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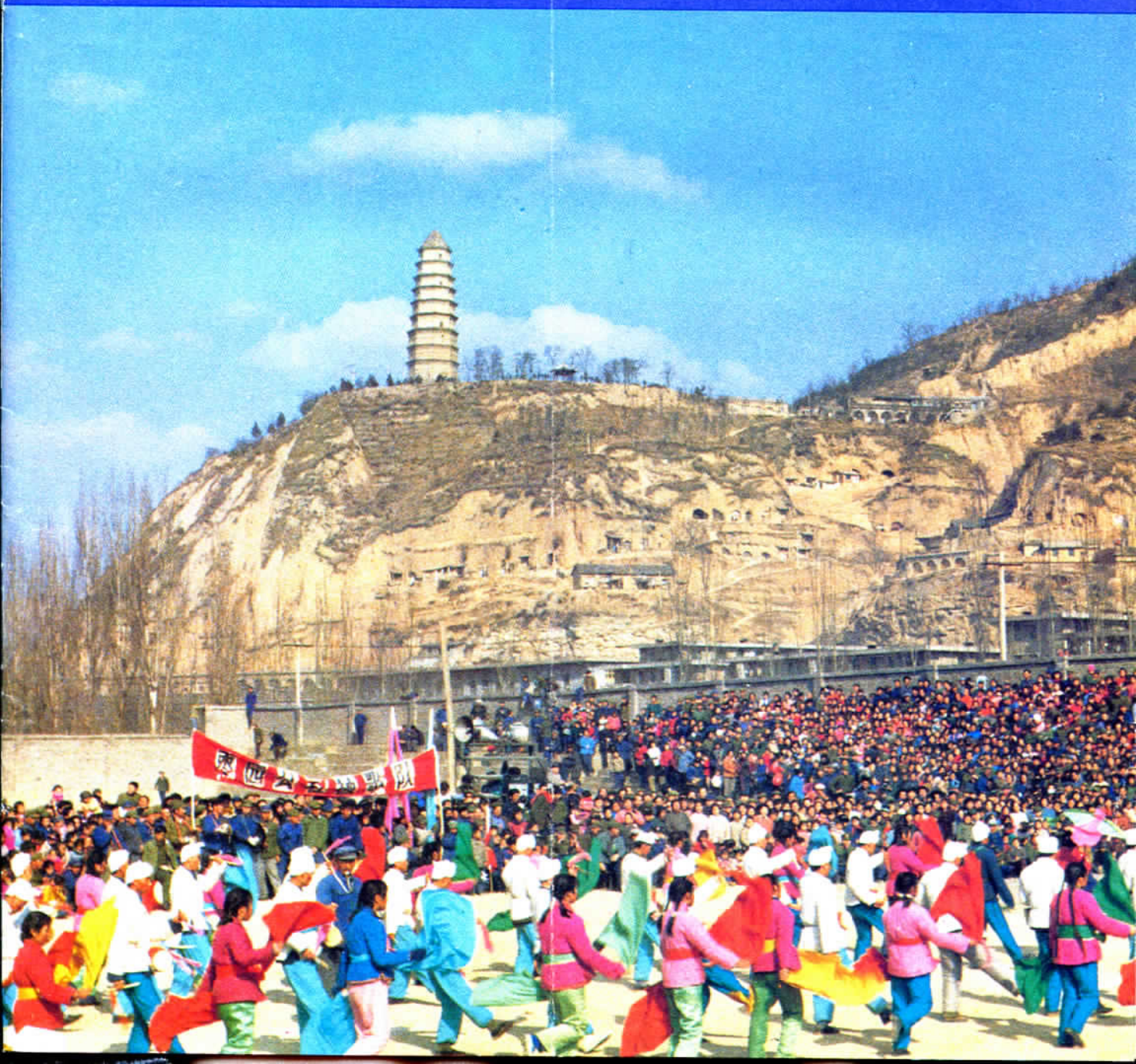
February 20, 1984

BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

- National Economic Achievements in 1983
- Shaanxi: Cradle of Chinese Culture & Revolution



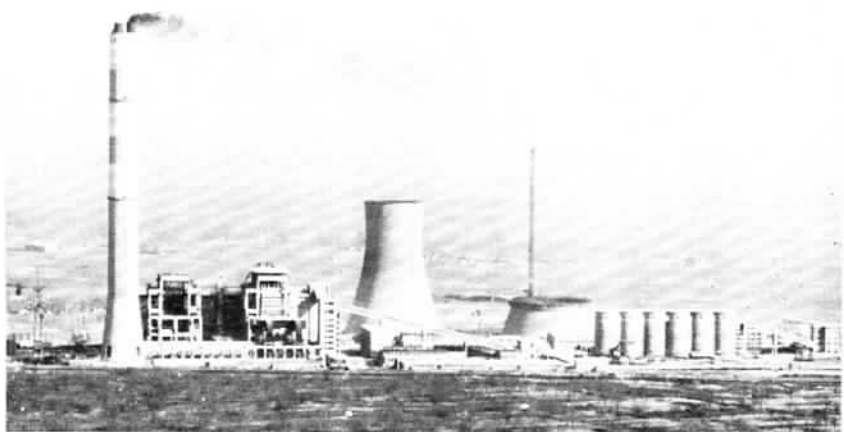


Yanan, an old revolutionary base, takes on a new look.

SPOTLIGHT

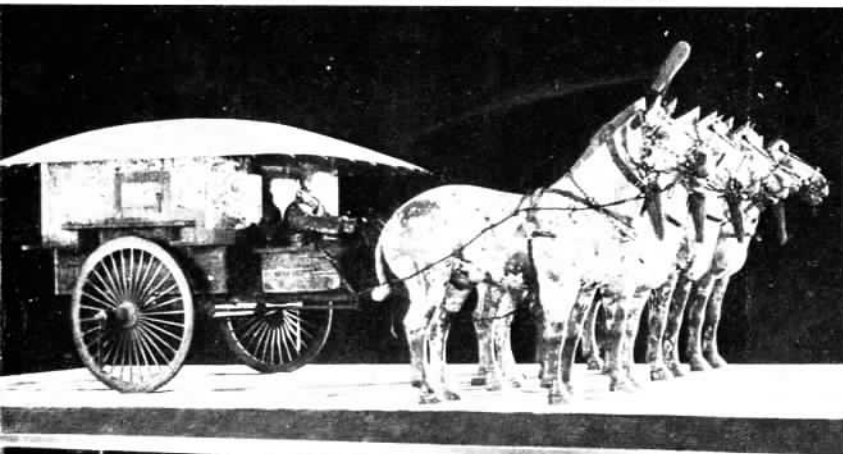


Wheat is being harvested on a state farm in the central plains of Shaanxi Province.



An exterior view of the Qinling Power Plant in Shaanxi Province.

The large coloured bronze horses and cart excavated from the Tomb of Qin Shi Huang.



A workshop corner in the Shaanxi Colour Kinescope Plant.



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COVER: The people of Yanan enjoy "Yangge" dancing, in the shadow of the Pagoda Hill, to celebrate another rich harvest.	

In the late 1940s "Yangge" dancing became very popular as the PLA advanced southward.

Photo by An Keren

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Economic Roundup for 1983

Preliminary figures for 1983 show record harvests, brisk markets, industrial growth, increased foreign trade, and a strengthening of key construction projects. Problems, however, still exist, including a disproportionately large scale of capital construction, slow growth in the energy sector, and inadequate transportation facilities (p. 14).

Shaanxi Province: Past and Present

This special report on Shaanxi Province traces its history from the tribal settlements 6,000 years ago to the colour television picture tube factory today. A distinguished revolutionary heritage adds to the brilliant ancient culture. The place where Mao Zedong once grew vegetables beside his home is now alive with modern industry and agriculture (p. 21).

Australian Prime Minister Visits China

During his six-day visit to China, Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke repeatedly stressed the importance of good relations between the two countries. Both he and Premier Zhao Ziyang discussed further development of economic and other co-operation as well as the international issues (p. 8).

Further Protecting the Environment

Despite some progress China has made in environmental protection, industrial pollution is still spreading from cities to the countryside, and the ecosystem is endangered by worsening soil erosion, indiscriminate deforestation and desiccation of grassland. Forceful measures have been adopted to tackle these problems and ensure a clean, well-balanced environment for one quarter of humanity (p. 4).

New Party Document on Rural Work

The Party Central Committee's recent circular on rural work in 1984 says the period of land contracts should be extended to 15 years and peasants should be encouraged to invest more in the land and run various rural enterprises with their own funds. This decision has strengthened the peasants' confidence in taking the road to prosperity (p. 6).

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Environmental Protection to Be Tightened

by XIN LIN
Social Editor

AT the Second National Conference on Environmental Protection, which closed last month, protecting the environment was declared to be a basic state policy and an important task in the ongoing modernization drive.

The conference called on state departments and governments at all levels to place environmental protection high on their agendas as a vital issue concerning the people's fundamental interests. Only by making ceaseless efforts can China basically control environmental pollution, restore the ecological balance and create a desirable environment in both urban and rural areas by the end of this century.

Environmental pollution, which is a major problem the world and particularly the developed countries face today, is a big challenge to China's socialist construction. This being the case, apart from vigorously developing its industry, agriculture, national defence and science and culture, China must also appropriately solve its population and environmental protection problems.

For a long time after the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, we lacked a correct understanding of the population problem, which resulted in the overgrowth of our population. It was not until the 1970s that we began to tackle this problem by enforcing family planning.

Similarly, we did not give due attention to environmental protection. If we continue to ignore this

problem, environmental pollution and damage to the ecological balance will, like the population problem, land the nation in a difficult position.

Since the First National Conference on Environmental Protection in 1973, an environmental protection network has been set up throughout the country, with some good results, particularly in recent years.

Protecting the environment is both a basic state policy and a major task in the modernization drive. Vital to the people's fundamental interests, it should be put high on the agendas of state departments at all levels.

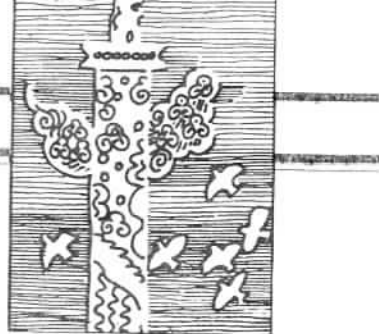
More than 80 per cent of the 167 seriously polluting enterprises cited by the state in 1979 have already been dealt with. More than 11,000 polluting enterprises have been closed, merged or removed. Work to control soil erosion is under way on 410,000 square kilometres, or 34 per cent, of the country's 1.2 million square kilometres of land with erosion problems. Water pollution has also been reduced. Pollution caused by oil and heavy metal over large areas of the Bohai and Huanghai Seas has been brought basically under control. The monthly amount of dust falling on Shanghai has dropped from 48 tons per square kilometre in 1979 to 28 tons now.

But, environmental pollution and ecological imbalance are still getting worse in some regions, because many localities and departments have not paid enough attention to this work. Urban industrial pollution is spreading to towns and rural areas, and indiscriminate felling of trees and the desiccation of grasslands continue.

In view of this, the Chinese Government has decided to adopt forceful measures to gradually eliminate environmental pollution and improve the people's living conditions. They include:

— Ensure the simultaneous development of economic construction and environmental protection. Environmental protection measures should be included in all plans concerning the nation's immediate or long-term economic and social development, and no effort should be spared to ensure their implementation.

— Combine the prevention and control of industrial pollution with enterprises' technological transformation. Currently, because our scientific and technological level is not high, and the equipment and techniques of many enterprises are backward, many of our valuable resources have not been exploited but discharged as waste gas, water and slag. The various enterprises should, through technological upgrading, promote multi-purpose utilization of raw materials and reduce the discharge of these wastes, so as to achieve better economic results and protect the environment. Rural commune- and production brigade-run enterprises causing serious pollution should be cleaned up within a fixed time. Some will be shut



down and some switched to make other products.

—Combine environmental protection with the rational tapping of agricultural resources. Each locality should develop its farming, forestry, fishery or livestock breeding according to its own conditions, so that agricultural resources can be used rationally and the ecological balance maintained. Emphasis will be put on developing pesticides with low toxic residue to limit chemical pollution. Chemical fertilizers should be applied rationally and the use of night soil as fertilizer should be maximized.

—Strengthen management. In many places, environmental pollution is linked to poor management. Good results can be attained through better management. Urban noise control is one example.

—Tighten up laws and regulations. The Constitution of the People's Republic says, "The state protects and improves the living environment and the ecological environment, and prevents and remedies pollution and other public hazards." The Chinese Government has already published the Environmental Protection Law and the Law on Marine Environmental Protection. Ten more such laws and regulations, including the Law on Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, the Law on Prevention and Control of Air Pollution, are being drafted or have been submitted to the authorities for approval. These are part of the efforts to build up a complete system of environmental protection laws and regulations. □

LETTERS

Opposing Ideological Pollution Is Very Important

Your article "Opposing Ideological Pollution" in *Beijing Review* (issue No. 44, 1983) was particularly good in presenting the reasoned statement of Comrade Deng Xiaoping regarding "ideological pollution," which is undoubtedly a concomitant of opening the People's Republic of China to the Western bourgeois world. The insidious poison of the so-called liberal "lifestyle" of constant self-indulgence in all the weakening cultural elements like free sexual acting out, disregard for social authority, widespread divorce and broken homes with neglected children, demoralized youth who neither attend school nor work, use of alcohol and drugs, and pessimism and suicide instead of social service to the people—all this offers a powerful destructive temptation to youth everywhere. Strong counter-measures are vital to the socialist state.

