

Vol. 27, No. 26

June 25, 1984

# BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS

- Regional Autonomy for Minorities
- Bringing Up Healthy Children

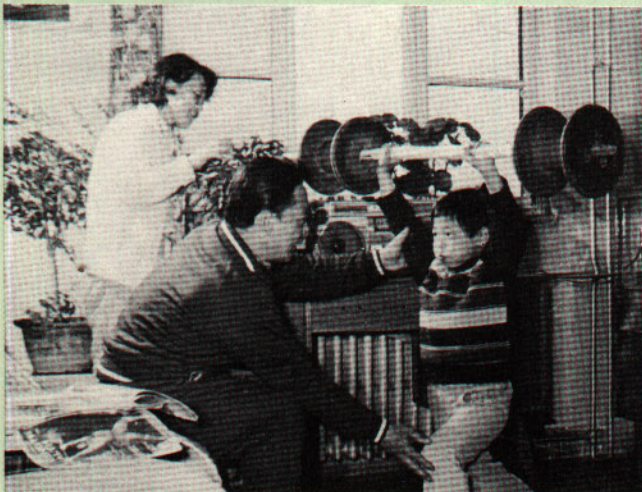




Pupils of the Qiantang Primary School in Fuzhou watch the model planes they made circle overhead.



The Beijing Children's Football Team, composed of children under 10, won the championship Baby Cup in 1983.



Huang Qianghui, a veteran weightlifter, teaches his son the sport.

Winners receive their prizes for gymnastics exhibition.



Children at the Chongwen No. 1 Kindergarten in Beijing enjoy a lively football game.

**SPOTLIGHT**

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<b>COVER:</b> A lovely and healthy boy. Photo by Wang Yun	

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### **Premier Zhao's European Tour Draws to Close**

Premier Zhao Ziyang's six-European-nation visit has ended with his stops in three Scandinavian countries and Italy. The visit strengthens the political relations and furthers economic co-operation between China and Western Europe (p. 6).

### **Regional Autonomy Law Promotes Prosperity**

In practice regional autonomy has proved the correct system for guaranteeing each minority group's right to administer its own affairs. It also promotes unity among the nationalities, advances their economic progress and safeguards the unification and independence of the country (p. 17).

### **Raising Healthy Children**

A health care network stretching across China is helping to keep the newest generation healthy and strong. From neighbourhood health workers to barefoot doctors to city hospitals, programmes in nutrition, inoculations and hygiene have sharply lowered the infant mortality rate and given all of China's children a bright future (p. 23).

### **New Bonus System Lifts Limits**

A new bonus system removing limits on the rewards a worker may earn will be adopted. Based on the contracted responsibility system, this new bonus scheme closely links the workers' incomes to their personal contributions and overall performance. This system has proved effective in trial practice (p. 4).

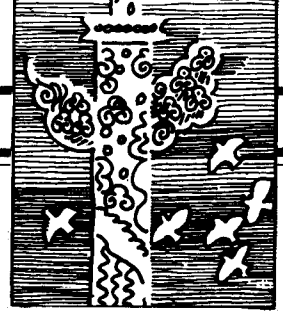
### **European Defence Group Reactivated**

The revival of the West European Union is seen as a sign that Western Europeans are concerned about protecting themselves in the event of a nuclear holocaust and are seeking greater political, military and economic unity in their region (p. 15).

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# New Bonus System Lifts Limits

by JIN QI  
Economic Editor

Last month the Chinese Government announced that the state enterprises' practice of limiting the per-capita annual bonuses to no more than a worker's two months' basic wages should be abolished. It also stipulated that enterprises which have fulfilled or overfulfilled all quotas in the state plan and paid more taxes and earned more profits than in the preceding year may increase their bonuses, and enterprises which have failed to fulfil their quotas and paid less taxes and earned less profits must reduce or stop bonuses, or even withhold portions of their employees' wages.

This new bonus scheme, based on the contracted responsibility system, closely links the workers' incomes to their personal contributions and overall business performance. It ensures those who have done excellent jobs get higher bonuses, those who have done poor work get little or no bonuses, and those who have done shoddy jobs have their basic wages deducted. This is an important reform of our wage system.

In recent years, to eliminate the long-standing egalitarianism in our wage system which is known metaphorically as "everybody eating from the same big pot," many enterprises in China have been trying various experiments. Profit delivery, which has partially been replaced by tax payments in state enterprises since last July, will be completely replaced this October. Its aim is to stop enterprises from continuing to eat from the "big pot" of the state, while reform of the wage system

is intended to stop employees from "eating from the same big pot" of the enterprises.

These reforms have achieved good results in trial operation. The No. 2 House Building Company in

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***Some people have said China's current stress on the role of bonuses is a capitalist method. Granted mainly on the basis of the workers' contributions, the bonus ensures the principle of "to each according to his work," and is a socialist wage system.***

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Qingdao city, Shandong Province, is a good example. The company had suffered losses for many years. In 1979, when it introduced the contracted responsibility system which linked the workers' wages and bonuses to their contributions, the company turned deficit into profit that same year. Last year its profits reached 2.82 million yuan, 12 times that of 1979. The workers' incomes have also increased, though to different degrees.

Some people abroad have said China's current stress on the role of bonuses is similar to the capitalist method of material incentives. This is a misunderstanding. The income of China's workers is made up of their basic wages plus bonuses. The workers' basic wages are defined according to their jobs and the set wage scales. Generally, the workers are paid monthly, and their pay is fixed. But a person's basic wage only reflects his or her educational level, work skill and

contributions in the past. A bonus is a reward for a worker's additional efforts in a given period. Granted mainly on the basis of the workers' actual contributions, the bonus is necessary in order to effectively practise the principle of "to each according to his work." So the bonus is a socialist wage system and not a capitalist one.

It is true that lifting the limits on bonuses will widen the gap between workers' incomes, but only in the beginning. This gap actually reflects the differences between the workers' efforts, skills and results. To recognize those differences and link them with remunerations will help encourage the advanced and push those who lag behind. In the long run, the workers will eventually take the road to common prosperity.

In order to prevent the uncontrolled growth of social consumption funds, the government has decided the state will collect a bonus tax from enterprises whose yearly bonus awards exceed a sum equal to the workers' average two and a half months' wages. A 30 per cent tax will be imposed on bonuses equal to the workers' average two and a half months to four months' wages; a 100 per cent tax will be imposed on bonuses between the workers' average 4-6 months' wages, and a 300 per cent tax on bonuses exceeding the workers' average six months' wages.

The government also stipulated that bonus awards and taxes must be taken from an enterprise's awards funds, and should not be included in the production costs to reduce their tax payment. This will help control the growth of consumption funds.

### Subscription Problems

The new layout of your magazine has added much to its appearance, but I was worried about the cost. However, the contents are the same.

I find the section about China the most interesting, especially those articles about returned overseas Chinese. I would like to read an article about the motivations of an intellectual in your "Books" column.

Unfortunately, we have some difficulties in distributing and subscribing to your magazine, as it is hard for us to keep close contact with China's publishing houses. The China Friendship Association is located in Mexico's capital. There is strict control over foreign exchanges, so we can't deal directly with the China International Book Trading Corporation. Besides, all procedures are carried out in the capital. I wish you had a representative here to deal with business affairs.

I think you need to set up a new national subscription system, where each old subscriber recommends a new one. This will greatly increase your readership.

**Antonio Mosquera A.**  
Chiapas, Mexico

I think your new layout is quite good and so are the contents. But in every issue you should include articles on theoretical problems in socialist development.

The "International" column acquaints us with the circumstances of friendly third world countries, and with China's viewpoints on international politics.

I like the article "Patent Law Encourages Chinese and Foreign

Investors." You should continue to run views like the back cover of issue No. 19, with the picture of the Yumen Oilfield.

As for distribution, every issue of *Beijing Review* is available in Lima, but in my hometown, which is 156 kilometres away, it is difficult to buy. I have to go to Lima every time I want to buy *Beijing Review*.

**Gilmer Huamanyauri Sotil**  
Quinti, Peru

### Substantiate Contents

It was probably a good thing for you to change to colour cover. It gives a feeling of lucidness and lightness. But I think the original cover was better. In Japan, ordinary comprehensive magazines and those mainly for reference do not have colour covers, which are expensive.

It is no good to be satisfied with your colour cover. I hope you concentrate your efforts on the characteristics of the magazine itself, substantiating its contents.

**Akira Ishikawa**  
Kamagawa, Japan

### More Pictures

*Beijing Review* and other publications keep me informed of the pace of China's modernization drive. But if more photos are added it will be more attractive. Words alone are not enough to prove a point, and without pictures people might feel the words are just propaganda. But pictures tell people what is happening, even without captions. We might say that a picture is a silent writer, so I hope you carry more pictures.

**Akira Suzuki**  
Fujieda, Japan

### More Sports News

I am very glad to receive the book — *A Nation at School — From Kindergarten to College* (One of the *China Today* series published by *Beijing Review*). It is useful to a better understanding of education in China, especially for those of us who know so little about China. I think the Chinese Government is taking the right path.

I'd like to say something about your magazine. Its articles are objective and realistic. But when I read them, I always feel something is missing. That is sports news. Although *Beijing Review* is basically a political magazine, I think it should still have one or two pages to cover sports news. Chinese athletes have had great successes in recent years in sports such as gymnastics and track and field events. Your magazine reaches to the whole world, so you should report them.

**Reinhard Lebelt**  
Weigsdorf-Koblitz, GDR

### Handling Civil Disputes

I like your article "How China Handles 'Civil Disputes'" (issue No. 7). It is to the point, easy to understand, and has excellent illustrations. I hope you'll keep up this style of writing for dull and difficult topics, such as the interpretation of law.

I like the attractive colour covers. I've just started to study Chinese and learn about China. When a new issue arrives, I read the whole copy in three evenings, and then pass it to a friend of mine.

