proposing a negotiated settlement of the return of the three territories. But the Salazar Government obdurately stuck to its colonialist position and refused to recognize India's sovereignty or enter into negotiations with it, declaring Goa and the other two places as "an integral part of Portugal." Then India sent troops into the above three places in December 1961 and recovered its territories and sovereignty. Following Sri Lanka's independence in 1948, Britain still occupied Trincomalee and Katunayaka of Sri Lanka as military bases. Through bilateral negotiations, Sri Lanka recovered the two places in 1957. In 1956 the Egyptian Government declared the nationalization of the Suez Canal Company which had long been under the control of foreign forces and thus recovered its sovereignty over the Canal. While recovering their occupied territories, whether through negotiations or by unilateral action, the above states simultaneously resumed the exercise of sovereignty and administration over those territories. There have been no precedents of recovering sovereignty only in name or of "exchanging sovereignty for administration." Again for instance, after protracted struggle the Chinese people have recovered from the imperialist powers their ceded or "leased" territories, such as Taiwan, the Penghu Islands, Jiaozhou Bay, Weihaiwei, Lushun, Dalian and Guangzhou Bay. In so doing, they simultaneously resumed the exercise of sovereignty, including administration. There has never been a case of "exchanging sovereignty for administration," that is, recovering sovereignty only in name while actually allowing the former occupationists to continue their administration.

True, "divisibility of sovereignty" was advocated by some people. But that is a reactionary doctrine concocted by Western powers for encroaching on other countries' territory and sovereignty; it is incompatible with the principle of state sovereignty. For example, the "concessions" imperialist powers wrested from China in the 19th century were cited by

some Western jurists as typical examples of their doctrine. But even these jurists could not but recognize its falsehood as well as the fact that the "concessions" were in the character of seizures, admitting that "some of these cases comprise, for most practical purposes, cessions of pieces of territory" (Oppenheim: *International Law*, eighth edition, Vol. 1, p. 456), and that "On the surface they have shown certain respect for the Ching government while in reality they have annexed Chinese territories under disguise so as to expand their spheres of influence" (*Basics of International Law*, edited by Terasawa Hajime). The doctrine of "divisibility of sovereignty" has gone bankrupt in the face of the people of China and other third world countries and have long been swept on to the garbage of history. Any attempt at legalizing occupation of other countries' territory by this "doctrine" is bound to fail.

Since sovereignty over the Xianggang area belongs to China, so does naturally its administration. It was only due to British occupation that China was prevented from exercising its sovereignty, including administration over the area. By "recovery of China's sovereignty over Xianggang," we mean resumption of exercise of sovereignty, including administration, and definitely not giving up administration and recovering nominal sovereignty. This is self-evident.

Some British opinion advocates "exchanging sovereignty for administration." That is to say, nominally recognizing China's sovereignty while maintaining British colonial rule in Xianggang after 1997. This would amount to negating China's sovereignty on the pretext of maintaining the prosperity of Xianggang. Acceptance of such a proposition would mean acceptance of a new unequal treaty and return to humiliation. Can such harsh terms be accepted by the one billion Chinese people?

Furthermore, it is not true to say that British administration is indispensable to the prosperity of Xianggang. Many factors have contributed to the prosperity of Xianggang over the past 30 years. First of all, it is due to the hard work, talents and assiduous efforts

of all the Xianggang residents, over 90 per cent of whom are Chinese, it is also due to its advantageous geographical position in the world and favourable natural conditions as well as to the many-sided and all-out support given by the Chinese Government and people. Naturally, some policy measures and administrative methods adopted by Britain have played a positive role, but they are neither the sole nor the main factor making for the prosperity of Xianggang. Otherwise, people may ask if British rule had such a magical effect, why so many other British-administered areas in Asia, Africa and Latin America which were under British rule for decades or even hundreds of years remain in poverty and backwardness without much change even to this day? How can this be explained? What is more, after shedding British rule, Xianggang will retain all its favourable conditions and will be able to keep and use beneficial British management experiences and methods of the past. Therefore, there is every reason to believe that after 1997 Xianggang will continue to flourish and grow.

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### Who Genuinely Represents The Inhabitants of Xianggang

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Some British opinion claims that Britain has a moral obligation towards the people in Xianggang and that the Xianggang officials appointed by Britain are participating in the negotiations as representatives of the people in Xianggang. This claim is untenable both legally and logically. As is known to all, the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants in the Xianggang area are Chinese, and only the Chinese Government can genuinely represent them, while the British Government has no right to represent them. In fact, the purpose of the Chinese Government in holding talks with the British Government on the recovery of Xianggang is exactly to free them from their long-term subjugation to foreign colonial rule. To help them realize this dearest wish of theirs is to represent their highest interest. If the British

Government really wants to fulfil its "moral obligation" to them, it should co-operate with the Chinese side in achieving a smooth hand-over of Xianggang back to China, and help them get rid of colonial rule. Besides this, there can be no other British "moral obligation." As for the small number of British citizens in Xianggang, the British Government may well represent their interests. The Chinese side can be trusted to give positive consideration to and allow for the interests of this section of the Xianggang inhabitants. In fact, since the founding of the People's Republic, the Chinese Government has all along been prudent and realistic in its approach to the Xianggang question in order to promote the development and prosperity of Xianggang. With regard to the future of Xianggang, it has also expressed its readiness to hold consultations with the British side with a view to maintaining prosperity and stability in Xianggang and settling satisfactorily the question of recovering the area. This attitude in itself has already taken account of the interests of all sections of people in Xianggang. What is more, Chinese leaders have repeatedly stated that in order to accommodate to the realities of the Xianggang area and inhabitants and the interests of the investors, the Chinese Government will, after recovering Xianggang, apply special policies in the area, permitting the existing social and economic systems, lifestyle, economic and cultural ties with foreign countries to remain unchanged. All this gives full expression to the Chinese Government's care for the inhabitants of Xianggang and its responsible attitude towards them.