John P. Briggs
Massachusetts, USA

Chinese Women Intellectuals

It was rewarding to read another one of your fine pieces of writing, your article "Women Intellectuals Advance" (issue No. 48, 1983). The last three paragraphs were especially admirable. You get to the essence of problems while remaining concrete and practical. You obviously have Marxism in your brain and wield it as skilfully as a surgeon uses a scalpel in her hand.

C. Andrews
California, USA

"China and the World" Series Commended

Please accept my thanks for your sending me the *China and the World* and *China Today*. Now, during my vacation I am reading, studying and discussing them together with my friends. Information such as provided by *China and the World* will be of greater significance instead of becoming out of date.

I like to read your publications, and always learn a lot from them. The experiences of the Chinese people are very instructive for all

who have faith in socialism. I study them because I believe one day our people will also build a new society. The stress on the development of socialist ethics is one of the important prerequisites to the people's victory.

With this objective, I have attentively studied your series *China and the World*. I have no intention of becoming a sinologist, still less to become your judge or prosecutor.

I have learnt many good things from your book series. The articles about North-South dialogue and South-South co-operation are very near our reality. Little by little our countries will become conscious of the need to confront inequality, which is not only unjust but also anachronistic, and of the need to strengthen our unity and co-operate insistently, not only in the economic field but also in judicial, diplomatic and other areas. As you have pointed out, the countries want independence, the nations want emancipation and the peoples want liberation. The articles in the series are very useful in these respects.

I am also interested in the articles in *China Today*. I was astonished to read the title "Couples Mark Separation With Divorce Pictures." I never imagined you could publish such a report. I have a lot to learn from life, socialism and especially from you. The report is very exciting from beginning to end. I wish the couple happiness until the end of their lives after so many tests and sacrifices. And I wish such things as unreasonably and wilfully attaching labels to people would never recur. Although we have not arrived at these extremes, we have had some unhappy experiences in this respect.

The whole world knows that China has a fine tradition of respect for the elderly, and now this fine tradition has been resumed. I am interested in such reports. The photo of the reunion between Deng Yingchao and Rong Guankui, two veteran revolutionaries (in "From Youth to Retirement"—Ed.), moved me deeply. I am sure it will renew the determination of many people to carry on the revolution.

M. Bernal R.
Bogota, Colombia

Party Document on Rural Work

Not long after New Year's Day, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party issued a "Circular on Rural Work in 1984," the third one since 1982. Its issuance reflects the consistent thinking of the Central Committee in giving priority to agricultural production, and has inspired new confidence in the rural peasants.

The circular affirmed the rural policies and principles of the last two years and formulated work plans and policies for the new year. It pointed out the main tasks in 1984 are to raise productivity, unplug the channel of circulation and develop commodity production, on the basis of stabilizing and improving the production responsibility system.

To stabilize and improve the responsibility system, the circular said, it is necessary to help peasants enlarge their production scale and better their economic results. The period of land contracts should be extended to 15 years, and peasants should be encouraged to invest more in the land to enrich the soil, and to run various rural enterprises with their own funds.

A system serving commodity production should be established to satisfy the peasants' demand for techniques, funds, supply and sales, transportation and market information, the circular stressed.

As specialized production develops, more and more peasants will separate themselves from farming and engage in forestry, fishery and livestock breeding or small industry and service trades. It is therefore necessary to develop the fodder, food, building materials and small energy industries, according to the plan.

The circular has aroused strong reactions from the peasants. In recalling economic development in rural areas, the peasants said the circulars issued since 1982 have strengthened their confidence in taking the road to prosperity. The first circular in 1982 showed them the road to getting rich. The second in 1983 led them down this road and the latest will dispel their misgivings about getting rich. They are full of confidence, especially upon hearing the contractual period for land has been extended to 15 years. Some peasants said they would apply a lot more fertilizer to their contracted land. Others thought their plans for this year's production were too conservative, and revised them according to the circular.

The supply and marketing cooperatives also decided to reform their system. As a supplement to the state economy, the collective and individual economies are allowed to enter the market. To

facilitate commodity circulation, cold storage and warehouses are also being built and transportation and communications developed with both state funds and money raised by the collectives and individuals. The credit cooperatives, the financial organizations in rural areas, will shift the emphasis of their work on to serving the peasants.

Students' Heroic Deeds Commended

Chinese youths and college students were encouraged recently to emulate 100 army medical students who rescued tourists in danger on Huashan Mountain in Shaanxi Province, ignoring their own safety.

Huashan Mountain is a scenic spot, known also for its precipitous narrow path.

On May 1, 1983, when a dozen holiday makers fell from an 80-degree cliff on the mountain, the

A silk banner is presented to the student rescuers by Deng Liqun, Member of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee.



medical students, who were among the crowd, blocked their fall with their own bodies, and kept them from plunging further down the steep, narrow path, in spite of the danger to themselves.

At another cliff, the steps were so crowded that part of the protective iron chain came off, and the students formed a human chain to safeguard tourists.

Some other students gave first aid to four seriously injured tourists, and carried them down the mountain to a hospital.

A rally was held on January 24 in Beijing to commend those students of the army medical college and other young people. At the rally, young people were given two questions to think over: How should one correctly deal with the relationship between individuals and society and the masses? What is the correct way to live?

He Dongchang, Minister of Education, said the mountain rescue showed that the tradition of the Chinese youth movement is being carried on into the present. The students' heroic deeds were the result of their education in college in the spirit of serving the people and in communist morality, he said.

New Set of Key Projects

Fifty-seven construction works have been chosen as key state projects for 1984. Together with another 66 key projects still being completed from last year, they will be given priority in capital, materials, equipment and labour, according to the State Planning Commission.

Of the 123 large and medium-sized key construction projects, 47



The Yantai Synthetic Leather Factory in Shandong, one of last year's 70 key construction projects, now completed.

are for energy, 33 for communications, 28 for raw and semi-finished materials and 15 for science and light and textile industries.

Upon completion, these projects will strengthen the weak economic sectors of energy and communications and expand the production capacity of raw and semi-finished materials, thereby ensuring the fulfilment of the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85) and preparing necessary material and technical conditions

for the economic development in the 1990s.

During this period, China will undertake 890 capital construction projects in all. Eighty-seven big and medium-sized projects and 111 single-item projects had been completed by the end of last year.

The state is determined to limit the construction of those projects outside the state plan. So far, 5,000 non-key construction projects have been cancelled or postponed, saving 2 billion yuan.

Australian Premier Visits China

Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke, in China on an official visit at the invitation of Premier Zhao Ziyang, has said his country appreciates the importance of good relations with China.

At a banquet in Hawke's honour on Feb. 8, Zhao said that Sino-Australian relations and co-operation will deepen and widen every year. Hawke's visit will give new impetus to the stable and sustained development of friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries.

In his speech, Hawke said

Australia and China have important and substantial links.

These relations, he said, are based on Australia's acknowledgement of China's important role in the region and the world and on its recognition that a substantial relationship with China should be central to its foreign policy.

The two leaders held two rounds of talks in a cordial and sincere atmosphere. Zhao again called on the United States and the Soviet Union to stop their nuclear arms race. He said China feels uneasy about the continued escalation of



Prime Minister Robert Hawke and his wife at the welcoming ceremony.

the nuclear arms race between the two superpowers, who should greatly reduce their nuclear weapons.

China supports all proposals and actions that help ease the world situation and safeguard world peace and stability, Zhao said, but it is critical of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty for being discriminatory against other countries.

Nevertheless, he said, China will not take an irresponsible attitude towards nuclear proliferation. He reiterated that China neither approves nor encourages nuclear proliferation and that it will neither engage in nuclear proliferation nor help other countries develop nuclear weapons.

Hawke said that Australia and China share common views on many international issues and their bilateral relations have become an important part of Australia's foreign relations.

Hawke said his government supports the proposals for the establishment of a South Pacific non-nuclear zone and an Indian Ocean peace zone.

Referring to the Asian situation, Zhao said the resistance forces in Kampuchea are growing in strength; their guerrilla activities are expanding. Unity in the Coalition Government is increasing. The entire situation is developing in a manner more favorable to the Coalition Government headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

"Once Viet Nam has committed itself to a total withdrawal of its troops from Kampuchea, made a public announcement to this effect, and pulled out the first group of troops, we will discuss with other countries, including Viet Nam, a complete, fair and reasonable solution to the Kampuchean issue," Zhao said.

Hawke said that although Australia and China differ in their emphasis on the Indochina issue, they share identical views on certain basic issues such as denunciation of Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea.

He said that Australia's refusal to co-sponsor a UN resolution on the Kampuchean issue last year may have caused some misunderstanding. But this misunderstanding was later cleared up following

talks with countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea is a prerequisite to peace, Hawke said, and Australia hopes that Kampuchea will become free, independent and neutral.

The two leaders also discussed the situation on the Korean peninsula. Zhao said that China supports the proposition made by President Kim Il Sung of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to establish a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo in which both the south and the north can keep their existing political systems. "This appears to be the only feasible solution," Zhao said.

He said China does not recognize the south Korean regime or approve of the proposition of cross recognition, "for this is against the will of the Korean people and will be of no help to the reunification of Korea."

Zhao expressed pleasure at the Australian Government's efforts to help China expand its exports. He said China is likewise working to expand bilateral trade. It is not, however, demanding an absolute balance of trade, but simply a reduction of China's deficit in Sino-Australian trade and an increase in its volume.

Zhao responded positively to Hawke's proposal for multi-form co-operation in the metallurgical industry. The two leaders also agreed that the two countries can intensify co-operation in agricultural and other fields.

Hawke said Australia wishes to establish a complementary relationship with China and attaches great importance to expanding trade with China. Australia has formulated a plan to promote Chinese exports to Australia and is ready to offer assistance in market surveys and consulting.

On Feb. 8, President Li Xiannian and his wife, Lin Jiamci, met with the Australian Prime Minister and his wife, Hazel. When meeting with the Australian guests on Feb. 11 in Shanghai, Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Central

Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, said he accepted with pleasure Prime Minister Bob Hawke's invitation to visit Australia. The date of the visit will be decided through diplomatic channels, he added.

ing Committee of China's National People's Congress expressed deep condolences to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on Feb. 11 over the unfortunate death of Yuri Andropov, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

Premier Zhao on Asian Issues

Premier Zhao Ziyang met a group of Australian reporters on Feb. 9 in Beijing and answered their questions about Viet Nam, Kampuchea and Korea.

Viet Nam. There can be no dialogue between China and Viet Nam before the Vietnamese commit themselves to withdrawing all troops from Kampuchea and actually begin to do so, Zhao said.

He dismissed as a rumour and white lies the Vietnamese authorities' allegations that China and Viet Nam had begun a dialogue through certain channels and that Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach "hugged" Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian at the United Nations headquarters. "This is sheer fabrication," Zhao said.

Kampuchea. Asked about changes in China's position since Australian Foreign Minister William George Hayden's visit to China last year, when the two sides agreed to disagree on the Kampuchean question, Zhao said, "We have all along maintained that China and Australia are by and large agreed on the Kampuchean issue. Both condemn Viet Nam's aggression against Kampuchea, demand the pullout of all the Vietnamese troops there, and hope that Kampuchea will regain its independent, neutral and non-aligned status.

"Our views are different on certain specific points, although we start from the same position. I believe our mutual understanding is being enhanced through frequent

contacts and consultations. The specific differences will not affect the two countries' co-operation on the main aspects of the Kampuchean and Vietnamese issues."

Zhao also said that although China does not want a dialogue with Viet Nam, this does not mean that China objects to other countries' talks with Hanoi.

"I said to Foreign Minister Hayden that I did not believe in God," the Premier said. "I said to him, 'If, thank God, you could persuade Viet Nam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea through dialogues, it would naturally be a wonderful thing. But, I just don't believe you can.'"

Korea. Zhao said the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's proposal for tripartite talks is reasonable.

Since the United States has troops stationed in south Korea, the United States should participate in the talks, Zhao said.

"China has not thought about participation in talks, and the DPRK has not suggested our participation," the Premier added.

Condolences on Death of Yuri Andropov

President Li Xiannian of the People's Republic of China and Chairman Peng Zhen of the Stand-

The joint message of condolences said, "President Andropov had expressed on several occasions his desire to improve Sino-Soviet relations. It is the sincere desire of the Chinese Government to see relations between the two countries normalized." These relations, the message said, "have improved in recent years, conforming to the fundamental interests of the peoples of both countries. We hope that through their joint efforts, the relations between China and the Soviet Union, two big neighbouring countries, will be further developed."

A Chinese government delegation led by Vice-Premier Wan Li left Beijing on Feb. 13 to attend Andropov's funeral in Moscow. Before boarding the plane, Wan Li told reporters that "China and the Soviet Union are two great neighbours. Their peoples are two great peoples who enjoy a traditional friendship. There exists a number of obstacles in the way of improving our bilateral relations because of one reason or another. Consultations are in progress between our two countries. It is our hope to remove these obstacles through further consultations so as to normalize our bilateral relations. This will serve the interest of our two peoples and will also contribute to world peace."

On the same day Ulanhu, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China, and other leading officials called at the Soviet Embassy in Beijing to extend condolences over the death of Yuri Andropov.



Civilians fleeing from a war-shattered section of Beirut.

Lebanon

Situation Becomes Complicated

by CHEN JICHANG and
ZHOU GUOMING

THE recent resignation of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and three other ministers is the latest step in the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon, following earlier indications that a peaceful solution was possible for the country.