**Sadao Yamamura**  
Chiba, Japan

# Zhao's Visit Strengthens Ties With Europe

Premier Zhao Ziyang, as his six-nation tour of Western Europe drew to a close, said that a united and strong Europe taking its destiny into its own hands and a China following an independent policy are important factors in maintaining world peace and stability and restraining the rivalry between the two superpowers.

Asked what were his major impressions during his visit, Zhao said, "First, China and the countries of Western Europe share identical or similar views on many major international issues. Second, both sides have the desire to further develop friendly relations and economic and technological co-operation. Third, the people of Western Europe cherish sincere, friendly sentiments towards the Chinese people."

The tour, which began in France and Belgium, ended with stops in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Italy, and was seen to further the long-term and stable political friendship and economic co-operation between China and Western Europe.

**Sweden, Norway and Denmark.** Zhao's visits to these three countries were the first by a Chinese premier to Scandinavia. Zhao held talks with the leaders of all three countries, who accepted his invitation to visit China.

Sweden, Denmark and Norway were among the first Western countries to recognize China and establish diplomatic relations with it. Prime ministers from all three countries, as well as Queen Margrethe II of Denmark and King Carl Gustaf XVI of Sweden, have already visited China.

During his stay in Sweden from June 6 to 8, Zhao held talks with Prime Minister Olof Palme, and met King Carl Gustaf XVI, the Parliamentary Speaker Ingemund Bengtsson and the leaders of four major Parties.

Zhao said he understands fully and appraises highly the neutral and non-aligned policy pursued by Sweden, and supports its defence of its sovereignty and security and its strengthening of its national defence. He praised Sweden's efforts to ease the international situation, promote North-South dialogue and assist third world countries. He also expressed his appreciation of Palme's role in global disarmament.

The two premiers exchanged views on the situation in Indochina and agreed that a pull-out of all Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea is the key to the problem.

Asked about the threat to Sweden by foreign submarines at a press conference in Stockholm, Zhao said every country has the right to defend its territorial security and waters.

While in Denmark from June 8 to 10, Zhao held talks with his Danish counterpart Poul Schluter, and met Queen Margrethe II and Parliamentary President Svend Jakobsen.

Zhao supported Denmark's efforts to safeguard its sovereignty and security, and to ease the intensified international situation. He indicated that China is willing to strengthen its consultations and co-operation with Denmark.

Schluter expressed his worries over Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

While in Norway from June 10 to 13, Zhao talked with Prime Minister Kare Willoch, and met King Olav V, Parliamentary President Pek Hyssing-Dahl and Labour Party Chairman Gro Harlem Brundtland.

Zhao expressed China's full understanding of and support for the Norwegian Government and people in safeguarding their national sovereignty and security and their efforts towards easing the world situation and towards disarmament.

Willoch spoke highly of China's increasingly important role in world disarmament.

The two premiers said they are satisfied with their friendly and co-operative relations in politics, economics, science, technology, culture and other fields.

Zhao toured industrial and agricultural projects while in Scandinavia, and held talks with business leaders. All sides, he said, can learn from one another's strong points to offset their weaknesses.

China's trade with Sweden last year came to US\$160 million, with Denmark US\$100 million and with Norway US\$44 million. Economic co-operation, however, went beyond trade alone. There were joint ventures, compensatory trade, loans and labour contracts.

Zhao said China values its economic and technological co-operation with all European countries, both large and small. The prospect of co-operation with these three Scandinavian countries is broad and has great potential.



**Premier Zhao Ziyang meeting with West European leaders (clockwise from top left) — Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter, Norwegian Prime Minister Kare Willoch and Madame Willoch, and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi.**

Sweden is superior in mining, forestry, agriculture and transportation and China is interested in co-operating with it in these fields, Zhao pointed out.

Meeting with Danish business leaders, Zhao said that China's agriculture is going through great changes. China must pay more attention to animal husbandry, he said. Denmark's extensive experience in this field makes it an

ideal partner for China to discuss co-operation with.

Also while in Denmark, he visited a small family farm, after which he said he had gained a deep impression of Denmark's agriculture.

During his stay in Norway, Zhao said he was glad to learn of Norway's economic achievements and the improvements in general living standards. The leaders of

the two countries agreed that China and Norway could further co-operation in offshore oil, energy exploitation, navigation, ship-building, fishing and electronics on the basis of equality and supplying each other's needs.

He visited Bergen, the second largest city in Norway and the centre of commerce, ship-building and fishing in the west. He also flew to the Statfjord oilfield in the

North Sea to see the largest oil platform in the world.

**Italy.** During his trip to Italy from June 13 to 16, Zhao held talks with Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, and met with President Alesandro Pertini, a long-time friend familiar to the Chinese people, Senate President Francesco Cossiga and House President Leonilde Jotti. He invited Craxi and Cossiga to visit China.

China places great value on Italy's dedication to peace and stability in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region, to developing its relations with its neighbours, and to expanding co-operation with third world countries, Zhao said. He hoped more Italian entrepreneurs would invest in China.

Trade between China and Italy, down for several years, increased last year. Italy holds a significant position in trade between China and the European Economic Community.

The two premiers agreed that their countries will explore new forms of economic and technological co-operation and that political and cultural relations will be developed further.

Zhao visited Venice, the home of Marco Polo, and toured a glass factory on Murano Island. A member of Zhao's entourage, Zhang Jingfu, Minister in Charge of the State Economic Commission, visited the Fiat plant in Turin.

Zhao also attended the funeral of Italian Communist Party General Secretary Enrico Berlinguer on June 13 in Rome.

## **Guyanese Leader On Second Visit**

President Li Xiannian has told the visiting President of Guyana that China wishes to see peace, stability, and economic growth in



**President Li Xiannian (second from left) talks with his Guyanese counterpart Forbes Burnham (third from right).**

the Caribbean, it favours the settlement of Caribbean problems by the peoples there and it opposes foreign interference of any kind.

Speaking on June 11 at a banquet in honour of President Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, Li said, "We support the Caribbean integration movement and hope that the Caribbean countries will strengthen their unity and co-operation. We are ready to establish and develop friendly relations and co-operation with all countries in the Caribbean region on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence."

Burnham arrived in China for a state visit from June 11 to 15 at Li's invitation. In March 1975, when he was Prime Minister, he visited China at the invitation of Premier Zhou Enlai.

Guyana, which established diplomatic relations with China in 1972, was the first Commonwealth country in the Caribbean to do so.

During his stay in Beijing, Burnham exchanged views with Li on international issues of common concern and the furthering of friendship and co-operation between the two countries.

In his talks with Burnham, Li pointed out that the danger of a world war still exists. So long as the people of various countries strengthened their unity and struggle, he said, a world war could be prevented and world peace safeguarded.

Burnham drew attention to the tense situation in Latin America and the Caribbean region and particularly in Central America.

He said that the intense situation in that region was caused by the confrontation between the East and the West, and primarily by the economic, social and political problems.

"These problems should be solved through negotiations and not by military means," he said.

The present world economic situation was not satisfying, Burnham stressed. "The developing countries should increase exchanges and co-operation in the trade, economic, scientific and technological fields."

"Without South-South dialogue and co-operation," he said, "there could be no North-South dialogue between the developed and developing countries."



Agreeing with what Burnham had said, Li added that if the countries of the South did not speak in one voice, they could not make sufficiently strong presentations in their dialogue with the North.

Li hailed Burnham for his important contributions to the development of friendly relations and co-operation between China and Guyana.

Burnham said that his talks with Li had been sincere and earnest, and that both sides had shown a spirit of mutual respect. They also discussed economic co-operation in their talks.

Burnham also met separately with Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPC, Deng Xiaoping, Chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the CPC, and Acting Premier Wan Li.

In the meeting with Burnham, Hu Yaobang told him that China and Guyana enjoy very good political relations. "Economic co-operation between the two countries should develop faster and more steadily and produce better results," he said.

Burnham agreed with Hu's remarks, saying that there exist great potentials for Guyana-China co-operation in exploring forest resources.

On inter-Party relations, Burnham said that relations between Guyana's People's National Congress (of which Burnham is leader) and the Chinese Communist Party are very good. "We hope that the two Parties will expand co-operation and share experiences on the basis of friendship and non-interference in each other's internal affairs," he added.

Hu expressed the same desire to increase exchanges between the two Parties. "You trust us as we do you," he said. "Our friendship and co-operation can develop for a long time to come."

A memorandum on the talks and a cultural agreement between the two governments were signed on June 15. As well, three instruments were exchanged, one regarding the establishment of an inter-governmental joint commission on trade and economic, scientific and technical co-operation.

## Sino-UK Working Group Established

China and Britain have agreed to set up a working group to consider documents submitted by the two countries "in pursuit of their objective of reaching agreement as soon as possible on the question of Hongkong."

In a joint statement issued on June 13, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said the working group will meet full time between rounds of formal talks, starting in the third week of June in Beijing.

The Chinese team will be led by Ambassador Ke Zaishuo of the Foreign Ministry, and the British team will be led by David Wilson, Assistant Undersecretary of State in the Foreign Office. The teams of the two sides will be responsible to the chairmen of their respective government delegations, who will remain responsible for the overall conduct of the negotiations.

The spokesman said the two sides described the 16th round of the second phase of Sino-British talks on the Hongkong question, which was held in Beijing on June 12 and 13, as "useful and constructive." The 17th round will take place in Beijing on June 27 and 28.

## News in Brief

**Hu Meets Romanian Leader.** General Secretary Hu Yaobang has told a visiting Romanian government delegation that "I am pleased that the two sides are satisfied with the results of the fifth session of the Sino-Romanian Committee on

Economic and Technical Co-operation."

The delegation, which met Hu on June 5, was led by Ion Dinca, First Deputy Prime Minister of Romania.