The relation between the British Government and the Chinese residents in Xianggang is that between colonial ruler and the ruled. Therefore, in the present negotiations, the British Government is not qualified to represent the latter. In fact, it is not recognized as such by the Chinese population in Xianggang. For instance, following the official British statement in September last year about the validity of the three unequal treaties, it was immediately opposed by people of all walks of life in Xiang-

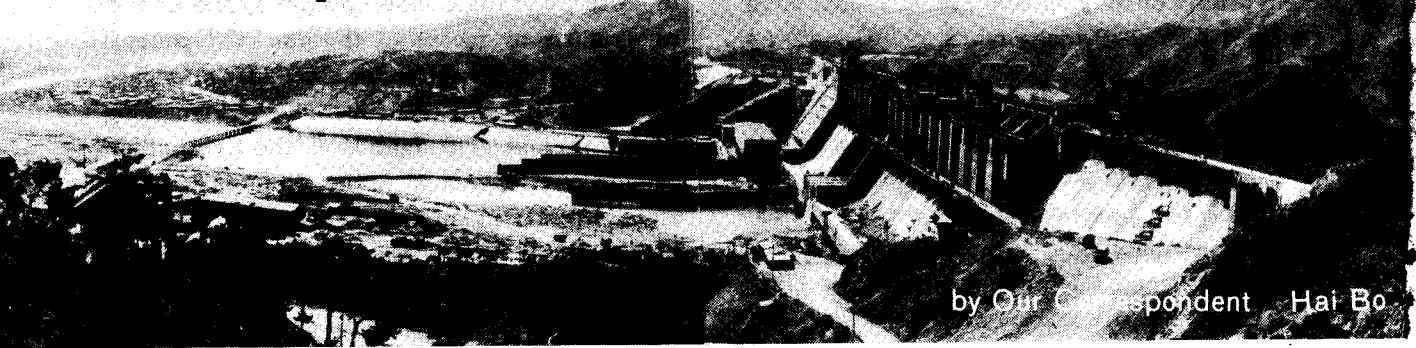
gang, and the students in Xianggang made declaration and held demonstrations in protest. They angrily pointed out that "the Nanking, Peking and other treaties were unequal treaties imposed upon the Chinese people by the British imperialists by means of the gun-boat policy," "the British Prime Minister should by no means attempt to perpetuate British rule in Hongkong on the pretext of obligation to the five million people of Hongkong," "the Chinese citizens among the Hongkong population do not need the British Prime Minister to represent them in 'seeking' anything from the leaders of their own country," etc. These are clear-cut answers to this question.

A recent trend worthy of notice is that the British side is playing up in Xianggang the need to "respect Hongkong popular opinion," emphasizing the future of Xianggang must be solved in accordance with "popular opinion." But clearly the advocates of this idea do not respect the opinion of the majority of the people of Xianggang. They do not regard as "popular opinion" the protest of the people of all walks of life in Xianggang made September last year as mentioned above and the host of articles in the newspapers and magazines which support the position of the Chinese Government. They only pick up the opinion of those who follow them in advocating "exchange of sovereignty for administration" and demanding the continuation of British rule. It is their purpose to sell their idea of the "three-legged stool," pose as representatives of the Xianggang people and exert pressure upon the Chinese Government in the name of "popular opinion" so as to frustrate China's recovery of territory and sovereignty.

Frankly speaking, this manoeuvre is no innovation. It is the old tactic imperialist powers resorted to when they wanted to dismember a country, occupy its territory and divide the nation, a tactic which is totally illegal and from which many small and weak nations suffered. The Chinese people know it well enough. In the hundred years before

*(Continued on p. 25.)*

# Grand Tianjin Water Diversion Project



by Our Correspondent Hai Bo

ON September 11, 1983, the clear water of the Luanhe River flowed into Tianjin through a new 234-kilometre water diversion channel, alleviating the acute water shortage in China's second largest industrial city.

The more than 7 million people of Tianjin were thrilled. Many prepared famous-brand tea with the newly arrived Luanhe River water to celebrate the end of the days when they had to drink the salty water of the Haihe River.

The Haihe River, which crosses Tianjin and empties into the sea, runs shallow all year, except during the short rainy season. The intrusion of sea tides during the dry season turn the city's underground water brackish. Chloride content per litre of running water in the city was as high as 400 mg, although the standard chloride content for drinking water is less than 250 mg per litre. Luanhe River water, however, contains only 40 mg of chloride per litre.

Tianjin produces 4 per cent of China's industrial goods. A quarter of these are exported, and half are sold outside the Tianjin area. The new water project will add life to the factories, which had operated at half capacity or stopped production because of the water shortage, and will pave the way for the city's economic development.

In the past, as a temporary emergency measure to relieve Tianjin's thirst, the Huanghe (Yellow) River water was diverted to Tianjin from 500-600 kilometres to the south. Each time, it cost 300 million yuan. Moreover, because the Huanghe River water is very sandy, the government had to mobilize millions of peasants to clear up the silt by dredging the river's course before water could be diverted

(see our special feature "Divert Huanghe River Water to Tianjin" in issue No. 34, 1982). The new project has also relieved this heavy burden, which drained both money and labour power.

Blueprints for the project to divert the Luanhe River water to Tianjin were drawn up many years ago. Two very large reservoirs were built on the middle reaches of the Luanhe River in the late 1970s. In 1981, when north China was struck by another drought, the government decided to let Tianjin undertake this water diversion project. Begun in May 1982, the project was completed in late June of this year, far ahead of the original schedule of three years. In addition, the builders saved nearly 100 million yuan for the state.

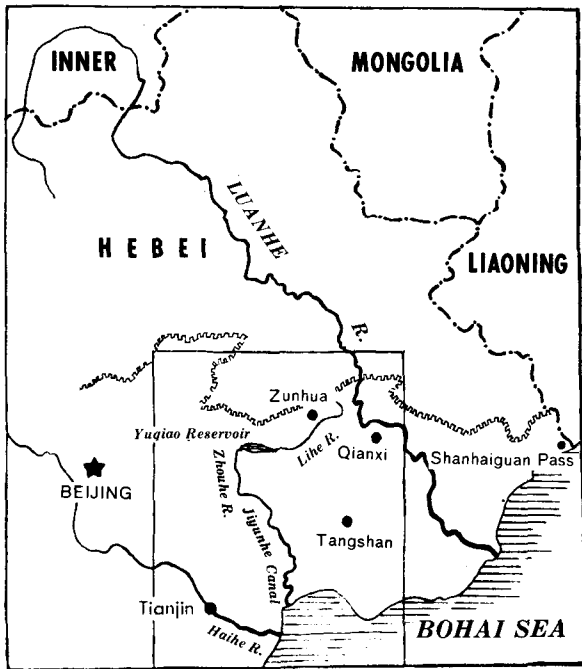
In August, after the project's successful trial operation, Party and state leaders Deng Xiaoping and Zhao Ziyang praised the builders for their quick, good and efficient work, and said that the project "has set an example for all the nation's key construction projects."