After last November's National Reconciliation Conference, attended by leaders of the Lebanese Government and various factions, the situation had appeared somewhat encouraging, with signs of conciliation seen. In January, Syrian-US relations appeared slightly improved after Syrian President Hafez Assad decided to release an American pilot at the request of visiting US Democratic presidential aspirant Jesse Jackson. Later, through the mediation of Saudi special envoy Rafiq Hariri, the various factions signed a security plan intended to end the

fighting. The situation thus appeared to have hopeful prospects.

It soon took a turn for the worse, however. Engaging in a battle of words, rival factions blamed one another for aggravating the situation. The security plan became deadlocked. Recently fierce fighting broke out in the suburbs of Beirut and the Shouf Mountains between government troops and Phalangist militia on the one side and opposition groups on the other.

At the same time, diplomatic efforts by other countries met with setbacks. The foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia held three rounds of talks on the situation without any results. The special US presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld recently visited the Middle East, but made no progress in improving the Lebanese situation.

The deteriorating situation reflects the major differences be-

tween those parties concerned. The Lebanese Government holds that the most important tasks are to carry out the security plan, resume the next Geneva Reconciliation Conference and set up a coalition government consisting of representatives from various parties. Only by doing so, it says, can Lebanon ensure security and stability. President Amin Gemayel has not yet expressed clear-cut views about the future of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement signed last May.

The opposition factions, which are supported by Syria, insist that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement be denounced and that Israeli and Western troops be withdrawn from Lebanon. They demand an overall political reform, arguing that the security plan cannot be carried out before a political solution is realized. The opposition factions also want Gemayel to resign.

The United States continues to support Gemayel. Washington advocates that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement is the best means to eventually bring about the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

To the south of Lebanon, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said that Israel will never agree to dissolving the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. Observers believe that the dispute over the agreement is the major hurdle in settling the Lebanese issue.

With a presidential election coming near, the Reagan administration, eager to extricate itself from its difficulties in the Middle East, is looking for new ways to settle the Lebanon issue. It has become more and more deeply involved in the Lebanese crisis both politically and militarily. Although US President Ronald Reagan or-

People's Anti-War Movement

FIFTY thousand Israelis demonstrated in Jerusalem on Feb. 5 to demand withdrawal of troops from Lebanon and an end to the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

This outcry from the Israeli people shows their strong opposition to aggression and expansion, and their burning desire to live in peace with the Arab people. It also demonstrates how the situation in Israel is deteriorating.

Israel's invasion of and prolonged presence in Lebanon have brought disastrous consequences to the Lebanese people, kept up the tension in the Middle East and

brought profound suffering to the Israeli people.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir obstinately persists in his expansionist policy, adding to his people's burden. The war of aggression in Lebanon is draining Israel's labour force, materials and financial resources every day, and is the direct cause of the deepening economic crisis and growing feelings of resentment among the Israeli people.

Regardless of Israel's economic difficulties, the Shamir regime is trying hard to establish more Israeli settlements on the West

Bank of the Jordan River, blocking the Palestinians from restoring their national rights.

However, the massive demonstration in Jerusalem shows that the Shamir regime's policy of aggression and expansion is becoming increasingly unpopular.

The Israelis' attitude towards the Middle East question is very important. More and more Israeli people have condemned their government's hostile policies towards the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Arab countries. The steady awakening of the Israeli people is bound to speed up internal changes in Israel, and the mounting anti-war movement will have a positive and far-reaching effect on the situation in the Middle East.

dered the withdrawal of marines from Beirut to US warships off the Lebanese coast, US warships bombarded Syrian and Lebanese Moslem militia positions in the Shouf Mountains.

The Soviet Union has also expressed great concern over the Lebanese issue. Walid Jumblatt, President of Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, was invited to visit the Soviet Union not long ago. Soviet leaders said repeatedly that the Lebanese issue is of primary importance to Soviet interests in the area, and that Moscow will certainly not stand by with folded arms. It is reported that Moscow has promised to provide the Lebanese opposition factions with sophisticated weapons.

Indeed, the Washington-Moscow rivalry over the Lebanese issue is the root cause for the deteriorating situation.

Saudi special envoy Hariri has renewed his mediating efforts, shuttling between Beirut and Damascus. President Gemayel has

called for a ceasefire between the various factions and the formation of a new democratic coalition government. He has also suggested that the next Geneva Reconciliation Conference be held

on Feb. 27 and has called for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon. But these goals will not be easily realized while the various factions remain on a war footing.

Vientiane Meeting

Harping on the Same Old Tune

by REN YAN

NOTHING new has come out of the Hanoi-manipulated meeting of foreign ministers from Viet Nam, Laos and the puppet regime in Phnom Penh held in Vientiane Jan. 28-29.

A communique issued by the meeting repeated the call for a dialogue with ASEAN countries, but it made no mention of the key issue — Vietnamese withdrawal from Kampuchea.

The communique stated that the

only way to solve the present problem in Southeast Asia is through dialogue between the ASEAN members on the one side and the "three Indochinese countries" on the other. "All other approaches can only lead to tension and deadlock," it said.

The Vientiane meeting proposed negotiating an agreement of principle on relations with ASEAN countries and negotiating with Thailand on establishing a security zone along the Kampuchea-Thailand border. In order to gain

ASEAN's acceptance of such a dialogue, the communique said the proposed agreement can be subjected to "international guarantees and supervision" and that the Heng Samrin regime can be excluded, with Viet Nam and Laos representing all three Indochinese countries.

The communique stressed that the past 40 years in Southeast Asia have shown that all invasions of the Southeastern countries were conducted by outside forces, making no mention of whether or not the invasion of Kampuchea five years ago was conducted by outside forces.

This fully proves that the Vietnamese authorities are still up to their old tricks, attempting to attribute the tension in Southeast Asia to the outside, shirking their responsibility and legalizing their occupation of Kampuchea.

The Vietnamese authorities have set out five possibilities for the future of the ASEAN countries and China. Quoting Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach's words, the first four are dialogues between the ASEAN countries, Indochinese countries and other countries, between China and Indochinese countries, between Thailand and Indochinese countries and between the ASEAN and Indochinese countries.

The final possibility for the future is that if the settlement of the disputes does not conform to the Vietnamese proposal, these disputes only get worse, leading further to a situation which cannot be controlled. China will probably make use of this to provoke a big war in Southeast Asia, the communique said. By this, the Vietnamese mean these countries should quickly abandon the issue of Kampuchea and negotiate with Viet Nam. All these are old tricks, and present nothing new at all.

Why have the Vietnamese authorities showed these scraps of paper and rotten sesame seeds as fine and fresh, urgently trying to sell them all? It seems merely a cover for Viet Nam's new dry-season attack on Kampuchea. However, the battle is going badly there for

Viet Nam these days. The resistance forces of Democratic Kampuchea kept attacking Kompong Thom and Siem Reap. This is a sign. It is better for the Vietnamese authorities to stop making false history and get out of the quagmire of Kampuchea as soon as possible.

Britain

Seeking Better East-West Relations

by LIANG LIJUAN

BRITAIN'S Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to Hungary on Feb. 2-4, her first to an East European country as prime minister, is being seen as part of a general British effort to improve East-West relations.

During her stay in Hungary, Thatcher met with First Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Janos Kadar and talked with Hungarian Premier Gyorgy Lazar. They discussed how to ease East-West tensions and promote the US-Soviet talks on nuclear disarmament and their bilateral relations. In an interview with reporters, Thatcher said the talks were "frank, valuable and constructive." Neither side put forward any new proposals or strayed from their different stands on reducing nuclear weapons, but they both expressed their views, which has furthered mutual understanding. The political atmosphere of their talks was positive and forward-looking.

At the banquet given in her honour on Feb. 3, Thatcher stressed that countries with different systems may and must peacefully coexist. Lazar pointed out that Thatcher's visit proved that talks were possible in the present strained situation, but he again mentioned the Soviet concern over the US deployment of new missiles in Western Europe and said the

Warsaw Pact was compelled to take counter-measures. At a press conference, Thatcher said she hoped the Soviet Union would return to the Geneva negotiating table as quickly as possible, but this could not change the practical deployment of cruise missiles and Pershing-IIs in Western Europe. She said the process of improving East-West relations "will be a slow one," and one should not pin too much hope on each step.

Since Thatcher took office in 1979, she has strongly supported US President Ronald Reagan's hard line towards the Soviet Union. She has expelled Soviet diplomats and journalists from her country several times, and has been proud to be called the "Iron Lady," a name given her by the Soviet press. However, she has not always agreed completely with the United States. When President Reagan asked British and other West European corporations not to sell US technology to the Soviets for the Siberian gas pipeline in 1982, Britain rejected this. Thatcher supported NATO's 1979 decision to modernize nuclear missiles in Western Europe, but when Reagan's "zero option" to remove all nuclear weapons in Europe was rejected by the Soviet Union, she urged him to put forward another reasonable interim proposal. Britain has also expressed obvious dissatisfaction over the US invasion of Grenada.

According to the British press, Thatcher decided to attend Soviet President Yuri Andropov's funeral, continuing her tentative initiative to thaw East-West relations through greater contact. Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Markovich Kornienko was originally scheduled to visit Britain last year, but he cancelled this visit when the Soviet Union shot down a south Korean airliner. Some observers predict that Britain will again invite him to visit.

Some observers have connected Thatcher's attempts to increase her influence in the international arena with her preparations for a third term as prime minister. This

has some basis. On Jan. 30 she discussed policy for the next general elections with a few senior advisers to the Centre for Policy Studies.

The tense atmosphere prevails in Europe because of the rivalry over nuclear missiles between the two superpowers. The people in West European countries, including Britain, are longing for improved East-West relations and easing the strained international situation.

Although Thatcher's visit to Hungary has made no major breakthroughs, her trip has helped ease the continually strained situation.

which threaten the economic recovery, a record trade deficit and serious unemployment will all trouble Reagan during his campaign. Workers, women and minority groups also have been protesting his policies.

Despite his repeated contention that American defence capabilities and international standing have been reinforced, Reagan has also been criticized for the lack of progress in disarmament talks, strained US-Soviet relations and US military involvement in the Middle East and Central America. Many people feel the increasing tension, and are worried that Reagan's policy may lead to war.

If anything unforeseen happens concerning these controversial issues, it will exert a great influence on the competition between the Republican and Democratic candidates. It is widely believed that since the economy is recovering, foreign policy issues will come to the fore in the Nov. election.

The Democratic Party's campaign for the nomination has been going for a year. Eight candidates are fighting it out, with former Vice-President Walter Mondale emerging as the front runner in public opinion polls in and out of the party, followed by Senator John Glenn of Ohio and black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson. As the presidential campaign develops, the Democrats will act jointly against Reagan.

Because of these challenges, Reagan and his aides dare not take the campaign lightly. James Baker, Chief of the White House staff, said Reagan's competition with his Democrat rivals is going to be tough, and he must be well prepared. Soon after Reagan's announcement to run, his cabinet members headed by Vice-President George Bush, Republican leaders in Congress and other Republicans started campaigning.

United States

Reagan Seeking Re-election

by YU ENGUANG

THE US presidential campaign went into full swing as the incumbent President Ronald Reagan announced on Jan. 29 that he will run for a second term in the November national election.

The announcement came as no surprise. As things stand, his preparations for re-election got off the ground last spring. And since he endorsed the setting up of the Reagan-Bush '84 Committee on Oct. 17, numerous volunteers have set out to drum up support for his second term in office at the grassroots level.

Reagan's Jan. 16 speech on foreign policy and especially on US-Soviet relations, his recent State of Union Address and his latest announcement are seen as the "trilogy" of his presidential campaign.

Reagan begins his campaign with the great advantage of the present economic recovery. Last year, US industrial production increased 6.5 per cent. The annual inflation rate fell to 3.2 per cent. The economy

is expected to continue to pick up this year, although the pace will probably slow down. This is the outcome of periodic fluctuations in the Western economy, but it is natural that people attribute the recovery to Reagan's policies. Previous presidential elections show that the domestic economy plays a key role in the election of an incumbent president.

Reagan's popularity in the polls has now risen, and even overtaken that of his Democratic rivals. Yet he still faces a tough campaign, as he is confronted with serious and difficult issues both at home and abroad.

First of all, he must face up to criticisms of some failures in the economy. He had promised to balance the federal budget by 1983 when he took office three years ago. But now the deficit is nearly US\$200 billion a year, four times what it was three years ago, and it is widely expected to rise even higher in the future. Forty million Americans are living below the poverty level, and nearly 10 million are jobless. High interest rates,

China's Economy: Achievements in 1983

With rising agriculture and industry, a robust market and better living standards, the picture was one of the best after liberation. The upturn will continue through 1984

by ZHANG ZHONGJI

NINETEEN eighty-three was the third year of China's Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85) and also one of the best since the founding of the People's Republic. The economy developed fairly smoothly and there was increased political stability and unity. The gross output value for industry and agriculture as well as the output of more than 30 industrial and agricultural products—including grain, cotton, crude oil, pig iron, rolled steel, chemical fertilizer, power-generating equipment, motor vehicles and walking tractors—reached the goal set for 1985 in the Sixth Five-Year Plan, two years ahead of schedule.

Agricultural Records

In 1983, China's total grain output was about 380 million tons, 26 million tons more than in 1982, a

year of bumper harvest in itself. Cotton output reached 4.5 million tons, an increase of 25 per cent from 1982, when it rose 21.2 per cent. Big developments were also witnessed in the diversified economy in the countryside and in the peasants' domestic sideline occupations. The annual agricultural output value exceeded 270,000 million yuan, 5 per cent more than in 1982. (This figure, like all others in this article, is based on 1980 constant prices.) The output of oil-bearing crops, cured tobacco, jute and bluish dogbane declined slightly, the result of restrictions on the growing area to compensate for the over-rapid growth and large inventory build-up in the past few years.