During the session the two sides reached agreement on 35 new economic and technical co-operation projects. There was also an increase in the number of trade contracts signed or agreed upon in principle.

**Li Meets Australian Leader.** President Li Xiannian has told a visiting Australian government minister that it was possible for China and Australia to develop economic and technical co-operation in many areas, not only in iron and steel but also in agriculture and animal husbandry.

Lionel Bowen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Trade, said Australia was willing to co-operate with China in a wide range of fields, including the establishment of joint ventures, when he met with Li on June 10.

A memorandum of understanding, pledging co-operation in the iron and steel industry, was signed by the two sides on June 11.

**Wan Li Meets Angolan Minister.** Acting Premier Wan Li has told a visiting Angolan government delegation that he was very pleased with the further development of friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries.

The delegation, led by Ismael Gaspar Martins, Minister of Foreign Trade, was the first to visit China since China and Angola established diplomatic relations last year. A Sino-Angolan governmental trade agreement, also the first accord between the two countries, was signed on June 12.

Li, in his meeting with Martins on June 13, also said that China has always supported the Angolan people in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism.

# Expanding Civil Aviation Services

Regional airline companies are planned in China's coastal Fujian and Guangdong Provinces, in the Guangxi and Xinjiang autonomous regions, and in Shanghai municipality as an effort to reform and develop the state-run airline, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC). The reform has the support of the Chinese Government and all departments involved.

A Shanghai airline company is being planned to handle international and domestic routes. The company may co-operate with foreign airlines, as well as its possible co-operation with CAAC. A Xiamen airline company in Fujian Province is planned to work together with CAAC.

To meet the needs of opening to the outside world, invigorating the domestic economy and the growing demands of tourism, China's civil aviation service has expanded rapidly in the past few years. In 1983 CAAC carried 660 million ton/km in traffic mileage, nearly twice the 1979 figure. The range of specialized services has also expanded.

CAAC is now renewing its airplanes. Over the years, more than 70 airports have been built or expanded. The airports in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Urumqi, Harbin, Tianjin, Hangzhou, Hefei, Nanjing, Chengdu, Kunming, Xiamen, Guilin can accommodate the most modern jet planes.

CAAC now serves 203 domestic and international routes. A network of domestic flights uses Beijing as its hub. In addition, many local routes have been added in the remote border regions of Tibet, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Yunnan and Heilongjiang. CAAC also offers 20 routes to China's tourist spots.

There are now 21 international routes covering 150,000 kilometres

and serving 22 cities in 18 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. CAAC has business relations with more than 180 foreign airlines.

This year, CAAC plans to increase the number of Boeing 747 flights to Japan, to improve the route from China to Great Britain and to increase the number of flights to the United States. A route to Australia may be opened this year. In addition, an increase in the number of flights from the hinterland to Hongkong is under consideration.

The Industrial Aviation Service Company, which was founded in 1982, consists of more than 20 specialized flight teams, flying 40,000 hours each year. In all, the company now has more than 400 bases for sowing tree seeds, controlling deserts, protecting forests, crop planting and control, exploration, mapping and marine services.

## China Develops Small Coal Mines

China now has 40,200 small coal mines run by rural collectives, nearly twice as many as a year ago, according to incomplete statistics announced by the Coal Ministry.

These small coal mines, spread over more than 1,200 counties and cities in 24 provinces and autonomous regions, produced 169 million tons of coal in 1983, or nearly one-fourth of the country's total. This is the result of implementing directives from the State Council last year on accelerating the growth of small coal mines.

Small coal mines are not worth exploiting by large state-owned enterprises, because their coal seams are thin and they have small reserves. However, the opening of small coal mines by rural collectives, groups of households and

individuals will supplement the state-run coal mines. And the coal they produce will be of great help in meeting the needs of local industries, township residents and villagers.

The rapid growth of small coal mines has promoted the development of local industries and agriculture, and led several million peasants, communes and brigades down the road to prosperity.

A small coal mine with a capacity of 30,000 tons a year run by the Lizhuang Brigade in Yuxian County, Henan Province, has earned the brigade about 1.76 million yuan in profits in the past eight years, in addition to paying 227,000 yuan in taxes to the state.

The brigade has used the money to build irrigation works and buy six trucks. The peasants of the brigade are now living in a new village with a cinema. And Lizhuang is not the only brigade running this kind of rural enterprise.

At present, small coal mines face problems such as poor management, backward equipment and technology and unskilled miners. But after several years of consolidation and technical transformation, production at more than one-tenth of China's small coal mines is taking the right path.

## Economic Briefs

The Fangezhuang Coal-Washing Plant of the Kailuan Coal Mine, the largest modern one in China, went into operation on May 12 this year.

Situated 200 kilometres northeast of Beijing, the plant, capable of washing 4 million tons of coal a year, covers more than 41,000 square metres. The complete set of equipment was imported from the Federal Republic of Germany. The plant uses advanced dressing technology to sort quality coal from useless ore. Its main equipment

and production processes are controlled by a computer.

\* \* \*

The Guangzhou China Hotel, a joint venture involving an investment of US\$100 million from both the Guangzhou Yangcheng Service Development Co. and the Shin Ho Cheng Development Co. Ltd. of Hongkong, was inaugurated on June 10. With a conference hall, Chinese and Western style restaurants, snack bars, an indoor swimming pool, ballrooms, shops and modern facilities, the 18-storey hotel covers 160,000 square metres of floor space. Business management of the hotel is computerized.

Fitted out with the most up-to-date equipment and with a full range of services, it meets international standards for a four-star hotel.

\* \* \*

A new well producing 1,170 tons of crude oil and 56,000 cubic metres of natural gas a day was sunk early this month at the Shengli Oilfield, China's second largest petroleum producer.

This is the fifth high-yield well drilled at Shengli this year. Each of the new wells produces more than 1,000 tons of crude oil a day. The first one to be drilled yields 3,600 tons of crude oil and 360,000 cubic metres of natural gas a day. The average daily oil output of the oilfield is now more than 55,000 tons.

\* \* \*

The China Otsuka Pharmaceutical Company, Ltd., the first pharmaceutical joint venture built with Chinese and foreign funds, was recently completed in Tianjin. It will produce 6 million bottles of 500 ml-package medicines for infusion each year, including glucose and sodium chloride.

The pharmaceutical plant cost the Chinese Pharmaceutical Industrial Corporation and the Japanese Otsuka Pharmaceutical Company Ltd. 11 million yuan each to build.

## Reforming Science Research System

The State Council has approved a remunerative contract system for all of China's development research institutes, to be implemented within three to five years.

The institutes may transfer their research results to and collect some fees from enterprises, with a view to making the institutes self-supporting.

The institutes will introduce the contract system for internal research jobs. Each research group, set up on a voluntary basis, will be directly responsible for its customers. Remuneration is appraised and decided according to how many advances are made and to the principle of "more pay for more work."

This vital reform of the existing scientific research system will enable intellectuals to discard the practice of "eating from the same big pot," as workers and peasants have already done. It will also help divert their creative labour to meet the needs of production, thus speeding up modernization.

Seventy-seven technology research institutes have already wholly adopted the contract system, and can finance their activities with their own funds instead of depending on the state treasury for operating expenses. About 100 more institutes have partly instituted the contract system.

Recently, the State Council issued a circular urging other scientific research institutes to draw on the experience of those units which have successfully used the new system.

The reform experiences of the Zhuzhou Electronic Research Institute in Hunan Province have drawn the wide attention of similar units in China. The institute does research on the development and application of microcomputers. It employs 59 scientists and techni-

cians, and 96 other workers. The institute used an independent accounting system right from its founding in 1978. Apart from fulfilling six state assigned projects, the institute sold more than 40 scientific and technological achievements to contracting enterprises. By the end of last year, the output value of the institute reached 6.27 million yuan, with an income of 3.67 million yuan. It now has 2.52 million yuan in accumulated fixed assets and circulating funds.

The research projects of the institute are all designed to meet the needs of economic production and technological transformation. The institute actively offers its services to other units, regardless of their line of work or their location. As a result, their research achievements are quickly turned into a productive force and the institute has won praise from its customers.

Income from each research project, after costs are deducted, is turned over to the group members, according to their different contributions. This has fully brought out the enthusiasm of its members.

To promote this reform, the government will give research institutes more decision-making powers. The institute director will be appointed by higher departments, with a fixed term of office. The deputies nominated by the director will be subject to approval from above. The institutes have the right to employ persons on the basis of examinations, and to reject incompetent persons assigned from above. They may also increase wages for outstanding scientists and technicians.

Funds are allocated by the state to those institutes engaged in basic research and incomplete applied science. A special committee will decide how funds will be distributed, and which institutes will be granted preferential treatment.



A food seller in Donganmen Street night market.

## Beijing Night Markets Draw Crowds

Beijing residents, and especially working couples who find it difficult to shop during the working day, can now enjoy shopping and tasting different foods in the evenings.

Since the beginning of June, night markets have sprung up in nine streets in Beijing including Wangfujing, the busiest shopping centre, improving the city's conveniences.

Hundreds of stalls run by the state, collectives and individuals now do business from 7 to 11 p.m. selling clothing, articles for daily use, cold drinks, food and fresh vegetables.

Night markets have been well received by the people. Businesses are multiplying. At the night market in Luoma Street in Xuanwu District, for example, shops and stalls are selling about 30,000 yuan of goods each evening. Many state-run shops nearby have also extended their business hours.

Night markets are a traditional business in Beijing, and some even remained open in the early years

after liberation in 1949. However, because of undue stress on merging retail shops and concentrated management in the late 50s, night markets gradually disappeared. Especially during the 10-year "cultural revolution" (1966-76), commercial networks were thinning out and shop business hours were almost the same as regular working hours, causing many inconveniences.