## The Most Arduous Task

This success should be attributed to the endeavours of more than 100,000 builders and the co-operation and support of the people along the channel route.

Two units of the People's Liberation Army made particularly outstanding contributions. The PLA railway engineering corps and the PLA field army stationed in Tianjin shouldered the project's most arduous and the most important task — digging a tunnel through the Jingzhong Mountains. The tunnel, at the juncture of Hebei Province's Qianxi and Zunhua Coun-

SKETCH MAP OF THE LUANHE RIVER BASIN



ties, was designed to divert water from the Luanhe River (east of the Jingzhong Mountains)

### A Brief Introduction to the Project

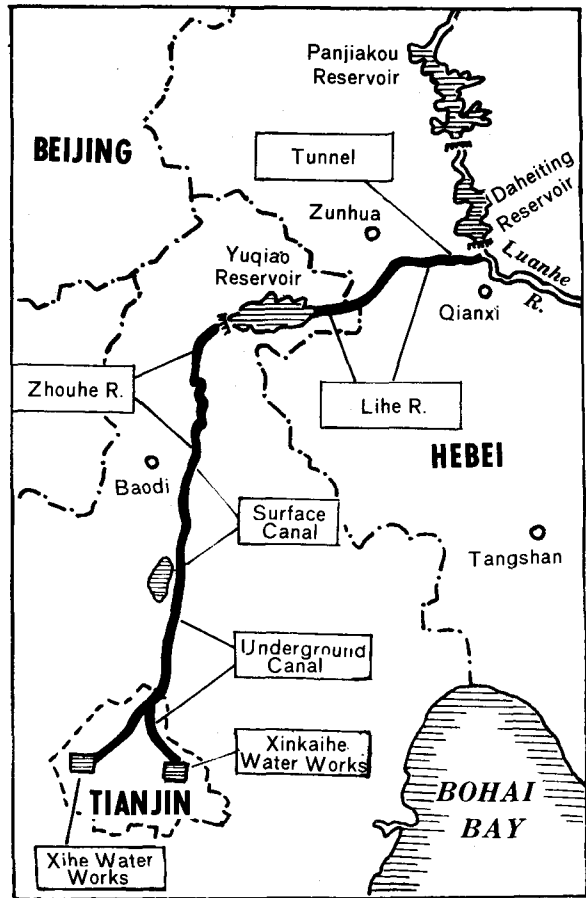
**T**HE Tianjin project is the biggest urban water diversion channel in China. With a total length of 234 kilometres and an annual flow of 1,000 million cubic metres, the channel starts from two reservoirs on the middle reaches of the Luanhe River, and runs across the Yanshan Mountains through a man-made tunnel to Tianjin.

The Luanhe River originates in the mountainous area in northern Hebei Province and flows southeastward into the Bohai Sea (see Map I). Its water is of even better quality than the state requires for drinking water.

The channel runs from the Panjiakou Reservoir (with a capacity of 1,900 million cubic metres) — Daheiting Reservoir (with a capacity of 337 million cubic metres) — the water diversion tunnel (12.39-kilometre long, 5.7-metre wide and 6.25-metre high) — Lihe River (with 60 kilometres of the river-bottom dredged) — Yuqiao Reservoir — Zhouhe River (with 48 kilometres of the river-bottom dredged) — special surface canal (64-kilometre long, newly dug) — underground canal (26-kilometre long, newly dug) — water works in Tianjin (see Map II).

In all the 215 separate projects, 28.7 million cubic metres of earth and stone were moved and 800,000 cubic metres of concrete were cast.

SKETCH MAP OF THE WATER DIVERSION PROJECT



into the Lihe River (to the west), and then to Tianjin.

The tunnel spans 12.39 kilometres, the longest of its kind in China. It was completed in only 322 days, thanks to an ingenious plan of the PLA units. They dug 17 angled caves into the sides of the mountain so the project could proceed at 36 separate areas on both ends of the tunnel simultaneously.

The PLA field unit had no experience in tunnelling before. The chief commanders began an engineering technique training course immediately after they arrived at the worksite. Later, they ran many other specialized technique training courses which taught in less than a year's time 3,250 people, or just over half of the unit's men, necessary knowledge for tunnelling.

Immediately after the tunnelling began, the unit from the field army encountered a thorny problem: the entrance of the tunnel was seriously weathered. The exposed rockface was



**Li Xiaotong, a model worker and deputy platoon leader in the PLA railway corps.**

soft and crunchy, making it, according to convention, a "forbidden area for tunnelling."

The original plan was to slash the 20-metre thick and 62-metre long weathered area before tunnelling. This meant an addition of 50,000 cubic metres of earthwork, which would take at least three months to complete even if it were to be done with heavy machinery.

After repeated discussion, the commanders and engineers decided to change the original plan and support the tunnel with shortcrete and anchor bolts. Using this method, holes

were drilled in the seriously weathered area, reinforced bars were inserted into the holes, and then the area was consolidated by pouring concrete into the holes.

Sun Daobin, a 28-year-old battalion commander, and his men accepted the task. After repeated experiments they finally succeeded in opening a tunnel in this "forbidden area." There were no cave-ins during their entire operation.

By using the latest techniques in tunnelling and through the hard work and enthusiasm of the PLA men, 1.58 metres of tunnel were dug per day — 50 per cent more than the average.

### **Not Relying on Bonuses**

A soldier on the site described the working conditions this way: "Over our heads is the top of the cave, which is dripping with water. Under our feet is a knee-deep mud pit. Cave-ins are all in the day's work."

The soldiers made more than 40 round trips a day from the work area to the rubble

heap, half a kilometre away, pushing 1.5 ton trolleys. They ended up hauling these loads the distance of a marathon race each day.

Many veteran soldiers who had completed their terms of service could have left these hardships behind, but chose instead to remain with the project. Altogether, more than 6,000 soldiers volunteered for this difficult work.

"Is it that the soldiers don't fear hardships because of the incentive of bonuses?" a visitor once asked.

"No. We don't have bonuses," replied Dong Shumin, a young officer. "We do not encourage the soldiers to work harder with bonuses, but enhance their enthusiasm by persuasive political and ideological work."