Despite damage to farmland from natural calamities, including floods and drought, which affected about 40 million hectares, there was still a rich harvest as a result

of the responsibility system. This system, which links remuneration with output, has been widely introduced in the rural areas.

In recent years, the responsibility system, under which households sign contracts, has been popularized in crop cultivation and begun to be introduced to forestry, animal husbandry, fishing and various sideline occupations. At present, a number of peasant families who have acquired the necessary technology, education and managerial skills have rapidly developed into specialized households engaged in commodity production or in service trades for agricultural production. The number of such households has reached 24.8 million, or 13 per cent of all households in the countryside. They can sell 70 to 90 per cent of their products to the state. The amount of agricultural and sideline products sold to the state by a single specialized household is often more than that sold by an entire production team in the past. For instance, specialized grain-producing households in Yichang Prefecture, Hubei Province, account for only 7 per cent of all households there. However, they fulfilled 55 per cent of the purchasing quota set by the state for the prefecture in 1983.

With the continuous improvement of the responsibility system, the peasants have become more confident that they can prosper through labour. They have made full use of their surplus labour force and funds to expand production. More people have bought

The author is Deputy Head of Comprehensive Statistics Department of the State Statistical Bureau.

Grain harvest on a state farm in Xinjiang.



draught animals, farm machines, chemical fertilizer and improved strains of crops, and have studied scientific knowledge even more conscientiously. In 1983, retail sales of means of agricultural production reached 42,800 million yuan, an increase of 10.2 per cent over 1982, of which the sales of motors for agricultural use increased 27.8 per cent and walking tractors 49 per cent. The supply still falls short of demand. Fine crop varieties and new technology have been adopted. For instance, the area sown with hybrid rice, maize and sorghum has increased to more than 20 million hectares. Moreover, plastic sheets are being used on 600,000 hectares for a greenhouse effect. Both these efforts have achieved marked results in raising output. In addition, progress has been made in breeding new varieties of crops, making mixed fodder, applying fertilizers scientifically and controlling crop diseases and pests.

Industrial Results

In 1983, China's total industrial output value reached 614,700 million yuan, an increase of 10.2 per cent over that in 1982. Of that, the output value of light industry was 305,100 million yuan, up 8.4 per cent from 1982, and the output value of heavy industry was 309,600 million yuan, up 12.1 per cent. Annual targets for the 100 major products listed in the state plan, except those for cotton yarn, cotton cloth, radios and large tractors, the production of which was controlled, were fulfilled or overfulfilled. The output for 87 of them went up from 1982. (See the table.)

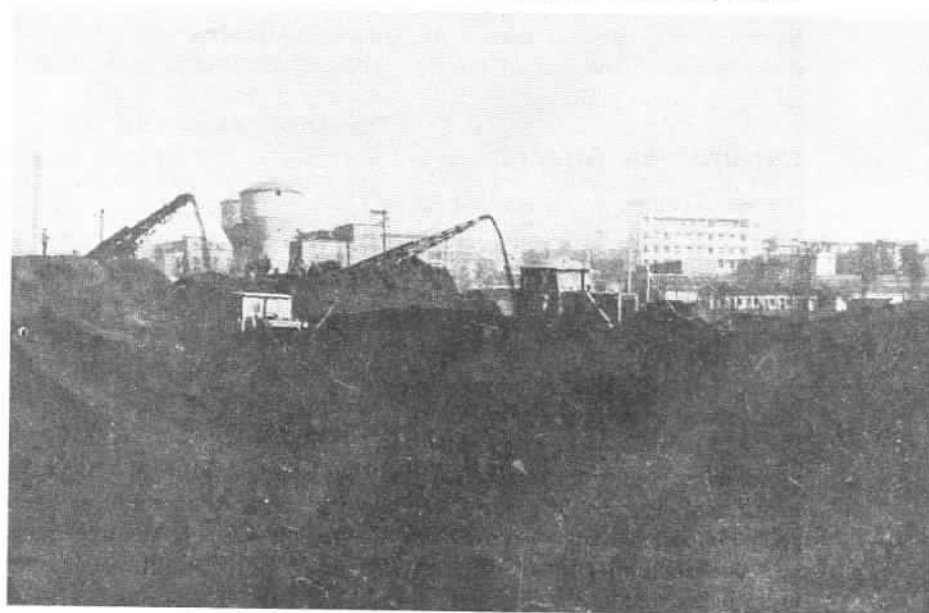
The economic results of industry improved. In 1983, profit and taxes handed over to the state by state industrial enterprises rose by 6.2 per cent over that in 1982 and their losses fell by 34.6 per cent. Profits earned by petrochemical, iron and steel, and machine-build-

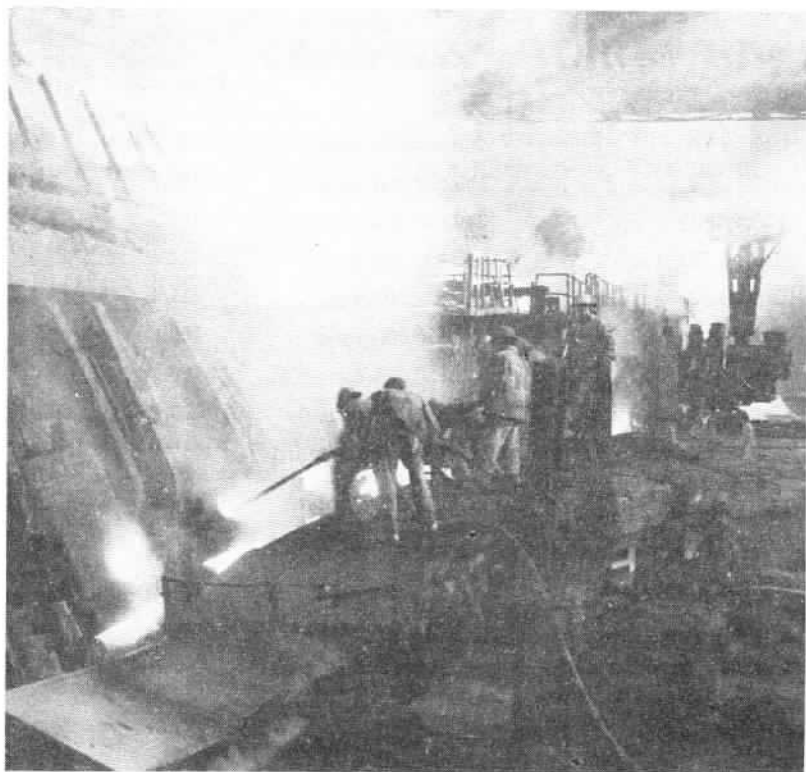
Item	Output in 1983	Fulfilment of Annual Plan (%)	Increase over 1982 (%)
Coal	700,330,000 tons	104.5	5.1
Oil	105,990,000 tons	106.0	3.8
Electricity	349,300 million kwh	403.3	6.6
Rolled Steel	30,690,000 tons	114.9	5.7
Chemical Fertilizer	14,030,000 tons	111.8	9.8
Sulphuric Acid	8,650,000 tons	108.1	5.8
Caustic Soda	2,130,000 tons	106.4	2.6
Cement	106,440,000 tons	115.7	11.8
Plate Glass	40,780,000 standard boxes	120.0	15.0
Machine Tools	118,000	126.3	18.4
Generating Equipment	2,728,000 kw	109.1	65.8
Walking Tractors	478,000	491.0	60.1
Yarn	3,290,000 tons	99.9	-2.0
Cloth	14,860 million metres	103.9	-3.2
TV Sets	6,820,000	134.8	9.9
Tape-Recorders	4,810,000	207.3	38.6
Washing Machines for Household Use	3,640,000	107.1	43.8

ing industries all surpassed historical highs. In the past, light and textile industries paid attention only to increasing output. Now they have shifted their attention to quality. Fiercer competition on

the market compelled enterprises to work harder to improve quality, increase the variety of products and reduce costs. In 1983, more than 5,000 new varieties of products, 50,000 new specifications in

Mechanized mining has been achieved in the Shigejie Coal Mine, Shanxi.





• In a workshop of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company.

total, were developed. Some have been put into serial production.

The transportation and communications departments have introduced new technology and adopted measures to tap their potential. In 1983, rail freight transport increased 4.5 per cent from 1982, rail passenger transport rose 6.3 per cent, and shipping freight transport rose 3.6 per cent. All three surpassed the annual targets set by the state plan.

Construction Strengthened

From January to November in 1983, total investment for capital construction earmarked by units owned by the state was 45,500 million yuan, an increase of 10.8 per cent over the same period in 1982. In terms of investment structure, the proportion of state budgetary investment increased. The proportion of total investment for energy, transport and communications, and post and telecommunications — all key areas for economic development —

increased from 30 per cent in 1982 to 38 per cent in 1983. This is a satisfactory achievement in implementing the principle of concentrating funds to guarantee key projects.

A number of large and medium-sized projects have been completed and put into production. As a result, the country's production capacity of coal, crude oil, natural gas and electricity, as well as its railway, highway and seaport handling capacity, has risen by different degrees. In particular, the completion of the Beijing-Qinhuangdao doubletracking railway one year ahead of schedule and the construction of the 234-kilometre-long project diverting water from Luanhe River to Tianjin in 16 months were valuable experiences in speeding up the construction of key projects.

At the same time, China has strengthened the technical transformation of its existing enterprises. Last year, the state spent 30,000 million yuan on the techni-

cal transformation and equipment renewal of the old enterprises. This has played a positive role in increasing production, cutting costs, raising the level of technology and improving transportation and communications.

Brisk Market

The increase in agricultural and light industrial production in the past few years has ensured an ample supply of goods to the market. While full play has been given to the leading role of state-owned commerce, energetic support has also been given to developing collective and individual commercial undertakings. In 1983, the total volume of retail sales reached 284,000 million yuan, an increase of 10.5 per cent over 1982.

Improvement of living standards has brought about a bigger demand for high-grade commodities. Except for fish and other seafood, the sales of all foodstuffs increased. For instance, sales of pork increased 3.6 per cent compared with 1982; fresh eggs, sugar, cigarettes and liquor 8.6 to 13.2 per cent; and edible vegetable oil 14.7 per cent. As a result of the adjustment of prices for textile products, the sales of pure cotton cloth declined by 22.2 per cent compared with 1982, while the sales of woollen, silk and chemical-fibre fabrics went up by 11.6 to 40.3 per cent. Since the beginning of winter, the sale of down-padded and acrylon-fibre-padded clothes has been extremely brisk. The supply of electric household appliances, including colour TV sets, two-way four-speaker tape-recorders, floor fans and high-quality washing machines has fallen short of demand. With the development of workers' education and peasants studying science and technology, the sales of stationery, textbooks, as well as popular science books have increased remarkably.

Urban and rural fairs were

doing well. In 1983, the total number of such fairs increased to 46,000 from 44,775 in 1982. Their total volume of sales reached 40,000 million yuan, 15 per cent more than in the previous year.

Foreign Trade

Initial statistics show that the total volume of China's imports and exports in 1983 was US\$43,660 million, an increase of 4.9 per cent over 1982. Of that figure, the volume of exports was US\$22,330 million, the same as in 1982, and the volume of imports was US\$21,330 million, 10.6 per cent more than in the previous year. There was a favourable balance of US\$1,000 million.

New developments were also made in absorbing foreign funds. In 1982, China had 83 joint ventures with Chinese and foreign investment. In 1983, the number increased to 188. The "Regulations for the Implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Joint Ventures Using Chinese and Foreign Investment," which was promulgated on Sept. 20, 1983,

contain some stipulations regarding favourable treatment for such ventures in marketing, taxation and foreign exchange control. It will further promote the development of joint ventures using Chinese and foreign investment. In 1983, the various departments and localities

The economic upturn in 1983 was achieved by implementing the principle of readjusting, restructuring, consolidating and improving the national economy and the policy of opening to the outside world and invigorating the domestic economy.

signed contracts for 200 joint ventures with foreign firms. The Chinese Government signed loan contracts with foreign governments or international financial organiza-

tions to the tune of US\$1,330 million.

At present, China has set up 42 companies to undertake projects in more than 40 foreign countries and regions. They have signed contracts for the construction of power stations, highways, bridges and houses.

Living Standards

According to a sample survey of peasant households, the average per-capita income for peasants in 1983 exceeded 300 yuan, an increase of 12 per cent over the 270 yuan in 1982. Thanks to jobs provided to more people and wage increases for some workers and staff, the total income for urban workers and staff went up by 7.7 per cent, compared with a year earlier.

At present, urban demand for bicycles, sewing machines, radios and wrist watches has reached the saturation point. These goods are also very common in peasant families. More and more people have bought high-quality electric house-

(Continued on p. 20.)

A newly built residential quarter in Tanzhou commune, Zhongshan County, Guangdong Province.



Using Foreign Investment in Agriculture

Foreign funds have been used to accelerate the development of key projects, import advanced technology and equipment for technical transformation and train more specialists

by **LU YUN**
Our Correspondent

CHINA'S ability to utilize overseas funds are highlighted by the analysis of satellite photographs and the successful transfer of frozen milch cow embryo, which filled in previous technical gaps. Other important projects funded through foreign capital include huge land reclamation projects, comprehensive transformation of barren farmland and an increase in urban milk supplies.