In the commercial reform in recent years, taking "all for the convenience of the masses" as its guiding principle, retail shops run by collectively owned units and self-employed persons have popped up like mushrooms. But business hours remained unchanged.

Not long ago, some Beijing residents wrote to newspapers demanding longer business hours for shops. "Let the lights of Wangfujing Street flash on," they said. The opening of night markets has satisfied their demands.

It is estimated that the present night markets will cause a chain reaction in Beijing's commercial districts, as well as in other cities.

## Teahouses Return To Land of Tea

Traditional teahouses will be restored in China, the land of tea growing, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce.

In response to the decision, the ministry is trying to enlarge the tea business and encourage more individuals to open teahouses.

Special measures have been adopted to provide privately owned teahouses with public monetary assistance in rural areas. Household-run teahouses in cities and towns will also receive special treatment.

The Chinese people have a long history of tea drinking. In the past, they could enjoy tea in teahouses in public centres. In his famed drama *Teahouse*, the late writer Lao She used the changes in a teahouse to reflect the life in Beijing from the last years of the Qing Dynasty to the eve of liberation.

In Beijing, before the "cultural revolution," teahouses still thrived. In some teahouses people also enjoyed popular entertainment such as storytelling or singing.

Since the implementation of the production responsibility system, radical changes in the rural economy and the peasants' lives have revived traditional teahouses, most of which were suspended during the "cultural revolution."

In Sichuan Province, teahouses can be found everywhere, from major cities like Chongqing and Chengdu to the province's north-east mountain villages.

People usually find the teahouse an ideal place for rest, diversion, entertainment and exchanging information. More importantly, today's rural teahouses have a special role to play in transmitting economic information to specialized and individual households, to liven their businesses.

## Comecon

# A Summit to Co-ordinate Disputes

by HUANG BINGJUN

**T**HE recently-ended three-day Moscow's summit of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), the first in 15 years, fell short of expectations despite the adoption of agreements on economic co-operation and peace.

The summit was postponed several times since it was first proposed because the 10 Comecon members disagreed on major issues. At a reception on June 14, the last day of the summit, Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko admitted that although the members' views on key Comecon issues and the international situation were basically identical, there are "some errors and mistakes" in the economic relations between Comecon members, due to "subjective and objective reasons."

In recent years the European Comecon countries have developed considerably. According to data published by Moscow, the Comecon countries — Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Viet Nam — make up 10 per cent of the world's population. Their combined national income is one quarter of the world total and their gross industrial value one-third. However, the rate of economic growth has sharply declined in recent years. In 1981 and 1982, the average rate of growth for national income was 2.2 per cent. It rose to 3.7 per cent in 1983. According to a Bulgarian magazine this decline was caused

by the exhaustion of domestic economic potential, poor economic management, increased world prices for energy and raw materials, and international tension, which led to increased military expenditures. These unfavourable factors still exist, making it likely that the Comecon countries' rate of economic growth will remain low in 1985.

As a way out, Moscow continues to encourage "economic integration," which it has taken great pains to promote in the past dozen years. Under this proposal, the Comecon countries would try to close the gap between their technology and that of the West (which they lag far behind) through co-ordinated efforts.

However, efforts in this area have not had satisfactory results to date. A Polish newspaper revealed that the so-called integration, under which each country is allotted production quotas in areas of specialization, exists mostly on paper. In actual fact, only 15 to 50 per cent of these quotas have been fulfilled, and then they account for only 10 to 15 per cent of the member countries' total foreign trade.

In practice, these attempts at integration have usually ended up hurting Comecon members' sovereignty and national interests, hindered the development of economic ties with other countries, and prevented them from joining the international division of labour. As the summit opened, an editorial in the Romanian newspaper *Scinteia* reminded Moscow that co-operation should be based on

"equality, respect for national sovereignty, independence and national interests, non-interference in each other country's internal affairs, mutual benefit and the principle of comradely unity and mutual help."

One of the Comecon countries' most pressing economic problems is energy supply and pricing. The Soviet Union provides the European Comecon countries with 50 per cent of their energy needs and 90 per cent of their oil. But in recent years, it has reduced its supply to these countries, and increased its oil exports to the West in exchange for hard currency. Up until 1982, Soviet oil exports to European Comecon members were priced at the average international level of five years earlier, giving them considerable savings. However, in 1982 the Soviets raised the price by 29 per cent and in 1983 by 17.1 per cent, at a time when world prices were already beginning to decline.

At the summit, these countries asked Moscow to ensure supplies of energy and raw materials and to change the pricing method. But other than agreeing to set its prices closer to international levels, the Soviet Union promised them nothing. This position, while toning down the differences between the two sides, gives Moscow a free hand to raise prices if necessary.

Furthermore, these countries must sell their farm and industrial products to Moscow at prices below those on world markets, a situation which they find hard to accept. A newspaper in Bulgaria complained that trade between members should reflect the general prices on world markets. The existing price system not only incurs economic losses for each country, but discourages all Comecon countries, including the

Soviet Union, from applying advanced techniques and upgrading product quality.

The meeting was ostensibly intended to solve differences between the participants and em-

phasize their political unity as a way of solving their economic difficulties. However, with these problems still unresolved, it remains to be seen whether it will have any effect.

This puts the entire international financial system at risk.

Improving North-South relations and reforming the old international economic system are top priority now for both developing and developed nations. The settlement of these problems, if successful, will not only spark the economies of the developing countries, but will also serve the interests of developed nations. Even the London Economic Declaration issued by the recent seven-nation Western summit conceded that the industrial nations are economically bound to the developing countries.

More importantly, the economic difficulties in the third world countries are bound to set off political turmoil at home and jeopardize international stability. Any turmoil is likely to prompt intervention by the superpowers, openly or covertly lighting new hot spots all over the world. Therefore, establishing a new international economic order and improving North-South relations are not only an economic issue, but also a political one.

## North-South

# Problems of Economics and Politics

by TI FU

**T**ODAY the North-South relationship shares the focus of world attention with the problem of maintaining peace. Both are closely related, and the state of their relationship will greatly affect the stability of international politics.

The North-South relationship, between the richer, developed countries in the northern hemisphere and the poorer, developing countries in the south, is the outcome of an historical process. The gap between the two has widened because of the existing unfair international economic order.

Today's developing nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America are all former colonies or semi-colonies of the Western nations, which developed and enriched themselves by exploiting their territories. The prosperity enjoyed by the developed countries is based on the poverty of the underdeveloped countries.

After achieving political independence in the wake of World War II, the developing countries have made strenuous efforts to pull themselves out of their poverty and backwardness. But these efforts have been restricted or obstructed by developed countries, and in particular, by the superpowers. Third world nations have received unfair and unequal treatment in production, trade, banking and other fields. As a result, the poor are getting poorer while the rich get richer.

Even so, some Western countries still look upon the third world countries as outlets for investment, markets and suppliers of raw materials rather than as partners to co-operate with. While extending large loans to the developing countries, some Western nations are trying to push down the prices of raw materials and limit exports from the third world. The burden of debt thus grows heavier, driving the third world economies from bad to worse.

Now some of the debtor countries are unable to make their payments, even on the interest due.

## The Gulf

# Unity Furthered by Council's Efforts

by ZHANG YINGSHENG

**T**HE meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) oil ministers in Taif, Saudi Arabia, on June 10 to explore the possibility of a joint strategy to counter threats against shipping in the Gulf is seen as further evidence of the effectiveness of this organization in its short three-year history. This meeting, which was called because of repeated air strikes against Gulf shipping with the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, comes close on the heels of a GCC decision to further strengthen military co-operation and work out a defence programme to keep the Gulf oil route unblocked.

The GCC was founded by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates on May 25, 1981 on the principle of strength through unity. Since then it has mediated various disputes in the Gulf and the Arab world and contributed to promoting Arab unity as well as security and stability in the Gulf region.

The GCC leaders are in frequent contact, consulting each other on major issues in the Gulf and the Middle East, seeking unified stands and co-ordinating their actions. They have jointly called on Iraq and Iran to end their war, demanded a Soviet troop withdrawal from

Afghanistan and condemned Israeli aggression.

They have also appealed to Arab countries to end their disputes and strengthen their unity against the common enemy. As Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Saban Al-Ahmad pointed out, the GCC's most outstanding political achievement has been to put the member states' individual efforts into a collective orbit.

The GCC leaders regard the security and stability of the Gulf as the responsibility of the countries and people in this region, and they resolutely reject all forms of foreign intervention. Despite the recent attacks on tankers in the Gulf, including some belonging to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and the disruption of shipping routes, they oppose interference in Gulf affairs by the superpowers.

In the face of the tense situation in the region, the GCC has sped up military co-operation. Last October the six members held their first joint military exercises in the United Arab Emirates, and since then they have held bilateral and multilateral exercises on several occasions. According to one top official, the GCC plans to build a joint task force.

Economically, the GCC is heading towards integration. The members have already signed a joint economic agreement, and in 1982 they set up the Gulf Investment Corporation with assets of US\$2,100 million. At present the GCC member countries are preparing to remove the tariffs on import-and-export food and raw materials and unify import tariffs. A GCC official not long ago declared that it strives to turn itself into the Gulf Common Market by 1990.

The GCC believes one of its most important objectives is to end the disputes between the Arab countries and strengthen unity in the Arab world. Through its mediation, the Sultanate of Oman and

the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen signed a declaration to normalize relations in October 1982, thus ending 15 years of enmity. Last year when Al Fatah of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was embroiled in in-fighting, the GCC specially sent its delegation to mediate between the two factions, supporting Yasser

Arafat's leadership. In addition, it has mediated between Syria and the PLO, and between Lebanon and Syria.

Although members hold differing views on some issues, their achievements have brought fresh hope for unity in the Gulf region and the Arab world.