Dong pointed out that since the aim of the people's army is to serve the people, and since the project to divert water from the Luanhe River is for the good of the people, the soldiers in the engineering units all wanted to divert the water to Tianjin as soon as possible and to do their bit for their country.

"We did not take a single cent from the state, apart from our original wages (for officers) and allowances (for soldiers)," he said.

Another officer said, "In order to enhance the enthusiasm of the soldiers, we gave various kinds of moral encouragement, including issuing certificates of merit to those who had fulfilled their tasks well, listing their names on honour rolls and citing them for excellent service. Promoting competent officers is also a way of reward."

There were also punishments, but most of them were administrative ones. For instance, if a company had not fulfilled its assigned task within the specified period of time, the company leader would be given a disciplinary warning for his incompetence. Actually, most of the commanders handed in written pledges when they were assigned jobs, saying that they would willingly submit to punishment if they could not fulfil their tasks. Only a few ever had to.

The principle of more pay for more work was still applied to civilians who worked on the project, and they were issued bonuses. But the PLA men's spirit of working solely for the public interest and their lack of concern for remuneration has been widely praised by the people. The power of ideological and political work in the army also gives food for thought to



**PLA commanders and fighters cheer when the Luanhe River water flows through the tunnel they dug.**

those who think only money can make things happen.

### **Competent Leadership**

Altogether, more than 100,000 people from over 180 units were involved in the project. In order to provide them with a unified leadership and co-ordinate all the sectors, sharp, capable leaders were chosen for the project.

Li Ruihuan, the 49-year-old Mayor of Tianjin, was appointed general commander of the project.

Formerly a model worker, Li had taken a training course at the Beijing Spare-Time College of Construction Engineering, and had worked on the construction of many key projects. Since 1981, he has served Tianjin, first

as its Vice-Mayor. He said, "To be a mayor, I must really do something for the people."

Although Li Ruihuan had made many important contributions to Tianjin, leading the water diversion project was the most important job he had ever undertaken for his city. As he usually does, Li left his office to consult with the grass-roots units and accumulate first-hand information on which to base his firm leadership. His foot prints could be seen all over the construction site. He visited the No. 9 tunnel, where the geological structure was most complicated and cave-ins were frequent, to help the PLA soldiers combat these problems. He also personally went to Baodi County to persuade the peasants to move out.

In addition to Li Ruihuan, there were 10 other leaders for the project. Four of them were senior engineers, each of whom was able to take charge in their area of speciality. The other six were leading cadres who had extensive experience in several construction projects.

The temporary headquarters had more than 400 staff members, all of whom were chosen by the municipal government from various city units for their professionalism and hard work.

Two of those chosen, Shi Dong and Zhu Shouxiang, were university graduates in the 1950s, who later became senior engineers. In the project, they were appointed leader and deputy leader of a group of technical trouble shooters. Last November, a fault more than



**Having a cup of Longjing tea prepared with Luanhe River water.**



100 metres long in the rock halted the tunnelling. Li Ruihuan sent Shi and Zhu to the work-site and lend technical guidance.

Their careful investigation enabled them to work out a new plan under which safe tunnel-

ling could continue despite the massive fault. By slowing down the work pace, the tunnelling actually progressed quicker, and the people of Tianjin could brew their famous-brand tea in clear water at last.

## Sample Survey of Birth Rate of China's Population

**T**HE State Family Planning Commission recently announced the results of the 1982 nationwide survey of the birth rate in 28 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions (excluding Taiwan and Tibet).

The survey randomly selected 815 sample units with equal probability, utilizing the address codes of the third national census (July 1, 1982), and taking rural production brigades and urban neighbourhood committees as basic units. It employed stratified, systematic and cluster survey sampling methods.

The total sample numbered 1,017,574 and included 310,485 women between the ages of 15 and 67. A full 99.99 per cent of these women (310,462) responded to the survey questionnaire.

The reference time was zero hour, July 1, 1982, but the actual investigation began on Sept. 1, 1982 and was completed within half a month.

The survey was conducted by 3,676 people, 94 per cent of whom had at least a middle school education. They received both theoretical and practical training at provincial centres. The investigation received support and concern from Party and government leaders at various levels, as well as from the minority nationalities.

A cross-check showed that the rate of error was 1.07 per thousand. After post-enumeration check and modification, the data were tabulated and the acceptable rate was 998.3 per thousand. The sample survey findings were basically the same as the results of manual tabulation of comparable items in the third national census. The following are survey results:

**Women of child-bearing age.** A total of 252,094 women between 15 and 49 responded to the survey, 24.77 per cent of the total survey population. Women in this group who also were married made up 16.98 per cent of the total survey population. Married women of child-

bearing age (excluding post menopausal and sterile women) constituted 15.65 per cent of the total. Among the women of child-bearing age a large proportion, or 24.76 per cent, were unmarried teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19. This means that in the next five years, an average of 12.3 million young women annually will become 20, old enough to marry under Chinese law.

Among the women of child-bearing age surveyed, 93.36 per cent were of Han nationality and the rest were national minorities.

**Marital status.** Among the women of child-bearing age, 31.46 per cent were unmarried, 64.53 per cent were in first marriages, 2.89 per cent were remarried, 0.19 per cent were divorced but not remarried and 0.94 per cent were widows. These figures show two special features of the women's marital status: First, most women marry before the age of 35, and the percentage of women who remained single all their lives was very small. Second, marriages were stable; only 4.49 per cent of the married women of child-bearing age were divorced or remarried.

**Marriage age.** The average age of first marriage was 18.4 in the 40s, 19 in the 50s, 19.8 in the 60s, 21.6 in the 70s, and 23 in the late 70s. The trend towards later first marriages which began in the 1940s was slightly reversed after the enforcement of the new Marriage Law in 1982. In 1981, the average age for a woman's first marriage was 22.8.

**Wedding months.** The peak months for weddings were January, February, May and October in cities and towns, and October to February in the rural areas.

**Child birth.** The average number of births, or the aggregate birth rate, was 5.44 in the 40s, 5.87 in the 50s, 5.68 in the 60s and 4.01 in the 70s. The rate dropped to 2.75 in 1979, 2.24 in

1980 and 2.63 in 1981. After liberation in the 50s and 60s, living standards improved and the economic and social life of the nation stabilized, but the population was not brought under control. The aggregate birth rate rose as high as 7.50 in 1963. Family planning was widely publicized in the 70s, and the aggregate birth rate dropped quickly, but the rate rose slightly in 1981. At the time of the survey, the rate was higher than the optional 2.1 and was still rising.