Since adopting the policy of opening to the outside world at the end of 1978, China has increased its economic and technical exchanges with other countries. So far, it has economic co-operation and technical exchanges in agriculture with more than 80 countries and regions. It has signed 91 agreements or contracts on aid and 20- to 50-year favourable loans with some United Nations organizations, international financial institutions and friendly countries. Together, these make a foreign fund of US\$606.8 million in grants, technical aid, medium- and long-term interest-free or low-interest loans and direct overseas investments (such as compensation trade, co-operative production and joint ventures). Thirty-eight of these agreements have already been fulfilled, and the remaining 53 are now being carried out. Nineteen of these are contracts to import grain stoving apparatus from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and organize

survey and study tours abroad; 19 agreements are to supply food to Indochinese refugees with the World Food Programme (WFP); 16 are to set up training centres for applying satellite photo inter-

By closely co-operating with the world community, absorbing foreign capital and importing advanced technology and equipment, China has achieved initial results in boosting its time-honoured yet hitherto underdeveloped farm production.

pretation techniques in agriculture and demonstration centres for developing fodder and trial intensive production of livestock with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) also provided two special loans for agricultural development in Hebei Province and the development of the northern grasslands and animal husbandry.

The World Bank and the International Development Association (IDA) granted preferential loans to the first-phase of projects for agricultural education and re-

search, the amelioration of saline-alkali soil on the north China plains and the development of Heilongjiang's grain-producing centre.

China has signed bilateral agreements on aid and loans with Australia, Canada, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the United States.

Through the friendly co-operation of the international community, China has achieved initial results in developing its agricultural production by making use of foreign funds.

Making up the fund shortage and accelerating development of key projects and regions. Drawing on outside support, China has set up the Buzichuan electric irrigation system in Jingyuan County, Gansu Province and completed the first-phase of an electric irrigation system in Gaolan County. It made 5,500 hectares of barren farmland fertile in Xiji County, Ningxia and reclaimed another 33,500 hectares of land. The milk supply problem in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Wuhan, Nanjing and Xian has been basically solved. With the loans from the World Bank, China has reclaimed 200,000 hectares of land in Heilongjiang, transformed another 200,000 hectares of saline-alkali soil in Shandong, Hebei and Anhui, prepared 40,000 hectares of land for rubber plantations and set up processing facilities. Overseas funds account for a considerable share, ranging from 34 to 60 per cent of the total investment in

these large-scale development projects.

Importing advanced technology and equipment and speeding up technical transformation of agriculture. Beijing University of Agriculture has set up a training centre for applying the remote-sensing technology with the aid of the FAO and UNDP. It has imported this kind of technology and sponsored 14 classes to train specialists. The centre also began a general survey of agricultural resources, estimates of crop yield, forecasts of plant diseases and pests, and forecasts of soil salinity and erosion through interpreting satellite photos. Soil surveys have been conducted in five provinces and autonomous regions in this way.

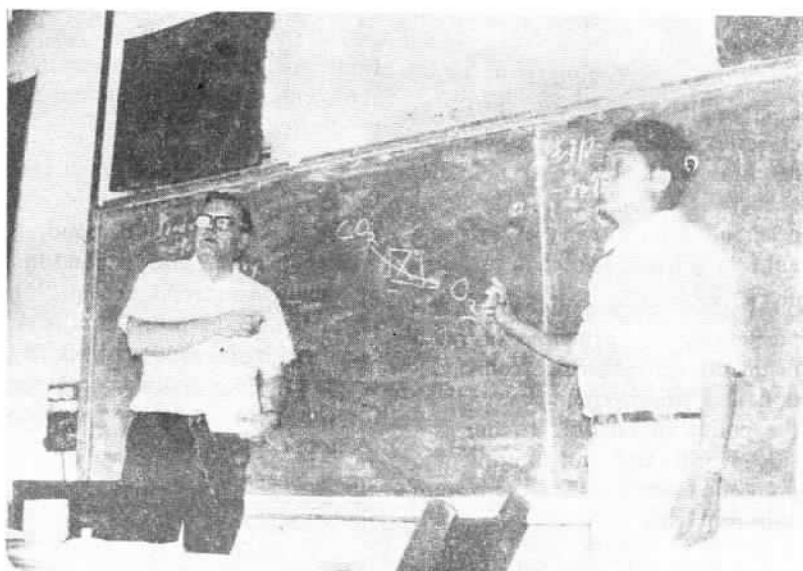
With the help of the UNDP, the experimental centre in Mizhi County, Shaanxi Province, began to make rational use of its land resources on the loess plateau in 1980. It conducted experiments in three tiny valleys, combining biological and engineering treatments, with the emphasis on the first. Trying to become self-sufficient in grain by growing high-yield strains, some farmed areas have been planted to trees, with good initial results.

The Quanjiaou production brigade of Mizhi County is one example. Its ratio of farm to forest to grassland in 1979 was 14.8 to 3.8 to 1. After a preliminary adjustment, it changed to 3.3 to 2 to 1 — far more rational. Per-hectare grain output increased from 1,065 to 2,047 kilogrammes, while per-capita grain went up from 415 to 543 kilogrammes. At the same time, forestry, animal husbandry and sideline production all improved. The brigade's income went up by 73 per cent, with

a 60 per cent increase in per-capita earnings. Proper land use made the area better able to cope with natural disasters. When severe drought hit Mizhi last year, there was a 30 per cent drop in grain production. But in the experimental areas production fell by just 20 per cent. The techniques learnt from this experimentation will help in developing other loess plateau areas.

Most of the imported equipment, also bought with foreign

abroad through technical aid programmes. A number of foreign experts were invited to lecture in China to pass on the technical know-how. The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences sent scientists to Lower Saxony of the Federal Republic of Germany to study embryonic implantation. Upon returning, the Chinese successfully transferred frozen embryos of the German breeding milch cow for the first time.



An American professor (left) lectures on agricultural ecology in Guangzhou.

capital, reached the advanced level of the late 1970s. The Guangzhou and Chongqing chicken farms, which were set up with aid from the Italian Government, helped change the traditional structure of sheds in China. Good-quality equipment will further popularize the import of new technology and materials, and help the farm machine manufacturers replace old machines with new ones.

Training specialists and fully using the potential of intellectuals. In the past few years, 300 specialists have gone to survey and study

The World Bank loans were spent to establish facilities for agricultural education and research. According to the plan, 18 agriculture universities, colleges and research institutes will send 633 people abroad to pursue master's and doctoral degrees or engage in continuing studies. Teaching facilities will be considerably improved, and some new subjects will be added to the curriculum. Enrolment will be increased from 18,350 undergraduates and from 350 to 1,900 postgraduates.

China has only recently begun to use foreign funds for agricultural development. Some big construction projects have just been started, which call for huge efforts to reach their designed capacities and be used to the utmost good.

The leadership in China's agricultural development will, within its ability, continue its active and steady economic co-operation with other countries. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery, the international community is especially welcome to co-operate with

China in the following ways:

— Continue encouraging agricultural education, popularizing research and technology and tapping the nation's intellectual potential;

— Develop agricultural projects in areas with great production potential and in poor areas in urgent need of support;

— Provide sufficient quantities of milk, meat, poultry, eggs and fish for the residents in big and medium-sized cities as soon as possible;

— Strengthen genetic development of seeds to bring forth more high-yield strains;

— Improve farm and sideline product processing and methods of multi-purpose use and speed up the development of the fodder industry;

— Introduce technical reforms in key enterprises and renew equipment and products, open up new areas for agricultural development and strengthen the work in those departments regarded as weak links. □

(Continued from p. 17.)

hold appliances such as TV sets, cassette tape-recorders, washing machines and refrigerators. In the suburbs of Beijing, Shanghai and other big cities, nearly every peasant family has a TV set.

All these were achieved by implementing the principle of readjustment, restructuring, consolidation and improvement as well as the policy of opening to the outside world and invigorating the domestic economy. But there were still problems.

The scale of capital construction was still too big. The growth of the energy industry still fell behind that of the processing industry and this has aggravated the shortage of energy and raw materials that appeared in 1982. The contradiction between economic development and insufficient transport facilities became more acute. With regard to railways, more and more goods were piled up and waiting to be transported. Because of insufficient handling capacity at the country's ports, more and more ships could not be unloaded in time. Consumption funds increased too rapidly. Some enterprises issued excessive bonuses and various kinds of subsidies and this has produced an adverse effect on state

finance. The economic results of some enterprises still left much to be desired.

All these problems have adversely affected the balance between material supply and demand, between incomes and expenditures and between credit receipts and payments. Therefore, China is still faced with an arduous task if it wants to effect a fundamental turn for the better in its financial and economic situation.

Prospects for 1984

A favourable trend of economic development will be maintained in the new year. Economic development in the countryside is on the rise and there is still great potential. Moderate growth will be maintained in industrial production. As the construction of some big and medium-sized projects moves into full swing, investment in capital construction will be slightly higher than in 1983. Foreign trade, especially imports, will see fairly big increases. The national economy as a whole will develop steadily and in a healthy way.

In agriculture, the present policies concerning the countryside and the production responsibility

system will continue to be upheld, and the construction of commodity grain producing centres and commodity production in rural areas will be accelerated.

In industrial production, further attention will be focused on raising economic results. Plans for the technical transformation of key industrial departments and enterprises will be drawn up and carried out.

The scale of capital construction will come under control so as to concentrate funds for the construction of key projects in the energy, transportation and communications industries.

In international economic exchanges, the open policy will continue to be implemented. Advanced foreign technology and things useful to China will be imported in a planned way.

In 1984, China will continue to increase its efforts to bring about a comprehensive balance in the national economy, improve various economic policies, and promote the reform of the economic system so as to strive for a co-ordinated and steady development of the national economy. □

China's Administrative Regions

Shaanxi: Cradle of Chinese Culture and Revolution

by Our Correspondent Dai Yannian



Shaanxi Province is an important cradle of Chinese civilization. Its northern section also nurtured the modern Chinese revolution. Situated more or less in the centre of China, it combines the characteristics of both north and south China

Brilliant Ancient Culture

SHAANXI got its name in ancient times, because it was located to the west of Shaanyuan. This gourd-shaped province covers 209,600 square kilometres (five times the size of Switzerland) and has 29.04 million people.

Xian, the capital, is in the centre of the province. The Weihe River, a tributary of China's second longest river, the Huanghe, flows nearby. Mild weather, rich soil and beautiful scenery made this province an ideal place for China's ancestors to live and prosper. Even 800,000 years ago, Xian was a favourable spot; the fossils of prehistoric man were unearthed in nearby Lantian County in the early 1960s.

More than ten dynasties built their capitals in Xian, spanning more than a thousand years. The province is steeped in ancient culture. Although not many ancient relics remain above ground, those buried underground are countless. The province has now opened more than 30 historical centres to visitors, who flock there to see the cultural relics.

How People Lived 6,000 Years Ago

In 1953, fragments of cultural relics were dug up at the construction site of a textile mill in Banpo, a village in the eastern suburbs of Xian. Archaeologists immediately went to the site. Later, when the

late Vice-Premier Chen Yi visited Banpo Village, he joined archaeologists in proposing to build a museum.

The Banpo Museum is a large arch designed to cover and protect the whole excavated village, where a wide variety of artifacts sketches a picture of how people lived 6,000 years ago.

This ancient village was divided into the residential section, the ceramic-making area and the tombs. A big house in the centre of the residential area served as a place for the villagers' collective activities. Around it are clusters of small houses where the inhabitants lived. The square houses Banpo people lived in had pitched roofs, similar to those inhabited by minority peoples nowadays. There

are also collective cellars for storing grain outside the village.

Most of the tombs were for one person, generally three or four sacrificial ceramic pieces were buried with them. This suggests that it was a clan village of primitive society.

Artifacts from the village are remarkably well-preserved. Millet and vegetable seeds were found in excavated clay urns. The sharp barbs on the bone fish hooks were similar to the metal ones today. There were pierced bone needles for weaving or mending. The clay basins, pots, bowls, cups and jars used by the Banpo people were painted with fishes with their mouths wide open, galloping deer, blooming flowers, tall, straight grass or geometrical designs. I was really amazed to see all these fine objects from the hands of people living 6,000 years ago.

Many bronze pieces from the Western Zhou Dynasty (c. 1100-771 B.C.) were found on the wes-

tern outskirts of Xian. A three-legged vessel for sacrificial rites weighs 226 kilogrammes. The sounds of the bronze chime bells are still resonant. Characters on one piece say one horse and a hank of silk can be exchanged for five slaves. The slaves created the "bronze culture," but their life was miserable. In pits where horses and chariots were found, there were drivers—slaves of course—buried alive together with their owners.

Life-Size Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses

The life-size terra-cotta warriors and horses, unearthed near Lintong 35 kilometres east of Xian, made news around the world when they were first found. They date from the Qin Dynasty (221-206 B.C.). When I went to the No.1 pit, I saw an array of life-size warriors and horses standing as if they were waiting for the call to battle. This pit covers 14,260 square metres, and more than one thousand warriors and 24 horses

have already been discovered. It is estimated that altogether 6,000 were buried in the pit. It is only natural that some foreign visitors call it one of the wonders of the world.

After defeating six states, Qin Shi Huang established China's first, unified feudal dynasty, with central, concentrated power. He ruled from 246 to 210 B.C., and played a positive role in social advancement. Yet, like all the emperors, he lived a really luxurious life. He built the magnificent Epang Palace, and also a big mausoleum for himself. The pit where the life-size terra-cotta warriors and horses were found was on the east side of that mausoleum. During his life time, Qin Shi Huang had had his imperial army garrisoned east of the capital to guard against the vengeance of the six states he had defeated. This underground brigade is a symbol of his imperial army.