## WEU

# Independent Defence Group Revived

by XIA ZHIMIAN

**T**HE Western European Union (WEU), after languishing in the background for 30 years, is now to be reactivated to help beef up defence in Western Europe.

The decision was made at a meeting of the foreign ministers of the seven WEU countries in Paris on June 12.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of Federal Germany described Paris discussions as "both important and gladdening," which at the meeting "got off to an encouraging start" on how to muster up European strength within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

European observers have been offering interesting theories why the WEU is back in European politics.

The Brussels Treaty Organization, the predecessor of the WEU, was formed in 1948 by Britain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg as a defence alliance against possible revival of militarism in defeated Germany.

But as the US-Soviet confrontation replaced the fear of Germany in Europe, the WEU became a seven-nation alliance, taking in Federal Germany and Italy.

With NATO's ever-increasing role in European defence and the

growing sense of security in Western Europe under the protection of US the nuclear umbrella, the WEU gradually faded into oblivion. Over the past decade, ministers of the WEU did not even meet once, save for a brief monthly meeting of its ambassadors in London, a bare reminder of its existence.

In face of tense rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union and the growing unreliability of Washington's nuclear umbrella, as well as the differences over the security interests between the United States and Western Europe, the Western Europeans have grown suspicious of leaving their defence responsibilities on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. It is logical therefore that the WEU has been reactivated under such circumstances.

The United States and the Soviet Union seem unable to reach an agreement on limiting intermediate-range nuclear forces in Europe. US President Ronald Reagan is even envisaging a possible regional nuclear war in Europe, and this has absolutely terrified the Western Europeans. Meanwhile the United States is determined to develop space-based anti-missile weapons to shield its own territory, awakening the West European countries to the need to protect themselves in a possible nuclear war.

What is more, the United States

is set on fighting it out with the Soviet Union in the arms race, heightening the pressure the Western Europeans are feeling. All this has made Western Europe turn inward to look for ways to protect itself in the event of a nuclear holocaust.

It is evident that Western Europe cannot go it alone in defence in the foreseeable future. This explains why the foreign ministers have made it clear in Paris once again that the West European countries have no intention of replacing NATO with the WEU or divorcing West European defence from that of the United States.

More than 10 years ago, France proposed reactivating the WEU. Federal Germany was afraid that France, which had withdrawn from NATO's military structure, would use the WEU to estrange Europe from the United States. For Federal Germany, relations with the United States were then a matter of life and death. And now that relations between France and the United States have improved, the Americans are no longer so wary about the revival of the WEU either.

From a series of events and debates on deploying the medium-range missiles, the politicians in Federal Germany have realized that Western Europe holds different interests from the United States. And the Reagan administration has not made the best possible efforts in arms reduction and detente since Federal Germany agreed to deploy the intermediate-range missiles. This has disappointed Bonn.

In answer to current realities, Bonn and Paris have been calling for greater political, military and economic unity in Western Europe.

Foreign and defence ministers of the seven WEU countries are to meet in Rome in October to

mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the WEU. It remains to be seen what important con-

## Haiti

# Anti-Duvalier Feeling Behind Riots

by SUN GUOWEI

**H**AITIAN President Jean-Claude Duvalier has reshuffled his cabinet following anti-government demonstrations in two of the tiny country's major cities in late May — the largest since Duvalier succeeded his father Francois ("Papa Doc") Duvalier in 1971.

The rioting began in Gonaives, Haiti's third largest city, after a slum woman was tortured to death by police. Angry crowds surrounded police headquarters and military barracks, shouting, "No hunger, no poverty!" and "Down with Duvalier!" Armed police and soldiers, as well as armoured cars and helicopters, were sent to suppress the demonstrators, and the government imposed a curfew upon the city.

Later, people in Cap Haitien, the second largest city, stormed an international aid warehouse full of US-donated food. This led to another bloody clash, with soldiers opening fire, killing and wounding a number of people.

Ever since 1957, when "Papa Doc" Duvalier became president with US support, Haiti has been under the thumb of the Duvalier family, which has used extortion and intimidation to crush opposition and encouraged the voodoo religion. Those who opposed the Duvalier dynasty were persecuted or slaughtered by the notorious Tonton Macoutes, Papa Doc's private police force. In the past 20-odd years, hundreds of thousands of people have been killed, tortured or exiled, and the Duvalier family has expropriated 90 per cent of Haiti's property.

contributions to the independent defence of Europe will be made at the Rome meeting.

It had been hoped that things would improve when Papa Doc's son Jean-Claude became President-for-life in 1971 but he has continued his father's despotism, though to a lesser degree. It is estimated he has plundered nearly US\$500 million from the Haitians, most of it now safe in Swiss banks. His marriage alone cost a reported US\$5 million. Meanwhile the people of Haiti live in dire poverty amidst government corruption.

With a per-capita GDP of only US\$150, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, as well as one of the poorest in the third world. About 60 per cent of Haitian adults are unemployed, and more than 80 per cent of the entire population is illiterate. Large numbers of Haitian labourers are forced to go abroad to do seasonal work such as cutting sugarcane. About 17,000 people fled to the United States over six months, many of them dying on the way.

Haiti is a predominantly agricultural country, with over 60 per cent of its industrious labour force working the land. Its agricultural output was once one of the world's highest. The main crops are coffee, cocoa, sugar and rice.

The Haitian people overthrew colonial rule in 1804, the first Caribbean or Latin American country to do so. Now they are struggling against the cruel rule of Duvalier dynasty. In America and Europe more than 20 anti-government organizations have been set up by Haitian exiles to overthrow the regime.

The recent rioting is evidence that a popular movement towards democracy is on the rise.



# Explaining Regional Autonomy Law

*The Law on Regional Autonomy for Minority Nationalities, adopted on May 31 at the Second Session of the Sixth National People's Congress, comprises a preface and 67 articles organized under seven chapters. Following are the main points of an explanation of this law by Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme, Vice-Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee and Chairman of the NPC Nationalities Committee. — Ed.*



by Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme

## Fundamental Political System

China is a unified multi-national country. It has 55 national minorities excluding the Han.

The Communist Party of China has consistently stated that all Chinese nationalities, large or small, are equal. It has been carrying out a policy of equality and unity between Chinese ethnic groups, working for common prosperity for all of them.

The founding of the People's Republic of China marked the end of national oppression and the beginning of a new era of national equality. According to various historical factors, the relationships between nationalities and their distribution, the Chinese Communist Party adopted a policy of regional national autonomy in areas where minority peoples lived in compact communities. This im-

portant state policy was enthusiastically supported by people everywhere, and was formally included in the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and the Constitution of the People's Republic of China.

China currently has five autonomous regions, 31 autonomous prefectures and 80 autonomous counties (or banners). Together they cover 6.1 million square kilometres, 60 per cent of China's territory. The population of these autonomous areas is 120 million, of which 50 million belong to minority peoples.

Great achievements have been made in regional national autonomy during the past three decades despite some setbacks. A socialist relationship between nationalities based on equality, unity and mutual assistance has been established in China.

The system of regional national autonomy has proved correct and well suited to China. By implementing regional national autonomy in a multi-national country like ours, the right of each minority group to administer its own internal affairs and the unity of the minorities and unification and independence of the country are both guaranteed. This system benefits the fight against foreign aggression and subversion.

## Basic Principles

The Law on Regional Autonomy for Minority Nationalities will

guarantee the successful implementation of the basic principles and regulations governing regional autonomy stipulated in the Constitution.

The fundamental guideline for the regional autonomy law is to uphold the four cardinal principles — to keep to the socialist road, to the people's democratic dictatorship, to the leadership of the Communist Party and to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought.

Due attention is paid to the relationship between the national autonomous areas and the state. On the one hand, the autonomous areas are inalienable parts of the People's Republic of China. The unified leadership of the Central People's Government must be guaranteed and its general principles, policies and plans must be implemented. On the other hand, the full power of autonomy of the organizations of self-government of national autonomous areas must be guaranteed and consideration must be given to their special characteristics and needs. In this way, the right of minority people to administer their own affairs will be guaranteed, a relationship based on equality, unity and mutual assistance between different national minorities will be established and common prosperity will be realized.

## Autonomous Organizations

The organizations of self-government of national autonomous areas are the people's congresses and people's governments of autonomous regions, autonomous prefectures and autonomous counties. The organizations of self-government practise democratic centralism. Because the people's con-

gresses and people's governments of national autonomous areas are both ordinary local state organizations and organizations of self-government, therefore, according to China's Constitution, the Law on Regional Autonomy for Minority Nationalities makes the following stipulations about their composition.

First, the administrative head of an autonomous region, prefecture or county shall be a citizen of the nationality (or of one of the nationalities) exercising regional autonomy in the area concerned. The chairmanship or vice-chairmanships of the standing committee of the people's congress of an autonomous region, prefecture or county shall include a citizen or citizens of the nationality or nationalities exercising regional autonomy in the area concerned.

Second, the number and proportion of deputies belonging to the minority which exercises regional autonomy are decided by the standing committee of the regional or provincial people's congress. Due consideration should be given to the national minorities with a smaller population when distributing the number of deputies.

Third, efforts should be made to include minorities in the people's governments of the national autonomous areas.

All these decisions are based on past and present conditions in the minority areas. They not only guarantee that each national minority has its own representatives, but they also help the self-government organizations have closer ties with the local people and better implement the regional national autonomy system.

Based on the relevant regulation, organizations of self-government of national autonomous areas have the power to enact autonomy regulations and specific regulations and to adopt special policies and flexible measures, as long as

they do not contravene the Constitution and the law. The regional autonomy law also stipulates that if decisions, decrees and instructions of the higher-level state departments do not suit the autonomous localities, the organizations of self-government may alter or simply not implement them, provided that they have the approval of the state department concerned. These regulations give the local self-government organizations

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***The Party and state have always made it their policy to train and assign cadres, specialists and skilled workers from minority peoples. This is the key to the successful practice of regional national autonomy.***

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great power to implement the state's laws and policies according to their own conditions.