The survey shows that women in the survey who were 50 years old have given birth to an average of 5.62 children, women who were 55 averaged 5.65 births, women aged 60 averaged 5.42 and women aged 67 averaged 5.15.

**Birth months.** The survey found births occurred most frequently from September to December, October being the peak month with 9.94 per cent of the annual births.

The average births per thousand child-bearing age women was 85 in 1981, 81 for Han nationality and 130 for national minorities.

**Birth control measures and couples with one-child certificates.** The survey found that China had 170 million married child-bearing age women and that 118 million or 69.46 per cent used birth-control measures. The most commonly used form of contraception was the intrauterine device, used by 50.2 per cent of the couples who used contraception; female sterilization was the choice of 25.4 per cent of those reporting contraceptive use; male sterilization, 10 per cent; oral contraceptives, 8.2 per cent; and condom, 2 per cent.

Among the married women, 30.54 per cent used no birth control, including 21 million (12.22 per cent of the married women) who should be participating in the population control drive.

The survey found that 33 million couples had one child only, among them 14 million couples or 42.3 per cent has officially committed themselves to maintaining a one-child family.

*(Based on the Communique of the State Family Planning Commission)*

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*(Continued from p. 19.)*

liberation, whenever imperialist powers wanted to carve up China and occupy Chinese territory, they would fabricate "popular opinion" in support of their aggression. This happened in many parts of China. Having a fresh memory of this tactic, the Chinese people will not be taken in, nor will they tolerate it again.

It can be seen from the above analysis of three aspects of the question that the Chinese Government's decision to recover the Xianggang area in 1997 is in full accord with international law whereas the British opinion clinging to the colonialist position and attempting to perpetuate British occupation of China's Xianggang area is in violation of international law. Such British opinion is not only unacceptable to the Chinese side but, also objectionable to fair-minded world opinion, even to men of insight in Britain. A typical example is Senor Jorge Illueca, Vice-President of Panama, who said: "Hongkong is part of the territory of China. The three treaties going back to the 19th century on which Britain rests its case are contrary to international law

because they were unequal treaties. They were never accepted by the people of China." A British commentator in a TV programme openly criticized the attitude of some British officials on Xianggang as "lacking common knowledge of history." A commentary carried in *New Statesman* points out that "Hongkong is a wholly anachronistic relic of bygone colonial age," and that "a quiet transfer of sovereignty back to China is the only sensible Hongkong policy." Many similar opinions can be found.

We hope that the British Government will heed these just and wise voices, understand the changed times, abandon anachronistic and illegal arguments, co-operate with the Chinese Government in friendly negotiations for a satisfactory solution of the Xianggang question, so that the historical trauma in the relations between the two countries may be healed and friendly relations promoted. This will be in the British as well as Chinese interests. Moreover, a smooth settlement of the Xianggang question will help maintain the prosperity and stability of Xianggang and also serve the development of international economic relations and peace in the Far East and the world as a whole.

## OPINION

### *Old term with new meaning*

AS a united front organization, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) acts like a political party, said Sun Qimeng, member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC. The policy of maintaining "long-term coexistence and mutual supervision" in the relations between the Chinese Communist Party and the democratic parties was put forward by the late Chairman Mao Zedong in 1957 in his essay *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People*. As China now enters a new historical stage and the focus of the Party's work shifts to socialist modernization, this term has acquired a new meaning.

With the disappearance of the exploiting classes on the mainland, the democratic parties have now become a political alliance associated with specific segments of China's socialist workers and patriotic socialist supporters. The meaning of "mutual supervision" has consequently undergone major changes both in content and in form. The fundamental change lies in the definition of the mutual supervision which under the new historical conditions now means supervision among the working people themselves. This is one clear indication of the fact that the relationship between the CPC and the democratic parties is one of advancing together through mutual co-operation

towards common goals, rather than one of antagonism.

"Treating each other with all

sincerity and sharing weal and woe" represents the essence and needs of the times, which is a new content added to the phrase "long-term coexistence and mutual supervision" for the new historical period.

— "Renmin Zhengxiebao"  
(The CPPCC Paper)

### *About extra-budgetary investment*

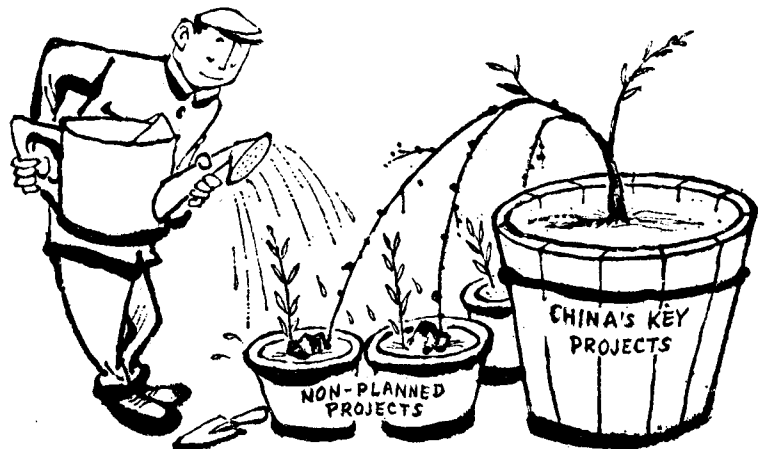
SHIJIE Jingji Daobao (*World Economic Herald*) suggests that present capital investments are out of control with a capital accumulation rate that exceeds 30 per cent. The crucial problem is that the nation's key projects are being hurt by the fact that extra-budgetary investments are out of control, and funds are being dispersed to many minor projects. Our first task now is to cut back on non-essential investments and concentrate the use of funds so as to guarantee the construction of the key projects.

The proposals advanced are as follows:

(1) The revenue of the Central Government, which at present only makes up 26 per cent of national income, should be increased by 3 to 5 per cent, and that local units and enterprises which now keep higher shares of their income should adjust their shares accordingly.

(2) Competent authorities at all levels should seriously examine and control the investment plans of all their subordinate units to make sure that all investments will bring economic results.

(3) The banks should re-examine the feasibility of invest-



ment plans and should have the power to veto such plans.