Usually, pieces in group sculpture end up being similar to each

Terra-cotta warriors and horses of the Qin Dynasty.



other. Yet the facial expressions of the terra-cotta warriors in Xian are varied. Some look self-collected and courageous, with eyes fixed far away. Some are aglow with health and confidence. Others are high-spirited, with traces of sagacity seen. The terra-cotta horses are high and robust, with saddles but no stirrups, which shows that the cavalymen were brave and adept in fighting.

I was told that in No. 2 and No. 3 pits to the east of No. 1, there are squares composed of standing or kneeling archers, cavalymen or war chariots. There is even a headquarters! It is a pity that I couldn't see them with my own eyes, because these two pits are only being trial excavated.

By the side of the No. 1 pit there is a big, colourfully painted bronze chariot with four horses on show. (See photo on inside cover.) It was discovered by the west side of Qin Shi Huang's tomb in 1980, and is also a sacrificial object for the emperor. After the terra-cotta warriors and horses, it is considered one of the most important discoveries from the Qin Dynasty. The chariot and horses weigh 1,241 kilogrammes, and are 3.28 metres long. The chariot is divided into two, with seats for the owner in back and for the drivers in front. It looks very similar to a real chariot and horses, right down to the details, but is just half size. The bronze was cast with different proportions of tin and copper, according to the different requirements on various parts of the chariot. The 2.4-metre-square and one-millimetre-thick oblong arch of the chamber was cast in one piece. The tassel under the horses' neck is made of bronze threads as fine as hair. The metal ring around the horses' neck is welded from short gold and silver tubes with superb craftsmanship.

Stone Sculptures and Murals

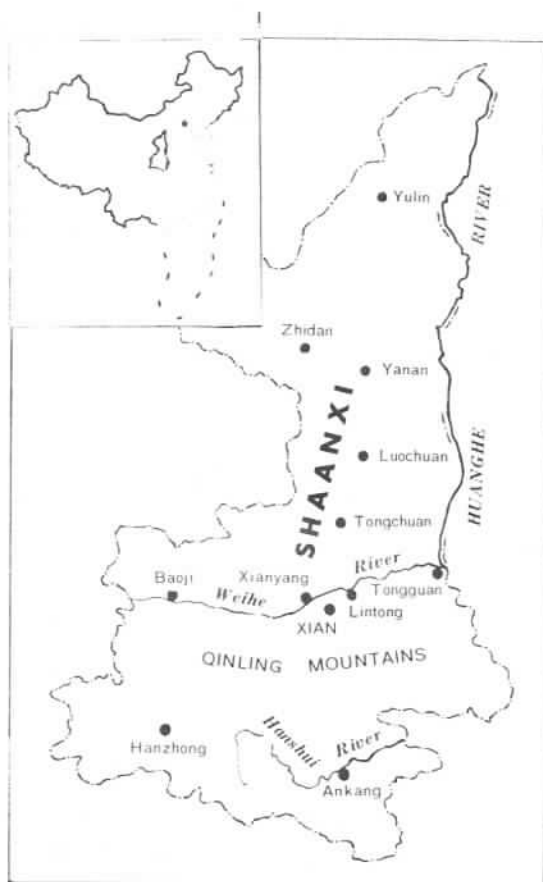
The tomb of Emperor Wu Di, who reigned from 140-87 B.C. during the Han Dynasty, is on the western outskirts of Xian. The tomb of his young general Huo Qubing is by the side. In front of Huo's tomb are stone crouching tigers, galloping horses, prostrate elephants, cattle, pigs, toads and fishes, each carved from one piece of stone, to the advantage of its natural shape. All the sculptures are simple, honest, robust and life-like. One standing horse, with head uplifted, stamping on a *Xiongnu* invader, is an artistic generalization of Huo's heroic military feats.

Several times during his life General Huo defeated *Xiongnu* invaders from the north and cleared the road leading from China to western Asia — later called the Silk Road. Huo died at the age of 24. These sculptures are the earliest, best preserved, among ancient China's stone carvings.

The six bas-relief stone horses on the tomb of the second emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) are another example of outstanding ancient stone carvings. Taizong was a brave warrior from the time he was 18, and had many victories. Later when he became emperor, he ordered his six war horses to be carved and placed by his tomb. These bas-reliefs are plump, energetic and lively. It is a pity two of them were stolen in 1941, and the other four were intercepted while being moved, only to be

found broken. The bas-reliefs I saw had been pieced together.

The excavated tomb of Princess Yongtai has been opened to the public. She was the granddaughter of China's first empress, Wu Zetian, who reigned from 690 to 705. She died during her grandmother's reign and was buried beside her tomb. When I walked down the slope leading to the burial room, I found dragons, tigers, warriors and groups of court ladies all painted on the wall. In the niches were colour figurines and miniature horses, exquisitely cast in bronze and tin, and tri-colour camels with bundles of silk fabric on their backs, a scene often seen on the Silk Road. On the walls of the outer coffin in the centre of the burial room many court ladies were carved in thin lines, some carrying boxes or water jars, some playing with birds and some appreciating blossoming flowers. Many are in a dignified style, while others are



natural and unrestrained. Many murals were also found in the nearby tombs of two princes.

According to archaeologist Hang Dezhou, so far scores of large emperor's tombs have been located around Xian, but none of their main chambers have been excavated. Historical records say that the magnificence of these underground palaces is equal to the real ones in the human world. So I asked Hang, "Why not excavate at an early date?"

My question plucked the heart of this veteran archaeologist, who has taken part in unearthing no less than a thousand tombs. How he longed to uncover several big mausoleums during his life time! However, he told me that apart from the large amounts of money needed to excavate, there are some technical problems which remain to be solved. China has not yet developed a satisfactory technique for preserving some relics such as silk, paintings and calligraphy. It is better to preserve them underground than to see these valuable treasures destroyed after they have been uncovered. If there is a breakthrough in the technology of keeping unearthed cultural relics intact, there are sure to be more treasures coming to light.

Xian's Present Outlook

It is a pity that the palaces of the successive dynasties in Xian were all destroyed long long ago. Historical sites left above ground include the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, the Little Wild Goose Pagoda, the Stelae Forest, the Bell Tower and the Drum Tower.

The 64-metre-high Big Wild Goose Pagoda is a brick pavilion-like structure built in 652 A.D. It is simple yet magnificent. The pagoda is built after the style of Indian Buddhist structure, approved by the emperor at the request of Monk Tripitaka, who wanted a place to store the voluminous



"Trampling on a Xiongnu invader," a stone sculpture in front of the tomb of General Huo Qubing.

Buddhist sutra he had brought back from India. Monk Tripitaka spent years translating the sutra into the Han language in the temple under the pagoda.

The 45-metre-high Little Wild Goose Pagoda was built in 707 A.D. A big iron bell weighing more than 10,000 kilogrammes was stored in the temple under the pagoda. "Listening to the chime of the bell and viewing the elegant pagoda in the dawn mist" had long been enjoyed by ancient Xian residents.

More than 1,000 inscribed stone tablets since the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.) stand like a forest in Xian. The full text of 13 Buddhist classics are inscribed on 124 of them amounting to 650,000 characters. People nicknamed them the biggest and heaviest books in the world. These Xian stone tablets are carved with the handwritings of famous calligraphers from successive dynasties.

A double-eaves gorgeous building stands in the centre of Xian city proper. It is the Bell Tower, built in 1384. A bronze bell hung in the tower in ancient times. During the day, the bell chimed out the hours. The Drum Tower, to the far west, was built in 1380. A big drum there beat out the

watch at night.

Part of the ancient city wall still stands in Xian, built early in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) on the base of the imperial city of the Tang Dynasty. It is 11.9 kilometres around, with arches and embrasured watch-towers over four city gates and turrets on the four corners. This formed a complete defensive system for the ancient city.

There are plans to restore the dilapidated city wall to its former look. Work has already begun to dredge the city moat. Tree-lined boulevards with lawns and small parks will be paved around the city wall and the moat. The symmetrical, chessboard style of an ancient capital will live again in the new plans for Xian. Two sections of ancient-style residential courtyards and three ancient streets will be left intact. The former site of the palace will become a park, dotted with reconstructed old buildings, but on a smaller scale. All the new buildings are required to be harmonious with ancient structures in style, colour, height and spacing. When the plan is completed, Xian will be a modern, beautiful city which retains the features of an ancient capital.

Yanan Spirit

LEAVING Xian, I flew north. In less than an hour the towering Yanan Pagoda Hill appeared beneath the plane. Here is Yanan. The pagoda on the hill was built during the Tang Dynasty and rebuilt during the Ming Dynasty. On a nearby hill is a cave with 10,000 Buddhas, built during the Song Dynasty (960-1279). But despite these ancient wonders, it is the contemporary revolutionary relics which attract people to this place.

Yanan and the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region were the seats of the Party Central Committee and the General Headquarters of the Chinese People's Liberation Army during the years 1935-48. In general, this whole region was the rear area during the Chinese revolution.

Revolutionary relics can be found everywhere in Yanan, especially in the northwestern part of the city. The simple furnishings and decorations on display in the distinctive local arched cave dwelling, which is the former residence of Mao Zedong, include the kerosene lamp by whose light Mao wrote his monumental works and the stone benches and table he used when he met with the US correspondent Anna Louis Strong in 1946. Zhou Enlai's copies of works by Marx and Lenin and his hand-operated spinning wheel, photos of Liu Shaoqi bent over his desk working, the hand-operated telephone Zhu De used to transmit orders, the chessboard engraved on the stone table on which Zhu De played chess with his bodyguard, the great hall where the Seventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China was held in 1945, and the office buildings of the Party Central Committee, built entirely of stones, all remind us of the war years.

Tremendous Efforts

The revolutionary centre and the general rear area were built with tremendous efforts.

The Central Red Army reached northern Shaanxi in October 1935, after crossing 11 provinces and covering 25,000 *li*. At that time, the base areas in the south were being lost one after another, and the base in northern Shaanxi was also in danger. The Kuomintang troops had twice encircled and attacked the area. Despite their weariness after the Long March, the Central Red Army, together with the Red Army in northern Shaanxi, wiped out the offensive Kuomintang troops in one thrust, smashing the third "encirclement and suppression" campaign. The Red Army then crossed the Huanghe (Yellow) River to the east, and attacked the enemy in Gansu in the west, thus extending the base area over 23 counties, covering 130,000 square kilometres. On January 7, 1937, the Party Central Committee garrisoned in Yanan.

It was here that the Communist Party of China and its leader, Mao Zedong, further integrated Marxism-Leninism with the concrete practice of the Chinese revolution, worked out the line, policies and principles for China's new-democratic revolution and charted a victorious course for the Chinese people. Yanan became a beacon lighting our way forward. Hundreds of thousands of patriotic young people flocked to Yanan from all over the country to join in the revolution. There they received education and training, and then went to the front line or other base areas.

On the wall of Mao Zedong's former home is a picture showing Mao giving a report. It shows the hard life of that time; Mao looks

a bit emaciated and his uniform is thin and patched.

Between 1941 and 1942, when the Kuomintang troops tightened their blockade of the border region, the people and the soldiers endured severe shortages. Visitors today can see the wild herbs, chaff and bean husks which served as poor food for the soldiers and civilians in the region, and the shabby army uniforms displayed at the Yanan Revolutionary Memorial Hall. In order to overcome these difficulties, Mao Zedong issued the call to use their own hands to get ample food and clothing! Everyone in the border region did their best to increase production. Now at the former residence of Mao Zedong, people can still see the vegetable garden Mao worked himself. Whenever Commander-in-Chief Zhu De returned from the front line, he picked up his hoe to work the ground, or his basket to collect manure. Zhou Enlai, who was then a representative of the Chinese Communist Party, lived in Chongqing, the war-time capital of the Kuomintang government, and he also spun cotton and twisted thread whenever he returned to Yanan. Thanks to the concerted efforts of the people and the soldiers, wheat, millet and maize grew on what had been barren hills, and cloth, wool, soap and paper were produced in simple, crude factories and workshops, basically providing the daily necessities for everyone in the border region.

After the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japan in 1945, the Kuomintang waged all-out civil war, concentrating a force of 230,000 soldiers to attack key sectors in the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region. At that time the Northwest People's Liberation Army had only about 20,000 fighters in the region. In order to lure in the enemy and then attack while they were on the

move, the Party Central Committee decided to abandon Yanan in March 1947. Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai led their troops farther north in Shaanxi. It was again a difficult time for the people and soldiers in the border region. Sometimes they marched under the scorching sun, sometimes they camped in the rain, sometimes they faced the enemy across a valley and sometimes they almost ran into Kuomintang forces accidentally. But finally, the enemy was defeated. Yanan returned to the embrace of the people in April 1948. The revolutionary army left Shaanxi for Hebei Province, and then entered Beijing later that year.

In retrospect, it was the arduous struggles in Yanan and the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region, the brilliant leadership of the Party Central Committee during the War of Resistance Against Japan and revolutionary civil war that laid the foundation for the establishment of the People's Republic of China. Now, when Chinese people speak proudly of the Yanan spirit, they refer to the spirit of hard struggle shown by the revolutionary pioneers of that time.

Nanniwan

I went to Nanniwan, 45 kilometres south of Yanan, where the 359th Brigade of the Eighth Route Army was stationed from 1941 to 1944, under the command of Wang Zhen (now Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China). The other side of the mountain to the south was occupied by the Kuomintang, and the 359th Brigade was ordered to guard the border and reclaim the land for farming.