The regional autonomy law also includes specific regulations concerning development in such fields as economics, finance, education and culture.

Under the guidance of state plans, the autonomous self-government organizations may work out their own principles and policies and plan for economic construction in accordance with their local conditions and needs. They may readjust the relations of production and restructure the local economy according to the law and the characteristics of their own economic development. They may decide and arrange local capital construction projects according to their financial and material abilities.

With the approval of the State Council, they may open ports for foreign trade and enjoy a preferential proportion of foreign exchange. They have the right to spend their local revenue. Where

local revenues cannot meet expenditures, subsidies from the higher-level financial departments are provided. Autonomous areas may develop their educational system independently in accordance with the state's educational policy, making their own plans, deciding on the establishment of schools, and the forms of schooling, the curriculum, the language used in teaching and method of enrolling students. The institutions may also develop their national culture in various fields such as literature, the arts, journalism, publishing, broadcasting, cinema and television.

### **Help From the State**

The economy and culture in many minority regions are still rather backward. This de facto inequality is inherited from history. In order to eliminate it, the most important thing is to help the minority people accelerate their economic and cultural development. This is a long-term basic task for China. To meet the task, the regional autonomy law defines a series of regulations on the responsibilities for higher-level state departments.

First, the characteristics and special needs of the autonomous areas must be considered when national economic and social development plans are being worked out. Second, funds for special development should be earmarked for autonomous areas. Third, special concern should be given to commerce, supply and marketing and medicine in autonomous areas. The demands of autonomous areas should be taken into account when distributing means of production and of livelihood. An appropriate number of teachers, doctors, scientists, technicians and managers should be assigned to help minority areas develop their economy, culture and education.

All these regulations illustrate

the state's special concern for minority peoples. The national policies of the Party and the state are for the benefit of China's national minorities. They are manifestations of the socialist relationships of unity and mutual-aid between different peoples, and are the basic guarantee of the interests of all people in China.

### Training Cadres

The Party and state have always made it their policy to train and assign cadres, specialists and skilled workers from minority people. This is also the key to the successful practice of regional national autonomy, and so requires great determination and efforts.

The regional autonomy law stipulates, "The self-government organizations in autonomous localities may, according to the needs of their local socialist construction, adopt measures to train cadres at various levels, specialists in science, technology and administration, and skilled workers from among the local minority peoples." Higher state departments should

do what is necessary to accomplish this work. The law also stipulates that when local state departments and enterprises recruit workers and staff members, they should enrol minority peasants to help form and expand a workers' contingent of minority peoples. This policy will have a big impact in autonomous areas.

### Developing Socialist Relations

The spirit of strengthening and developing socialist relations among nationalities is reflected in every chapter of the regional autonomy law. It might even be called the law to maintain and develop socialist relations in China.

The regional autonomy law stipulates that the governing bodies of national autonomous areas and the higher state departments must ensure political equality and unity among various nationalities, and strengthen economic and cultural assistance and co-operation. It calls for the development of economic and cultural exchanges and co-operation between autonomous

areas and other parts of the country, to bring about the common prosperity of all peoples in China. It requires the governments of autonomous areas to educate all the people in patriotism, communism and the state's national policies. It also stresses the need for the cadres and masses of all nationalities to respect, help and learn from each other.

In order to reinforce and develop socialist relations, the regional autonomy law points out in its preface that Han nationality chauvinism and local-nationality chauvinism should both be opposed. These incorrect ideas and tendencies are harmful to the unity of the people of all nationalities.

But they are contradictions among the people, and should be solved through democratic discussion, criticism and self-criticism. Problems of thinking and understanding shouldn't be treated as contradictions between ourselves and the enemies. Of course, activities aimed at betraying and splitting the country are problems of an entirely different nature. □

## Minorities Law Will Bring Prosperity for All

by **JIAN CHUAN**  
and **WU NAITAO**  
Our Correspondents

ON June 1, the day after the Second Session of the Sixth National People's Congress closed, several hundred deputies representing ethnic minorities got together to celebrate the adoption of the Law on Regional Autonomy for Minority Nationalities. Highly elated, many talked about the significance of the law.

"The newly adopted Law on Regional Autonomy for Minority Nationalities will guide our people

in correctly handling relations between different ethnic groups and promote unity, equality and common prosperity for all nationalities," said Aisin-Giuro Pu Jie, a Manchu deputy and younger brother of Pu Yi, the last Qing Dynasty emperor. "Such a law can only be formulated in New China under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party."

After the feudal Qing court was overthrown in 1911, Pu Jie, now 77, was asked to accompany his brother to study in the Forbidden City. In 1931, after the Japanese created the September 18th Inci-

dent and invaded China's northeast, some Manchu aristocrats, including Pu Jie, openly allied themselves with the invaders and set up the puppet regime of Manchukuo. In 1945 Pu Jie was convicted of war crimes and jailed. He was released in 1959 on an amnesty. His own experience has taught him the importance of the national problem.

"During the several thousand years of feudal rule in China, various ethnic groups discriminated against one another, oppressing and killing each other, which led to the different nationalities be-



Pu Jie.

coming estranged," he said. "In its latter years, the Qing court was ordered by the emperor to formulate a constitution. The government of the Republic of China (1912-49) also issued 19 tenets after the 1911 Revolution. But since they all proceeded from the interests of the ruling classes and served to oppress other nationalities, they could never solve the national problem."

During the Qing Dynasty, he recalled, the ruling Manchus oppressed other peoples. After 1911 their fortunes went downhill, and in the early years of the Republic of China there was a popular slogan calling upon the people to drive the Manchus out.

To avoid discrimination and oppression, many Manchus changed their names and adopted Han nationality.

"After the founding of New China," he said, "the Chinese Communist Party formulated correct national policies. In 1952, the government adopted the programme for exercising regional national autonomy. The programme was later incorporated into the 1954 Constitution, which ensured equality between different nationalities

and further harmonized their relations."

Since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in 1978, the Party's national policies have been earnestly implemented, helping to dispel the Manchu people's sense of inferiority, Pu Jie said. Efforts are under way to revive Manchu culture. In 1982, *Pearl Lake*, the first dance drama reflecting legendary Manchu life, was staged. Later, the Manchus living in Beijing had their first gathering. According to the third national census in 1982 the Manchu population totalled 4 million. Of these, many had changed their nationality back from Han to Manchu. Currently, preparations are being made to set up autonomous prefectures or counties in northeast China where Manchus live in compact communities.

Pu Jie was elected an NPC deputy on the eve of the First Session of the Fifth National People's Congress in 1978. At the First Session of the Sixth NPC held last year he was elected Vice-Chairman of the newly founded Nationalities Committee under the NPC Standing Committee. Over the past year, he has devoted himself to working for ethnic minorities and participating in discussions about the law on regional national autonomy.

The law was drafted in 1980 and submitted to the National People's Congress after the opinions of all parties in the minority areas had been solicited and repeated discussions and revisions had been made. Between its founding and now, the NPC Nationalities Committee held 10 meetings to discuss the draft law. The basic principle for formulating this law has been to follow legal procedure to ensure the healthy development of the system of minority national autonomy and the harmony and prosperity of all nationalities.



Gan Huaiyi.

Gan Huaiyi, vice-chairman of the standing committee of the people's congress of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, predicted that the new law will boost Guangxi's economic construction.

Lying on the southern border of China, Guangxi is the home of the Zhuang people, the most populous of China's minority groups. The first autonomous prefecture for Zhuangs was founded in 1952 in western Guangxi, and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, one of China's five provincial-level national minority autonomous regions, was founded in 1958. There are 10 minorities in the region, and autonomous counties have been founded in areas where these ethnic groups live in compact communities. More than 13 million people, or one-third of the region's population, are members of minorities.

Gan said that in the early days after liberation Guangxi's industry was underdeveloped, with only a few handicraft workshops and some old factories left over from the Kuomintang government. Hydro-electric generating capacity for the entire region came to only 10,000 kw, with an annual output of less than 100 million kwh. Agriculture was also backward. In

some places, the minority peoples still used the primitive slash-and-burn method.

After 1958, the regional government was empowered to exercise autonomy within the limits of authority prescribed by the 1952 programme for the exercise of regional national autonomy. The region also received generous help from the state. As a result, the region's economy, culture and education have developed apace over the past 25 years. Gan had a chart marking the changes since 1958:

	1957	1983	Increase
Gross industrial and agricultural output value	2,370 million yuan	18,500 million yuan	7.8 times
Total industrial output value	720 million yuan	9,940 million yuan	13.8 times
Total agricultural output value	1,650 million yuan	8,560 million yuan	5.1 times
Hydro-electric generating capacity	10,000 kw	1.87 million kw	187 times
Electricity output	100 million kwh	6,500 million kwh	65 times
Grain output	3,250 million kg	13,250 million kg	4 times
Institutes of higher learning	3	17	5.7 times
Student enrolment	3,900	27,000	6.9 times

Gan was confident about the region's development, saying, "The Law on Regional Autonomy for Minority Nationalities stipulates that each autonomous area shall be given more power to decide its own financial affairs, handle its own goods and materials and exploit its natural resources. These areas may introduce special policies and flexible measures as long as they do not violate the Constitution. This has provided more favourable conditions for the progress of the autonomous areas."

He listed his autonomous region's strong points:

— The region is located in a sub-tropical area, with conditions favourable to developing farming

and aquaculture. World-famous Guilin also gives it great tourism potential.

— The region has more than 6.66 million hectares of uncultivated land, barren hills and unexploited water surface, giving it a great potential for developing its agriculture, forestry and fishery.

— The region has more than 20 kinds of competitive agricultural staples, and sideline and local products which enjoy a ready market both at home and abroad. It also abounds with hydro-electric capac-

living will be much improved by the turn of the century.