(4) Enterprises may use a certain proportion of the interest from uninvested bank deposits to set up welfare and reward funds. Money invested in fixed assets and operating funds should be subject to a fund use tax and the profits and taxes produced by every one hundred

yuan should not be lower than those produced before investment. Investment funds provided by bank loans will be charged extra interest rates.

(5) Residential housing should be commercialized.

(6) The statistics methods must be reformed as soon as possible. In accounting, the value of products exchanged

should be listed as their output value so as to eliminate false or disguised costs.

(7) Laws and regulations concerning responsibilities in investment must be carefully formulated so that those who violate them can be punished.

— "Shijie Jingji Daobao"  
(World Economic Herald)

## LIFE

### *Gap between rich and poor narrows*

A SURVEY of 38 production brigades implementing the contract system of responsibility for production that links payment with output in the Shanghai suburbs shows that the income gap between rich and poor families has narrowed in the past few years. In 1978 high-income households had 3.6 times the income of low-income families; this figure decreased to 3.1 in 1982.

A sampling survey of 1,600 families defined families whose per-capita annual income is over 500 yuan in the suburbs and over 400 yuan in outer suburbs as high-income families and families with less than 200 yuan and 150 yuan annual income per capita respectively as low-income families.

Using this definition the percentage of families in the high-income category rose from 15 per cent of the total households in 1978 to 42.7 per cent in 1982 and the percentage of low-income families fell from 21.6 per cent in 1978 to 11.6 per cent in 1982. Average annual income of high-income families rose from 1,622 yuan in 1978 to

2,389 yuan in 1982, an increase of 47.3 per cent; average annual income of low-income families rose from 450 yuan in

1978 to 768 yuan in 1982, an increase of 70.6 per cent.

The survey was carried out by 40 students of the Huadong Teachers University and a branch of the Shanghai Teachers College.

— "Xinmin Wanbao"  
(Shanghai Evening News)

### *Leaders support specialized households*

IF the county Party secretary hadn't backed me, my 6,500 kilogrammes of fish would have been lost long ago," said fish breeder Hu Yingpu.

Hu Yingpu, 56, is a fish breeder in Baishendun production brigade of Huangmei County, Hubei Province. He accepted a contract to breed fish in a 10.6-hectare unused pond last spring and all five persons in his family worked hard to raise 100,000 fish. As winter came, a good harvest was in sight and jealousy grew among some of the villagers who said that all the wealth should not go to him alone. Learning about this the county Party secretary rushed to the brigade. In front of the people of the brigade, he awarded Hu a special prize and said to him, "It is rational and lawful for

you to put all your energy into breeding fish. If you have any problems, the county Party committee is on your side." Provisions to protect the interests of specialized households were laid down.

When someone offered to buy Hu's fish at a high price, Hu refused, saying, "the fact that I can specialize in breeding fish is entirely due to the Party's policy and support from the governments at all levels. Now that I have had a good harvest, I must consider the interests of the country first."

Hu handed over 5,000 kilogrammes of fish to the brigade as specified by the contract and sold 1,500 kilogrammes of fish to the state.

— "Renmin Ribao"  
(People's Daily)

## TECHNOLOGY

### *New way to burn coal*

"China has made an important contribution to the worldwide community of energy engineers in the very vital and important field of fluidized bed combustion (FBC)," said John E. Slater, vice-president of the US McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. Inc. at the First International FBC and Applied Technology Symposium.

The symposium, held in Beijing last month, was attended by more than 100 experts from 17 countries including Britain, Canada, Egypt, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, the United States and China.

FBC is a new technology for burning coal, particularly low-grade fossil fuels such as gangue, oil shale and coal mine refuse. Since petroleum is often in short supply and the world's reserve of low-grade coal is plentiful, more and more countries have turned to this technology.

China ranks third in the world in both reserves and production of coal, much of which is low-grade. It began experimental research on FBC in 1964 and developed its first fluidized bed boiler (FBB) the next year.

China now boasts more than 2,000 fluidized bed boilers, mainly used in industrial production, heating and power generation. Although it has not been in wide use long, the FBB has already demonstrated its superiority. Apart from saving high-grade coal for other uses,

it uses less steel than other boilers in manufacturing and causes less air pollution. Furthermore, its slag can be used for producing cement, bricks and other building materials. Take Tangshan's experience as an example. In 1977 when fluidized bed boilers were not used, its 18 fertilizer plants used 3.4 tons of coal in producing one ton of ammonia, and they lost 8.195 million yuan. The situation changed dramatically when 28 fluidized bed boilers were introduced in 1982. Only 1.77 tons of coal could produce one ton of ammonia, and they gained a profit of 8.252 million yuan. The quality of the product went up 10 to 15 per cent while the production cost dropped 5 to 10 per cent.

Professor Feng Junkai of Qinghua University explained at the symposium that China's FBBs are used for burning various kinds of fuel. Apart from anthracite and bituminite, most of the fuels have heating values ranging from only 1,000 up to 3,000 kilocalories per kilogramme. Some even contain 60 to 70 per cent ash or 50 per cent water.

The combustion efficiency of China's FBBs varies from 65 to 95 per cent and the boiler efficiency varies from 50 to 87 per cent, the professor noted. The maximum diameter of the fossil fuel burnt by the FBB can be as large as 50 mm. It thus makes it possible to burn brown coal, which usually forms lumps of 25 mm diameter while burning.

The symposium heard 40 papers, of which 13 were presented by Chinese participants.

## AGRO-SCIENCE

### *Secret of armyworms' winter survival*

Chinese agro-scientists have discovered how harmful armyworms survive the winter. The pests, like many birds, migrate from north to south every year, and back again. This discovery, the result of 30 years' study, helps scientists predict with 90 per cent accuracy the migration and population levels of the armyworms.

The armyworm is a grain pest which causes harm worldwide. At their worst, armyworms can eat an entire crop in two or three days.

Scientists in north and northeast China set out in the early 1950s to study the living and reproduction habits of the armyworm. They found that with the use of fertilizer and closely planted crops, farmlands became moister and also more attractive to the armyworm. But the worms kept their secret of winter survival. The scientists investigated farmlands, pastures, mountains, forests, islands, caves, bird's nests, vegetable cellars, eaves and grass stacks in the afflicted areas in the north, but couldn't unravel the mystery.