When Wang made a personal visit to assess the reclamation work, soldiers gathered joyfully around him. The commander asked whether they could fulfil their



(From right to left) Mao Zedong, Zhu De, Zhou Enlai and Qin Bangxian arrived in northern Shaanxi in October 1935 after the Long March.

task. The soldiers answered yes. Wang then asked whether they were having any difficulties, and they said no. But, looking around the work-site, Wang noticed bloodstains on the spades. He asked to look at the hands of these soldiers, but they refused. The brigade commander ordered them to stretch out their hands, and Wang found bleeding blisters on all their palms. How brave these soldiers were! Wang's eyes glistened with tears.

Meng Xiangsheng, 32, is now chairman of the Nanniwan People's Commune. Meng, a Beijing native, came here with his schoolmates after finishing middle school in 1969, to join in productive labour. They farmed the same land the revolutionary soldiers had reclaimed.

In the hills nearby, veteran soldiers who still lived in the caves dug by the army recounted their experiences to Meng. He was immersed in the revolutionary tradi-

tion. Although life in Nanniwan is much harder than in Beijing, Meng made up his mind to set down his roots in the countryside. Like the local people, he dug a well and carried water, built embankments to reclaim the land, planted trees and did chores for those households lacking sufficient labour after he finished his own work. The local people now call him "a good descendant of Nanniwan."

"Do you think of Beijing?" I asked.

"Of course," Meng replied. "But I am needed much more here. Compared with other places, this area is still backward. We should not seek ease and comfort. We must work hard. Otherwise, how can we realize the four modernizations by the end of this century?"

The sparkling Yanan spirit can still be found in Meng and other people.

Economic Development

WHEN the Kuomintang troops attacked northern Shaanxi in 1947, they burned, killed and looted wherever they went, leaving the normal machinery of production desolate in their wake. Production resumed to some extent after liberation. But collectivization came too fast in the rural areas, and the communes concentrated labour power and distributed incomes equally regardless of the work done. This was not in tune with the development of productive forces or the consciousness of the people, and production stagnated.

By the end of the 1960s, Zhou Enlai was deeply troubled to learn that some peasants still did not have enough to feed themselves in northern Shaanxi. Zhou pointed out that it was the people in northern Shaanxi who fed the revolutionary army millet, but many years had elapsed since liberation and yet the people there still were badly off. He said that something should be done for them. So Zhou himself worked out a plan for the development of northern Shaanxi. He urged that the area be changed as quickly as possible. He also called on the relevant departments under the State Council and Beijing municipality to support this development.

As a result, some small industries were established. Walking tractors and film projectors were sent to the production teams, and medical teams were dispatched. These important measures helped accelerate the economic development of northern Shaanxi. But people at the time could not discern the mistakes of "Left" policies of the past and continued to implement them in the rural areas. And so, despite earnest efforts, the desired results were not achieved.

Since the Third Plenary Session

of the 11th Party Central Committee held in 1978, the household-based production responsibility system, linking remuneration with output, was introduced in the rural areas of northern Shaanxi, and this greatly stimulated the peasants' enthusiasm for production. Moreover, the state has appropriated more than 50 million yuan a year in special funds for the area, one-fifth of which has been used for assisting poor production teams and households.

Located on China's northwestern loess plateau, the soil in northern Shaanxi is arid and thin. The area has little rainfall. In order to feed themselves and expand the cultivated areas, the peasants had to fell trees and cut grasses, resulting in damage to the ecological balance and soil erosion and even poorer soil.

Yao Daimin is an agrotechnician from central Shaanxi Province. He was assigned a job in Yanan after he graduated from an agricultural institute in 1961. He went to the suburbs to do scientific research and lived in a peasant household. Although the peasants were hard up at the time, Yao was still offered steamed bread. How could he eat the bread of these poor peasants? Yao pledged that he would help the Yanan peasants, who had made sacrifices for the revolution, live a happy life. He stayed in the suburbs for many years, combining ancient experiences with the new, and those of other areas with the local conditions. He suggested building terraced fields on the mountain slopes, and the result was a higher yield.

There are now several other effective methods of farming in northern Shaanxi. These new methods actually encourage less extensive cultivation. Some fields have been planted with trees and grasses, and the ecological balance

is slowly being restored. The new farming methods have spread quickly from production teams to communes and eventually to all the peasants surrounding Yanan. Yao Daimin has been head of the agrotechnical station, deputy director of the Yanan agricultural bureau and deputy director of Yanan Prefecture (Yanan and its surrounding counties). Although his status has changed, his fine style of serving the people never has. He has always popularized new ways of farming among the peasants on ever-wider areas.

I saw the results of the programme to transform the loess plateau in the Nianzhuang Commune, 20 kilometres east of Yanan. The commune covers 5,300 hectares and has a population of 3,400. According to the 1965 statistics, 55 per cent of the land was sown with grains, 43 per cent was left uncultivated, and only 2 per cent was forested. Today, grain fields cover 40 per cent, forest land, 40 per cent, and grassland, 20 per cent. Although the land sown with grain has been reduced, the grain output has gone up. In the past, the annual grain harvest averaged only 250 kilograms per capita. Now the average yield has exceeded 500 kilograms. The wide expanses of trees and grassland have effectively brought soil erosion under control, and the climate is not so dry.

Well Fed and Clothed

In winter, there are no crops in the fields of northern Shaanxi. However, on my way I often saw peasants drying their grain by the sides of the highways. Some peasants hung corn cobs on the trees near their homes, others pile up their maize outdoors. Sometimes, traffic is held up by sheep and ducks. I didn't blame these corpulent animals, swinging their



Meng Xiangsheng (left) and his family.

bodies unhurriedly across the road. On the contrary, I liked them.

I visited Zhang Huaili, a peasant who lived in the Kangshan production team of Zhidan County. His wife and three school-aged children live in two stone cave dwellings, both with southern exposure, bright and roomy. The *kang* (a heatable brick bed) is covered with felt blankets and colourful quilts. Large and small shining clothes closets are arranged neatly around the room. The cave dwelling to the east is where Zhang's family used to live. Now, it is used for storing grain. Two years ago, he found their old home was not big enough for all his grain, so Zhang built two more houses to the south.

I asked him how much grain he has stored. He added up the figures and said straightforwardly, "About 18,000 kilogrammes."

Zhang said that after the responsibility system in production was adopted, his life improved conspicuously. He contracted to work 2.8 hectares of farmland for his production team, and only a small portion of his grain has to be delivered to the state and the team. The rest belongs to him. He also undertook to look after 1.7 hectares of forest land and one hectare of grassland for the production team, and has another hectare of forest land for his own

use. He raises two oxen, one donkey, two pigs, 35 sheep and 20 chickens. But he still has time to bake bricks to earn some extra pocket money. He complained that power transmission lines have not yet been put up in his village. Otherwise, he would have bought a television set long ago.

Zhang told me, "Now our staple food is steamed bread. We eat all the fresh eggs our chickens lay. During the Spring Festival, we killed a porker and two sheep. . . ."

Northern Shaanxi has 4.65 million people and occupied two-fifths of the province's total area. The annual grain output now averages 350 kilogrammes per person, and in some counties the average is as high as 500 kilogrammes per person. There are 920,000 households in northern Shaanxi, and since 1979, about 800,000 new cave dwellings have been built for them. Now the people are well fed and clothed, and one-fifth of the households are well-off.

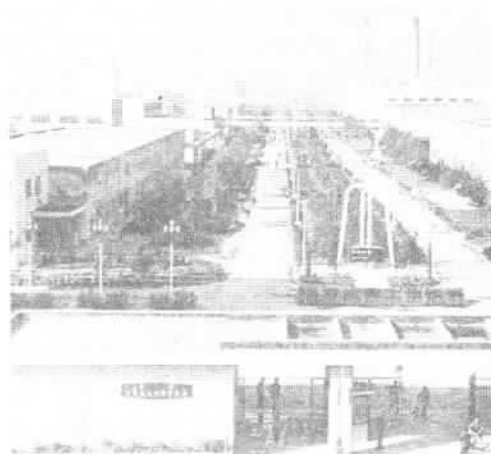
Southern and Central Shaanxi

Shaanxi is sometimes called Qin, because it was the seat of the Qin Dynasty (21-207 B.C.). Natural conditions on the 800-li

plain on both sides of the Weihe River, which flows across the middle part of the province, are better than those in the north. According to legends, a man taught the people here in ancient times how to cultivate the land. The people called him the King of Agriculture. The site where he taught the people agricultural knowledge is still kept intact.

Irrigation works were also built there during the Qin Dynasty, but were later abandoned. When the nation was liberated in 1949, only 33,000 hectares of land were actually irrigated. After the founding of New China, the People's Government expanded the irrigation systems and built new gravity irrigation works, pumping stations and reservoirs. Now, one million hectares are irrigated, and the area has become an important production base for wheat, cotton and rapeseed. Four-fifths of all Shaanxi's wheat is grown on the central plain.

We crossed the Qinling Mountains (the tallest peak is 3,666 metres above sea level and is an important demarcation line between the north and the south) and came to the southern part of the province. The lush green wheat and rice fields reminded us of similar scenes in south China. The Hanshui River, a tributary of the Changjiang (Yangtze), the biggest river in China, crosses this



region, thereby providing favourable conditions for irrigating the fields. The region mainly grows rice, accounting for nine-tenths of the province's total.

Peasants in Shaanxi Province also grow oranges, tangerines and apples. The seedless mandarin tangerines grown here were sent to the emperor as tribute in the past. Now the common people can enjoy them. Luochuan County, which has always been known as the "land of apples," has the longest history of apple-growing in the province. Apples are now grown in orchards north of the Qinling Mountains. These areas have thick topsoil and plenty of sunshine, and the temperature varies greatly between day and night, which is good for growing apples. The apples produced here are sold in Beijing, Tianjin and Xianggang. Supply always falls short of demand.

Industry

The starting point of the ancient "Silk Road," Shaanxi Province has a tradition of growing mulberries, raising silkworms, reeling raw silk from cocoons and weaving silk. After liberation in 1949, the cotton and wool industries have also made much progress. There are 13 cotton mills in the province, each with 3,000 to 10,000 workers. There are also a

number of large and medium-sized woollen mills, printing and dyeing mills and knitting mills. Altogether, there are 979,000 spindles and 25,000 looms. Most of these mills were built in the 1950s or in the early 1960s, when the mills in the coastal cities such as Shanghai and Qingdao sent many technicians and managerial personnel to Shaanxi. Most of these mills are in the eastern suburbs of Xian and in Xianyang, which was the capital of the Han Dynasty, complete with factories, schools, scientific research institutes and welfare undertaking. The textile industry accounts for one-fifth of the output value for light and heavy industries in the province, and the tax and profits account for one-third of all revenue in Shaanxi.

Many new buildings have sprung up to the west of the ruins of Epang Palace of the Qin Dynasty. This is China's first colour television picture tubes factory. All the equipment and technology were imported from Japan, with a designed capacity of 890,000 picture tubes a year. Since it began operation in December 1982, the factory's output has risen month by month, reaching its designed capacity last July. The quality of its products is up to world standards.

Although Shaanxi is undertak-

ing a great deal of economic construction, there is no shortage of electricity in the province, which is in fact more than self-sufficient. Many thermal power plants have been built throughout the region. In December 1983 the second phase construction of the Qinling thermal power plant was completed, with a generating capacity of 650,000 kw. The plant will be able to generate 1.05 million kw after its completion. A large hydro-power station is also being constructed on the Hanshui River.

Shaanxi is also rich in coal. The coalfields of Tongchuan and other areas are only a small part of what the province has to offer. The coal deposits in Yulin in northern Shaanxi are also quite large, and the coal seams there are shallow and can be easily mined. The coal here has a low content of ash and sulphur, and is of a high quality rarely seen in China. However, that part is not yet accessible by rail, and so has not been mined.

People sometimes call Shaanxi Province a gourd. The name has many implications, apart from its shape. A Chinese legend says that a gourd contains many kinds of treasures. Hence the province has acquired the name "treasured gourd." And on my visit to Shaanxi, I found it to be so.

The Shaanxi Colour TV Picture Tubes Factory.





Zhu Yuanguang, a model teacher in Yunnan, with graduating students.

Emphasis on Teacher Training

from "GUANGMING RIBAO"
(Guangming Daily)

The key to achieving universal elementary education by the end of the decade, as required by the Party Central Committee, lies in developing a stable and qualified contingent of teachers.

However, due importance has not been given to teacher training so far. The prejudice against teachers' colleges still prevails. In institutes of higher learning, the status of these schools is often lower than that of the comprehensive universities or colleges of science and engineering. This is also the case in secondary vocational schools. This irrational situation must be corrected. Special attention must be paid to teachers' schooling, which should be considered as important in our educational work as the key projects in economic construction.

Teachers' colleges at all levels should train educators for middle

and primary schools and try to make reforms in university enrolment and job assignments, school curriculum and teaching methods to suit the needs of different kinds of schools. Other colleges must also shoulder the responsibility to train teachers for middle and primary schools. Teachers in secondary normal schools should improve their work, and conditions in such schools must be upgraded.

Massage—a Miraculous Cure

from "WENHUI BAO"
(Literary Gazette)

Massage is one of the treasures of ancient Chinese medicine. Zhou Huilin, a doctor in Shanghai's Shuguang Hospital, has had great achievements in massaging babies, especially those suffering from diarrhea, inflammation of the trachea, slippage of the rectum, crossed eyes, pigeon breast, hernia

and morbid night crying. More than 95 per cent of her 10,000 little patients have recovered. Zhou's work with her hands has brought happiness to the young parents, who had been so anxious for their sick babies.

In her 40s, Zhou has practised massage for more than 20 years. Her teacher was Liu Kaiyun, an old doctor of traditional Chinese medicine, whose skill was handed down through eight generations of his family.