Jipu Pingcuocideng.

Jipu Pingcuocideng, deputy administrative head of the Tibet Autonomous Region, said that since Tibet's peaceful liberation in 1951 and the founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region in 1965, profound political and economic changes have taken place there. He said the newly adopted law on regional autonomy has bolstered his confidence about Tibet's future.

He thought highly of the stipulation regarding the promotion and training of minority cadres. He said there are currently many tasks in Tibet to be done. Emphasis is being laid on economic development so that Tibetans can become affluent as soon as possible. To actively train Tibetan cadres, professionals and skilled workers is vital to the region's development. He said that although the local government has made tremendous efforts and achieved some results it still finds it difficult to keep abreast of the times.

According to Jipu, Tibetan cadres come mainly from local schools, institutes for nationalities and other institutes of higher learning elsewhere in China. Today, six of the autonomous region's eight administrative heads are Tibetans; the other two are Hans. Seventy per cent of the cadres at

ity, forest and mineral resources. Its reserves of tin, antimony and zinc rank first in China.

— Guangxi is close to Hongkong and Macao. Sea transportation from the region leads directly to Southeast Asia, and its railway lines, highways and water navigation lines radiate in all directions. Recently, its port city Beihai was designated as one of the 14 coastal cities which will adopt more flexible economic policies.

Gan said these strong points will be given fuller play and the region's economic development in the coming years will be faster than in the previous 25 years. He is quite sure that the standards of

and above the bureau level are Tibetans, and the chief responsible members of the governments at the lower levels are all Tibetans. Since they are familiar with local customs, habits and conditions, these Tibetan cadres have played an important role in the region's construction.

"We are desperate for competent people in all professions, and particularly economists and teachers," he said. The region has only 100 engineers and 300 technicians, a shortage Jipu attributed to the slow development of education in the region. To change this, he said, the local government plans to train 10,000 college and secondary technical school graduates before the end of the 1980s. The law on regional autonomy stipulates that the state shall help minority areas develop education. "This will be a powerful support for us," Jipu said. The local government also plans, beginning this year, to set up grant-aided primary and secondary boarding schools for Tibetan children living in pasture-lands and mountains. Efforts will be made to raise teaching standards in primary and secondary schools.

Jipu also said that preparatory work is being made to build the Tibetan University. The work has been delayed because of a lack of teachers and experience in running a university. But, he said, as the pace of construction quickens throughout Tibet, efforts will be made to overcome this difficulty and things will look up.

North of Tibet is the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, home of the Uygur people. Badai, a deputy from the region, is proud of the culture of his people, who are gifted singers and dancers. Talking about the stipulation that self-governing bodies will work independently for the development of the minority literature, art, publications, broadcasting, films, TV programmes and other cultural un-

dertakings, Badai said this is exactly what they have been doing over the past decades.

There are 13 minorities in Xinjiang. The 6 million Uygurs are the largest ethnic group, and the Tartars, with a population of between 600 and 700, are the smallest. The region has five autonomous prefectures and six auton-



Badai.

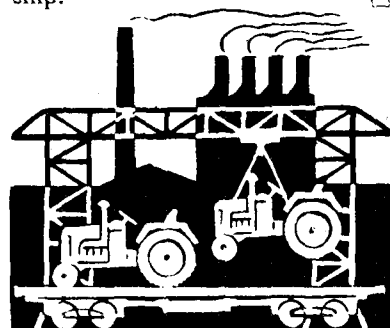
mous counties, where common local spoken languages are employed. The *Xinjiang Daily* is published in three languages, Han, Uygur and Kazakh. The Xinjiang Publishing House publishes books in six languages. All minority languages in Xinjiang have been developed and put to use.

Badai said the local government has attached high importance to collecting and compiling Uygur classical culture, including classical folk music and dances. It has set up a department specialized in studying the traditional *Twelve Mukam* — basic musical forms that serve as the foundation of Xinjiang music. Old folk artists are invited to have their songs recorded, which are later published. Inspired by Xinjiang folk art, local artists have composed many new songs, dances and operas, such as *Ailipu Sainaimu*, a popular opera which has been made into a film.

The local government, with the aid of a state special fund, is organizing teams to compile *Manas*, a lengthy folk epic of the Khalkhas that has been handed down from ancient times. The work actually began before the "cultural revolution" started. But, during those chaotic years, the record was burnt as a symbol of feudal culture. "The law on regional autonomy has a provision about publishing minority classics which has put the work under legal protection," said Badai.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the region plans to publish a dictionary of Turkic and 30 ancient books, including a collection of poems entitled *Wisdom of Fuluo*, which covers historical events, local customs and habits.

Salameiti Alimu, an Uzbek deputy from Xinjiang, as well as deputy head and director of the Xinjiang Song and Dance Ensemble, is encouraged by the regional autonomy law's provision of maintaining and developing minority culture. More than 20 performances created by the ensemble have won gold medals or first prizes at international or national contests. The ensemble, with 200 members from eight minorities, has both old folk artists and young graduates from art colleges or nationalities institutes, who have contributed to the flourishing minority arts by imbuing traditional artistic forms with new content. They also frequently give performances abroad, serving as ambassadors of friendship. □





# The Healthy Growth of China's Children

by **WU NAITAO**  
Our Correspondent

**I**N recent years, the Chinese Government has tightened up its family planning policy, encourag-

ing each couple to have only one child. Parents tend to become more attached to only children, and their healthy growth has become the subject of much attention all over the country.

ments of the district or neighbourhood hospitals.

The children's health departments of the neighbourhood hospitals are the basic units of this network. Apart from attending to outpatients, they are also responsible for the health of the children in an entire community, including giving inoculations and regular physical checkups and taking care of the newborns. This ensures a reliable and effective health service for all children right from birth. Each community is demarcated according to the density of its population, the size of the neighbourhood hospital and other factors.

The Ministry of Public Health has drawn up a series of children's health regulations for its subordinate units. For instance, the neighbourhood medical workers must visit each newborn baby three times in its first month, and pro-

## Nationwide Child-Care Network

**T**ODAY there are 340 million Chinese children under 15, almost equalling the combined population of the United States and Japan. Another 20 million new babies are born every year. In the 35 years since the founding of New China, our country's infant mortality rate has dropped from 200 per thousand to 34.6 per thousand, and epidemic diseases such as diphtheria and smallpox, which once gravely threatened the lives of our children, have been practically eliminated. The majority of Chinese children are now under the protection of the social health service —

the nationwide maternity care and children's health network — which is big enough and organized well enough to handle its important tasks.

### In the Cities

A three-level children's health network has been introduced in almost all cities in China. The first level is composed of all city children's hospitals and children's health centres; the second level is made up of all district children's health centres; the third level includes the children's health depart-

vide regular physical checkups afterwards. However, in some places these stipulations are not strictly followed because the medical workers do not pay enough attention to this work.

The main tasks of the city and district children's health centres are to give guidance to child care work, help subordinate units draw up plans and supervise and check on their work. They also hold group consultations to treat difficult and complicated cases referred by a subordinate unit. In addition, these children's health centres conduct some scientific research, such as comparing different feeding methods and investigating common diseases. The intelligence standard test issued by the Ministry of Public Health was formed on the basis of an investigation made by the children's health centres in several provinces and municipalities.

These centres are also responsible for training specialized children's health workers, giving medical students a chance to work in their pediatric departments and providing consulting services for all parents.

### In the Countryside

Because more than 80 per cent of China's 1,000 million people now live in the countryside, the health of rural children has become a key scientific project of the Ministry of Public Health.

Like the cities, the rural areas have basically established a three-level maternity care and children's health network. The first level is composed of the county maternity care and children's health centres. There are now more than 2,600 throughout the country. The second level is made up of commune-based maternity and children's health groups or individuals. There are 50,000 communes throughout China (the commune here refers to a township government). The grass-roots level is

composed of brigade-based "barefoot" doctors and midwives, who work part time. Currently, China has more than 400,000 women "barefoot" doctors and more than 500,000 midwives. They play an important role in ensuring the health of rural mothers and children.

According to the Ministry of Public Health, about 90 per cent of the country's newborns today are delivered by modern trained midwives and the rest are born with the help of traditional midwives.

Except for a few advanced areas health service in the rural areas is generally not as good as in the cities. The professional levels of rural children's health workers vary and the number of senior medical workers is limited. The majority of rural children's health workers are middle-level and junior medical workers who have only received short-term medical training. They lack in-depth theoretical training and experience, and many can only handle common ailments and record the children's weight, height and other measurements.

To deal with this problem, in 1978 the Ministry of Public Health instructed the Institute of Pediatrics Under the Chinese Academy of Medical Science to launch a pioneer project for rural children's health care in Heilongjiang, Jilin, Shaanxi and other provinces and cities. More than 240,000 children under the age of seven were involved in the programme.

In an important aspect of the programme, guiding groups of pediatricians, professors and doctors were formed to work in co-operation with local medical colleges and hospitals to train rural doctors and children's health workers. More than 10,600 people have been trained, laying a good foundation for improving the rural children's health network.

After the Xinguang Commune of Rudong County, Jiangsu Province, became an experimental unit, its medical workers increased prenatal checkups and the health care work among newborns. They persuaded the local people to change their custom of having their babies at home, and encouraged hospital

Dr. Li Wei gives a child a physical checkup.





delivery. In the first year after the commune joined this pioneer project, 200 of the commune's 280 expectant mothers had their babies in the hospital. There were 26 cases of breathing problems before a baby was born, and three cases of breathing difficulties directly after birth, but only one child died of these complications.

The medical workers of the commune hospital also strictly followed every stipulation set by the Ministry of Public Health for children's health care. In a regular checkup they found 105 cases of malnutrition, 98 of which were caused simply by poor feeding methods. After treatment, 74 children were cured and 23 improved.