But finally, data from all over the country proved that the pests flew south of the 0°C/January isotherm (the line between Qinling Mountains in Shaanxi Province and the Wenxian County in Gansu Province) every winter. Further study pinpointed their winter homes in Guangdong and Fujian Provinces and Guangxi Zhuang

Autonomous Region. In April and May they migrate to the Huaihe and Changjiang river basins, and move further northward to the three provinces in northeast China in June and July. In August they begin to move southwest and then to Hubei, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi and Fujian in September and October.

It boggles the imagination to think such a small moth can fly a thousand kilometres. In the early 60s the scientists, with the help from 22 units, marked a total of 2 million moths on 17 occasions in 15 counties and cities. They lured them with a mixture of sugar, wine and vinegar, and released them after marking. Then they organized local stations in the eastern part of the country to recatch them. In the following three years 12 marked moths were caught. The shortest distance from a marking site was 600 kilometres and the longest 1,400 kilometres.

By the mid-60s, the scientists were clear about the laws governing the worm reproduction, winter survival and migration in

the eastern part of the country. But the study had to stop in the turmoil of the "cultural revolution." In the last few years, they have continued their study in western China and finally they proved: 1. There is no armyworm in Xinjiang in the west, or in western Tibet and Qinghai. The afflicted areas in the northwest, southwest and in northeast suffer from the second generation of armyworms. 2. The armyworms in the western part of the country also live south of the 0°C/January isotherm in the winter. 3. The pests mainly drift along the atmospheric currents. 4. Armyworms in the northwestern, southwestern and northeastern parts of China are from the first generation of those in the Huaihe river and Changjiang river basins. The third generation of armyworms in north China come from the northeast and northwest.

Armed with these facts, scientists have concentrated their efforts on the Huaihe river and Changjiang river basins, the area plagued with the first generation of armyworms, and worked out a high-efficiency

pesticide which is non-toxic to the pest's natural enemies, humans and animals.

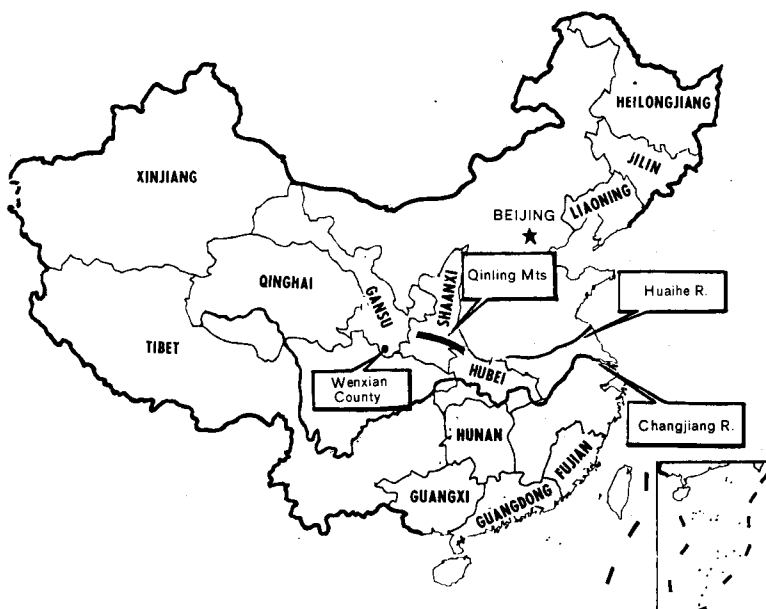
## MUSIC

### *Beethoven and the Central Philharmonic*

For five days this past August Beethoven held the limelight in Beijing. In concert halls, on the air and on the TV screen, music lovers were overwhelmed with the musical range of his nine symphonies. This was the first time all his symphonies had been performed together in China, and also the first time the 27-year-old Central Philharmonic Society had played them all.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) lived during the time of the French Revolution. He never abandoned his concern for the freedom and dignity of the individual, though he was disillusioned time and again by the feudal regime in Germany. Beethoven believed that to live is to struggle, and that victory is the fruit of contention. Accordingly, he incorporated his times and his concept of human destiny into his music, creating nine great symphonies. These works embody his intense emotional experience; from struggle to victory, from darkness to light, from hardship to jubilation.

The Central Philharmonic Society was made responsible for introducing Beethoven to the Chinese audience. Set up in 1956, it was nurtured on Beethoven's symphonies from the start. Within a year it had staged Beethoven's Sixth (Pastoral) Symphony in Beijing and Tianjin. In 1957, a conductor



and four wind instrumentalists from France rehearsed the orchestra. Meanwhile some of the promising musicians were sent abroad to improve. All these efforts soon paid off with a fairly good orchestra.

That same year, China's top conductor, Li Delun, returned from a study tour of the Soviet Union. He has stood on the orchestra's podium ever since. His fluent conducting combined with his thorough understanding of Beethoven have enhanced the musicianship of the Central Philharmonic Society. Li not only directed the orchestra in Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, but also collaborated with Yan Liangkun, Han

Zhongjie and Chen Xieyang, popular Chinese conductors, in staging other Beethoven symphonies.

On the 10th anniversary of New China in 1959, the Central Philharmonic Society was ready to successfully perform the exacting Ninth Symphony of Beethoven along with the Dresden Orchestra. It had reached its maturity in playing Beethoven.

But the beginning of the "cultural revolution" in 1966 cast a horrible shadow on the burgeoning orchestra. The music of Beethoven and many other Western classical composers was banned. They might

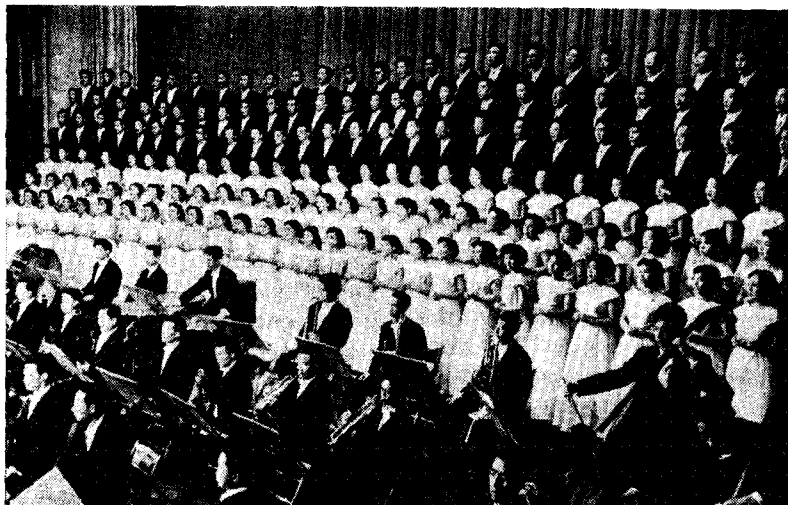
have been totally forgotten but for the downfall of the gang of four in 1976 and the 150th anniversary of the maestro's death in 1977, when they reappeared where they should — musicstands.