Zhou was very diligent. She found in her practice that the traditional method was sometimes too complicated. It would take more than an hour to treat a baby. She tried hard to find new ways to simplify the old, comparing massage points, discarding the unnecessary and selecting the essential. She concentrated on the most important points. Gradually she developed a unique method of her own.

For instance, in the past a baby with diarrhea needed one to two hours of massage at more than 20 points. But Zhou's simplified method takes just a few minutes, massaging only four to six points. The diarrhea will improve after one or two treatments.

Zhou also uses her unique skill in face-lifting. A one-month-old boy was sent to her with very ugly, irregular facial features. His upper and lower jaws were both dislocated. Zhou was told that the parents were so disappointed upon seeing their new baby that they refused to take him home. Persuaded by doctors, they brought him back reluctantly. Later they learnt of Zhou Huilin's work, and sought her help. After one month of massage, the baby's face began to change. Half a year later, the

baby, to everyone's surprise, turned out to be a pretty boy.

Zhou's massage techniques have also been effective in treating bed-wetting, salivation, infant malnutrition, and cerebral palsy due to lack of oxygen.

A baby, Zhou explained, is like a young shoot just breaking through the soil. Its metabolism functions imperfectly and tends to

be easily attacked by diseases. However, a baby develops as fast as the rising sun. It bears great vitality with much fast blood circulation. Its tissue repair is vigorous. So, massage for babies, though on the surface, conforms with their characters and stimulates their internal chemical substances. It is an active treatment to promote recovery.

Sun Yat-sen on Chinese Cuisine

from "WENHUI BAO"
(Literary Gazette)

In *A Programme of National Reconstruction for China*, Dr. Sun Yat-sen wrote a chapter advancing the theory that Chinese cuisine was highly civilized, and the best in the world. He believed the preparation of food is a kind of art, and an expression of civilization.

He said, "The preparation of food develops as civilization progresses. This is natural. People long untouched by civilization are incapable of distinguishing the most delicate flavour, and if there is no fine distinction of flavour, there will be no skilful cookery. The skill of the Chinese in preparing food is a sufficient indication of the astounding progress of Chinese civilization."

Sun also spoke of the high international regard Chinese cuisine enjoys. He said, "Our China, although backward and imperfect in everything, has not been outdone by a single country in the development of the art of preparing various kinds of food. The dishes prepared by the Chinese surpass those of the European countries, as much as do our methods of cooking." At that time, Chinese cuisine was not recognized as the best in the world by European countries. Following the publication of Sun's *A Programme of National Reconstruction for*

China, the international regard for Chinese cookery was raised.

Sun was engaged in medical research in his youth. He had some knowledge of Chinese diet and nutrition. He thought it particularly praiseworthy that Chinese tastes unconsciously coincided with the modern principles of science and good health. In China the common people drink green tea, and their staple foods are rice with vegetables and bean curd. This kind of diet, so nutritionists

tell us, is good to one's health. This is confirmed by the fact that people living in remote areas, without wine and meat, live a long life.

Sun listed the nutritional value of many dishes eaten every day, including *jinzhen*, bean curd and bean sprouts. He said, "These are the best forms of vegetables, but Europeans do not even know that they can be used as food." Sun also specifically praised the nutritional value of bean curd, saying, "Chinese vegetarians must eat bean curd since this is none other than 'vegetarian meat.' It has all the qualities of meat, but is free from its poisons. Yet the Chinese have become accustomed to it without the aid of science." This was one of the foods that helped Chinese people live long lives.

Sun also said human illness usually arises from inadequate nutrition. He encouraged a rational diet and urged people to pay more attention to health when choosing their food.

A Mayor's Open Telephone

from "RENMIN RIBAO"
(People's Daily)

When his telephone line was open from September 18 to December 28 last year, the mayor of Shenyang received 2,685 phone calls reporting 2,893 problems. Only 312 of these are still being dealt with—the rest have already been solved. People are very satisfied. They feel the telephone line has closely linked them with their mayor.

Three serious cadres who were familiar with the situation in Shenyang and had a good understanding of the Party's policies were specially selected to take care of the work. They answered the phone calls and aided the mayor in solving problems.

A worker in the Shenyang Electric Cable Factory called to say that people living in Tiexi District found it difficult to buy newspapers and magazines. Municipal leaders immediately solved the problem by setting up nine newspaper stalls around big factories. They also decided to set up a hundred newspaper and magazine stalls, retail book shops and mobile paper stands next year around the city.

Following the mayor's example, many leaders in departments such as the real estate bureau, the first and second commercial bureaus, the grain bureau, the pricing bureau and the public utilities bureau, which are directly concerned with the people's lives, set up similar telephone lines.



2,000-Year-Old Tomb in Beijing

Residents of Beijing and foreigners visiting the capital no longer need to go thousands of miles to visit an ancient Chinese tomb. In one of the Beijing suburbs, Dabao-tai, about 15 kilometres southwest of the city, a museum was recently opened on the site of a king's tomb dating from the first century B.C.

The major exhibit is a restored coffin hall, whose unique construction was designed especially for kings at that time.

It is a pit 25.2 metres long and 18 metres wide, about the size of a basketball court. In the hall are three inner coffins and two outer coffins, all made of rare wood. One hundred and ten boards — the largest weighs more than 500 kilogrammes — are joined without nails to form the coffins.

Surrounding them is a magnificent wall built with more than 15,000 square logs of a rare

species of cypress, each about 90 cms long with a cross section of 10×10 cm. The logs are still neatly laid, pleasing the visitors with their unique fragrance. Along each side of the wall is a corridor, where remains of animals and other items buried with the deceased were discovered.

Outside the tomb, a lot of plaster and charcoal are still visible. This, plus the packed earth, formed an effective protection for the ancient tomb.

In the passage to the tomb, now covered with glass, are three colourful carts with red wheels and the skeletons of 11 horses, which were supposed to be used to carry in the heavy coffins. When the ceiling of the tomb collapsed, the carts were destroyed, and their boards have long since rotted. But visitors are still able to see that each cart has two wheels, a pair of shafts and an umbrella-like

shelter with a frame of gold-plated bronze. This kind of cart, according to historical records, was solely used by emperors, kings and knights. The carts exhibited here are the only ones preserved from the Han Dynasty.

References have not yet been found in literature to this tomb. But through their studies on the construction of the tomb and the relics discovered, archaeologists think it belongs to either King Yan (117-80 B.C.) or King Guangyang (75-45 B.C.), both lived in the middle of the Han Dynasty.

Although the tomb had been robbed, many valuable relics remain, including tools, arms and adornments, which are the earliest known items made of tempered iron. A gauze hat, fine and closely woven, is more valuable than similar hats from the same period found elsewhere.

Also on exhibit are 400 gold-plated, jade, agate and ivory articles.

Beside the coffin hall an exhibition room has been built, providing historical references, charts and various materials.

Acrobats Win Honours

Chinese acrobats won two of the four gold medals for leaping through hoops and playing diabolo at a recent Paris international acrobatic festival.

Five young men plunged and leapt through hoops 55 cms in diameter. When four were stacked up, all the audience held their breath — the top hoop, which was 2 metres above the ground, shook even when no one was touching it.

How could a man with shoulders more than 40 cms wide pass through without knocking it down? To everyone's astonishment, the five young acrobats dived through one by one, spinning their bodies 360 degrees at the same time. When they finished, the audience burst into applause.

The performance began with one hoop. The boys passed through and back, teasing their audience. As hoops were added, the acrobats performed more complicated and astounding feats. They either jumped through all in one direction, or in opposite directions. Sometimes, they dived back through the lower hoop immediately after leaping through an upper one. Their performance was so thrilling, lithe and graceful that many in the audience dared not blink, for fear of missing any of the highlights.

While the boys became international acrobatic stars on the Paris stage, five Chinese girls showed their talents playing diabolo. This is based on a traditional popular Chinese game. By jerking a string tied to two sticks, one held in each hand, the player makes a bamboo spool spin along the string. The performance by the girls, how-

ever, added much colour to this ancient game. They danced, jumping, spinning and swirling, while the diabolos fluttered and hummed around them like butterflies dancing among flowers. The stage set added more national flavour to the performance. Against a background of snowflakes swirling and covering the blossoming plums, the girls, in red dresses and hoods, played around a snowman set at the corner of the stage.

Minority Language Publications Up

People of minority nationalities in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region are getting more out of their local media, as an increasing number of books, magazines and radio and TV programmes are being offered in their own languages.

A representative from the Xinjiang People's Publishing House said that, of 4.5 million publications in the first nine months of last year, about half are in minority languages. Publications in Uygur alone top 1.4 million.

The autonomous region now has nine publishing houses printing in minority languages, and more than 10 publications having won national and regional prizes.

Efforts have also been made to collect, collate and publish ancient manuscripts. Recently, 4,250 manuscripts and classic literature in Uygur, Kazak, Mongolian, Tibetan, Persian and Arabic were collected and classified, on history, economics, philosophy, art, literature, medicine, architecture, geology and astronomy.

Two monumental 11th-century works in ancient Uygur, *Great Turkic Dictionary* and *Good Fortune, Happiness and Wisdom*, have been published in modern Uygur. Translation of and research into ancient epics, literature and historical records in other minority languages are also under way.

Radio and television are ex-

The French Circus of Tomorrow Festival was held to recognize talented young acrobats. This was the third time Chinese entrants won gold medals in the festival. All the 10 young acrobats are from China's southern city of Guangzhou.

Twelve countries participated in the competition. The Soviet Union and the United States won the other two gold medals.

panding their minority language broadcasts in the region. Last October, a radio relay station was set up in Artux, capital of the Kizilsu Khalkhas Autonomous Prefecture in western Xinjiang.

The Xinjiang People's Radio Station began broadcasting programmes in Khalkhas in 1985. At present, Khalkhas people in more than 30 counties can hear their mother tongue on the air.

The Xinjiang television station has opened a special Uygur channel. Apart from news and entertainment, college-level educational programmes are offered both in Uygur and Chinese on mechanics, electronics and economic management. They draw 15,000 viewers every day.

The station has increased broadcasting time from three hours a day to 11, and 1,200 people now work putting on their programmes — more than 60 times the number in 1970.

Last year the autonomous region had 125 television relay stations. More than 40 per cent of the people, in about 70 per cent of the region's cities, towns and rural areas, are within the range of television broadcasts.

Seventy-two more television relay stations are being built, to eventually cover the entire autonomous region.



'A Comprehensive History of China'



The seventh book of a 10-volume work, *A Comprehensive History of China* (in Chinese), is now available from the People's Publishing House. Under the chief editorship of Cai Meibiao, it covers the politics and economy of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), and the culture of the Song, Jin and Yuan, beginning from 960.

Although the Yuan Dynasty lasted less than a hundred years, it influenced the development of Chinese history in two very important ways. First, the Song, Liao, Xia and Jin regimes were conquered, and China became a unified, multi-national state with the basic territory of the nation firmly established. Second, the slave state established by the Mongolians, because it conquered areas where the feudal system was already in place, set back the feudal economy developed in the Song Dynasty.

The book makes several important points about the character of the Yuan Dynasty. First, although the Mongol Kublai Khan (1215-1294) won the throne, it was with the support of the Han landlords, and in areas inhabited mainly by Han people. Kublai Khan also

gave his regime a Han name, to show that his state was a continuation of the central imperial court.

Second, under Kublai Khan, the political and military system of the Yuan Dynasty was established along the same lines as those of the Jin and Song Dynasties before it. However, it also retained some of the old Mongolian systems, and strictly implemented the grading of all nationalities. Because there were many clashes due to different policies and methods of the various nationalities, the Yuan Dynasty could not hold on to its power for very long.

Third, generally speaking, the agriculture and handicrafts of the Yuan Dynasty did not surpass those of the Southern Song (1127-1279). However, some production techniques, such as textiles, printing and gun making did develop. Commerce was also greatly expanded, and especially foreign trade.

The editors believe academic studies in the Song and Yuan Dynasties became more pragmatic. Many very long literary and historical works appeared. Song *Ci*, poetry written to certain tunes with strict tonal patterns and rhyme schemes in fixed numbers of words and lines, and Yuan *Qu*, a type of sung verse, were presented in entirely new forms to reflect new aspects of history. They occupy an important place in the history of China's art and literature.

Science and technology also developed most rapidly under these two dynasties. For instance, block-letter printing was invented during the Song Dynasty, 400 years before it appeared in Europe.

The three volumes of *A Comprehensive History of China* still to be released will deal with the history and culture of the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) Dynasties. Their compilation is also being overseen by Cai Meibiao, as were volumes five and six.

The first four volumes, which were originally called *An Outline History of China*, were put together by the noted historian Fan Wenlan. They covered China's history from the primitive commune through the Five Dynasties (907-960).

'Concern of the Motherland'

Concern of the Motherland (in Chinese), a large picture book showing how deputies and members of the National People's Congress and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference from Xianggang (Hongkong) and Aomen (Macao) take part in state activities, has been published by the New China News Co. Ltd. in Xianggang.

The album was edited according to a proposal made by Fei Yimin, director of *Ta Kung Pao*, a Xianggang newspaper, and Yang Shangkun and Liao Chengzhi, both leaders of the Chinese Government, in April 1982.

The album's title appears in the calligraphy of Ye Jianying. Deng Xiaoping, Li Xiannian, Peng Zhen and Deng Yingchao also wrote inscriptions.

Liao Chengzhi wrote the forward for the book before he passed away.

Sculptures by Zhang Dedi

Born in 1932 in Heze County of Shandong Province, Zhang is now working at the sculpture studio of the Central Academy of Fine Arts. Emphasizing local customs, her figures are lyrical and endearing.



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A Tibetan Boy.



The Poet.

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