In the past few years, the Central Philharmonic Society has focused on Beethoven's symphonies, under the aegis of foreign musicians. The world famous conductor Seiji Ozawa came four times to direct the orchestra in Beethoven's symphonies No. 5, 7 and 9. The orchestra co-presented Symphony No. 7 with the Berlin Philharmonic, under the baton of Herbert von Karajan. French conductor Jean Perisson and American conductor Gilbert David were invited as long-term guest conductors, and Yehudi Menuhin and Issac Stern also rushed to help. These enthusiastic foreign musicians have helped the orchestra improve considerably.

The success of the orchestra is attested to by the fact that Editions Printemps Musical, a French music publishing house, has recorded Beethoven's nine symphonies as performed by the Central Philharmonic Society.

Daniel Guichard, founder of the house, said he was going to distribute the recording in France, Belgium, Switzerland and Canada this coming October.

Inspired by Beethoven's symphonies and helped by foreign musicians, the Central Philharmonic Society has emerged as a first-rate orchestra after 20-odd years of relentless hard work. However, all 119 members, novices and veterans alike, are not prepared to rest on their laurels while they still have room for improvement. And last month, applause from the audience spurred them on.



The Central Philharmonic staging Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in 1959.



The Central Philharmonic in last month's serial performance.



# LETTERS

## "Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping"

I liked the article "Suggestions on the Drafting of the 'Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People's Republic of China'" (Nos. 30 and 31) by Deng Xiaoping because it gave an insight into how this important document was formulated.

I would like to see more on Chinese political economy along the lines of the article "A Brief Introduction to Sun Yefang's Economic Theory" in issue No. 24.

The contents, layout, illustrations and charts have improved a lot since the "cultural revolution."

**J. Martin L. Clarke**  
London, UK

## Relations With Other Communist Parties

The article "Principles Governing Relations With Foreign Communist Parties" (issue No. 17) interests me greatly because we must establish that the element of mutual respect is vital in discussing crucial world problems. In my opinion it is an important step and we should seek the way to discuss the problems with all

the Communist organizations in the world, regardless of the leanings of these organizations.

I like the other articles as well. I think that your magazine is very important, but you should publish more documents on the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.

**Eugenio M. Medina A.**  
Barranquilla, Colombia

## The Development of Yunnan Province

I read the article "Yunnan: A Multinational Frontier Province" with great interest (issue No. 29).

In early 1945, I was an engineer in the northern part of Viet Nam. Because of the war, I reached China after passing through many different places. I was warmly welcomed by local Chinese people. Then I came to Yunnan Province and stayed for nine months. I travelled all the places bordering Viet Nam in the southern part of the province. After the defeat of Japan, I came to Kunming.

I admired the beautiful mountains, got along well with the local enthusiastic peasants and savoured various kinds of delicious fruit. At that time I took a great interest in the local mineral deposits and geology. I came to realize

how rich the area was in mineral resources. I called it "worldwide," meaning there was more than China herself needed. But transport was a problem. At the time there was only a railway with limited transport capacity to Hanoi. From then on, I have been very aware of the vital importance of communication and transport. For this reason, I submitted my written report to the Chinese authorities and suggested the building of highways and railways. Because of the development of events, I was afraid my report might be thrown into the wastepaper basket.

When I knew from your article that China would build a new railway and some highways, I heartily rejoiced at the news. In fact, in such a beautiful country with rich natural resources, only by building more communications lines and docks for import and export can you attain prosperity and your people live a happy life. These will be good measures for the governments of all socialist countries.

My stay in your beautiful country and my amicable relations with your people will always remain in my memory.

**Auguste Bernard**  
Quissac, France

## China's Shipbuilding Industry

We found your article on shipbuilding in China ("Sailing Into the International Market," issue No. 20) well documented and interesting.

However we are surprised to find on page 23 (6th paragraph) that when writing about classification societies the author mentions only Lloyd's Register by name; the other classification societies such as Bureau Veritas, being called only the proper organizations of France, Norway, etc.

As a matter of record Bureau Veritas (international classification for ships and aircraft — head office in Paris) was the first international classification society to have signed a mutual technical inspection agreement with the People's Republic of China Register of Shipping.

**J.C. Pennaneach**  
Xianggang (Hongkong)

## Chinese Documents

### The First Session of the Sixth National People's Congress

- Report on Government Work
- Report on 1983 Plan for Development
- Report on 1982 Final State Accounts
- New Government Leadership

Distributed by **China Publications Centre** (Guoji Shudian),  
P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

*Wash Paintings by  
Yang Zhiguang*



Zhongshan County.



Fishing Girl.



An Old Overseas Chinese.



Folk Artist.

Thanks to his early training, 53-year-old Yang, now dean and associate professor of the traditional Chinese painting department of the Guangdong Fine Art Institute, brushes the characters of his portraits in poetic strokes and endows them with an oriental charm.

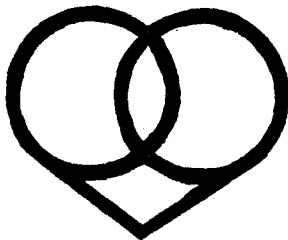
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# ANNOUNCEMENT

June 2, 1983

*To publishing houses and writers in Taiwan:*

The "Friendship" Publishing Corporation announces a special publishing service to suit the needs of overseas Chinese, compatriots in Taiwan, Hongkong and Macao. We are publishing works previously printed in Taiwan to introduce some of your material to our readers on the mainland. We will select, publish and circulate the material since we cannot make publishing contracts directly with you. And we will provide remuneration to the authors, which can be received by the authors' relatives or friends in Hongkong or on the mainland, or deposited in the Beijing branch of the People's Bank of China until withdrawal can be arranged. We ask your pardon for measures taken due to circumstances leading to our inability to post, telecommunicate and circulate money between the involved parties.



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