Ji Xiaodong, an infant, had severe malnutrition because of his parents' unscientific feeding methods. The medical workers told his parents how to feed him correctly, and also gave the child acupuncture treatments. In five months Ji recovered.

Wu Xiaoyong, another child, weighed only 1,200g when he was born in 1980. Under current rural conditions, it is very difficult to bring such a child up. During their routine visits to newborns, the health care workers taught his parents how to feed and nurse him and keep him warm. This helped Wu safely pass his first month, at the end of which his weight had increased to 1,525g. As a weak child, he received special attention from the children's health consultant department afterwards. Later, he had pneumonia twice. But his recent physical checkup reports are good, except for a minor degree of malnutrition.

The commune's infant mortality rate was 32.65 per thousand in 1978. It dropped to 28.78 per thousand one year after it joined the pioneer project. The average mortality rate of all the areas involved in the programme dropped

from 24 per thousand in 1978 to 18.2 per thousand in 1982.

But only a small proportion of China's vast rural areas were in-

## Devoted Health Care Workers

**T**HE Beijing No. 2 Hospital in downtown Beijing has 11 departments and 173 beds. The health care department has 22 staff, with 21 women. Li Wei, a 1957 graduate of the Shanxi Medical College and now deputy head of the department, introduced her department and its work.

Eleven doctors, 10 middle-rank medical workers (midwives and practitioners with secondary medical school education) and a senior middle school graduate who collects statistics and other information care for a community of 45,000 along West Changan Boulevard. The department focuses its attention on the community's more than 3,500 pre-school children and a large number of primary school students.

### Three Main Tasks

According to Dr. Li, the department has three main tasks.

**Inoculation.** Children under seven in China must receive 19 different inoculations, and there are strict stipulations for each age group. Every home-nursed child has a health card which is kept by the hospital's health care department. The department regularly informs the parents to bring their children in for inoculations and a physical checkup. Inoculations are free of charge in China, and the parents do not have any fees deducted from their salaries for taking their children for shots or physical checkups. In 1983 the percentage of children who received inoculations from the department is as follows: DPT (diphtheria, whooping

cough and tetanus): 99.49 per cent; measles 99.65 per cent; epidemic encephalitis B: 99.35 per cent; cerebritis: 99.6 per cent; mumps 97.45 per cent; and poliomyelitis (oral vaccine) 99.78 per cent.

**Training Red Cross Medics.** Each neighbourhood committee of the West Changan Boulevard community has a Red Cross clinic. There are altogether 36 Red Cross medics in the community who work closely with the No. 2 Hospital, including receiving short-term training in the hospital's departments and getting technical guidance from the hospital's health care department. Doctor Li likened the Red Cross medics to extra legs, eyes and ears. She said, "They keep us informed about the birth and health of every child."

**Making Rounds.** Besides attending to outpatients, the doctors must make the rounds visiting all the children in the areas under their care. Frequent visits help familiarize them with the children's conditions.

### Visiting Infants

One day, Li Meng, a 12-day-old girl, suddenly developed a high fever, which her parents did not know how to treat. By chance, Dr. Guo Zhilan of the No. 2 Hospital came on her regular rounds and discovered that the fever was caused by an infection on the baby's buttocks. The infection was treated immediately and Li soon recovered.

Zhou Ying, another girl less than one month old, was looked after by her grandmother in the old way.



Children of the Beijing Cuihuajie Kindergarten playing with building blocks.

Fearing she would catch cold, the old woman wrapped the baby tightly in a thick cotton-padded quilt. The baby was wet with sweat and her temperature climbed. Learning this, Dr. Guo immediately came to the baby's home and removed the child from her quilt. Several hours later, the child's temperature returned to normal. The doctor also taught the girl's parents how to care for the baby in the modern way.

Han Junjie, 29, of the same community, delivered prematurely, and her baby weighed only 1,400g. Han was very distressed, thinking the child could not survive. Shi

Guishen, the community doctor, decided the baby needed intensive care and visited Han every day, teaching her how to keep the child warm with a hot-water bottle and how to feed, bathe and nurse the baby. She often came several times a day, regardless of the weather, and sometimes she visited the child after work on her way home. Han's baby became stronger and stronger. When she was six months old, she weighed more than 5,000g. In those six months, she had only a cold. Now she looks just a little bit smaller than other children. Han, her heart at ease, decided to apply for a One-Child Family Certificate.

Han's family was very grateful to Dr. Shi. But Shi attributes the success to the co-operation of the family and the neighbourhood Red Cross medical workers.

The Red Cross clinic of Xilianzi Lane where Han lives was founded in 1958. Currently, it has two medical workers. Wang Wenmin, a retired hospital nurse, helps the community doctor and sells some children's medicines. She knows best the conditions of the children living in the neighbourhood, and keeps the community doctor informed about the patients' conditions. She also helps the community doctor gather statistics.

### Visiting Nurseries and Kindergartens

Dr. Xi Songwen takes care of the disease prevention and health care work of 15 nurseries and kindergartens, with a total of more than 1,200 children. Every Monday she attends to those who come to the hospital for a physical checkup. The rest of the week days she makes the rounds visiting the nurseries and kindergartens under her care.

Every nursery has at least one trained health care worker. They give the children preventive inoculations, regular physical checkups, attend to minor ailments and injuries and oversee the nutritional standards of the children's food. Most of them are junior medical workers, and some have passed the examination for middle-rank medical workers and received certificates as health care practitioners. They are good assistants for Dr. Xi.

Cuihuajie Kindergarten, which has more than 200 children between one and half and seven, is one of the kindergartens under Dr. Xi's care. The health care worker here keeps records of the incidence of frequently occurring or epi-

demic diseases. She is also responsible for formulating the kindergarten's seasonal health care plans and examining the nutritional value of the children's food. Her records show that in 1983 the kindergarten's inoculation rate averaged 98 per cent. She also assists Dr. Xi in preventing and treating such ailments as trachoma, tooth decay, anaemia and rickets.

To prevent epidemic diseases, the system of one cup, one bowl and one towel for each child is strictly followed here. To help the small children find their own towels, pictures of animals and fruit are pasted by the side of each towel hook.

### Working in Primary Schools

Dr. Su Rongzhen is responsible for the health care work in six primary schools. She visits them almost every day. When the new semester began last September, Dr. Su learnt that the Red Cross medic for the Xirongxian Primary School had been transferred and her work was taken over by a teacher, Bao, who had no experience in health care.

Dr. Su told Bao that she should first collect and check the infant school children's health cards to see if all of them had taken their pills to prevent poliomyelitis. Bao should make sure that those who had not taken the medicine did so.

The school's rate of intestinal disorders in the previous summer was unusually high. Dr. Su asked Bao to find out why and teach her students how to prevent seasonal epidemic diseases by gargling with salt water every morning and evening, and opening the window after each class. Dr. Su also told Bao that the first-grade students should be inoculated against diphtheria and tetanus and have an eye test.

A previous physical checkup found that some students were not developing normally. Dr. Su asked Bao to send a message to these students' parents, telling them to bring their children to the hospital's health development department to X-ray their carpi bones and have other tests, to find out why they were underdeveloped and prescribe prompt and appropriate treatment.

Dr. Su later invited Bao to take a training course in the hospital.

Dr. Su next turned her attention to the Dongshuan Primary School. Xie Shuling, the school's Red Cross medic, received medical training in the No. 2 Hospital and can give medical massage and acu-

puncture and treat minor injuries and ailments. She took charge of the school's health care work in 1968, while still teaching part time.

Every class has some Red Cross workers, averaging one for every 10 students. They assist Xie in checking the students' personal hygiene and sanitation conditions, keep records of how many students are absent for illness and report incidents of epidemic disease. Xie prepared a first-aid kit for each class and taught the Red Cross members first-aid skills, such as bandaging an injury, immobilizing broken limbs and moving the injured. All these activities have received the help and guidance of Dr. Su.

*Li Yi, four and a half years old, is a prize winner at the Beijing 1983 contest for beautiful and healthy children.*



# A Contest for Healthy Children

ON the eve of June 1 (International Children's Day), 1983, the Beijing Municipal Public Health Bureau sponsored a contest for beautiful and healthy children in the capital. Some 660 children between the ages of three months and six years entered. All of them had been chosen by the health care departments of various hospitals from the areas under their care.

Ailina, a 15-month-old girl of Uygur nationality, won the prize for "the most beautiful and healthiest child." She could say simple things in both the Han and Uygur languages, could correctly point out Beijing, Xinjiang, Shanghai, Taiwan, Korea and Japan on a map and knew her hometown is Ili in Xinjiang. She was well developed physically and intellectually. Her haemochrome was 14g (on this test, used to check anaemia, the standard is 12g).

Ma Xueping, two years and 11 months old, excelled in intelligence tests. She could say "papa" and "mama" when she was only eight months old. When she was 10 months old, she was able to distinguish men from women and old from young, and correctly greet people she met. At one and a half, she could recite more than 10

rhymes. At the contest, she retold stories with the aid of pictures.

In the Cuihuajie Kindergarten, we met He Jie, a boy who also won a prize at the contest. He did not look particularly outstanding compared to the other children. The headmistress of the kindergarten said there were many children like He Jie who were both physically and intellectually well developed. The pity was that the kindergarten was only allowed to send one child to participate in the contest.

## Objective Standards

At the contest, 176 children won prizes. The standards for healthy and beautiful children were set by the municipal health care centre. Dr. Gao Cimei listed the five requirements.

The first is physical development. Children whose heights and weights are reasonably higher than the average set by the government in 1975 are considered excellent. Dr. Gao said, "Many children at the contest were up to the standard in height but not in weight. Many were actually greatly overweight. Some parents thought the fatter the better. That results in unbalanced development.

"Healthy and even development are our standards for beauty. We don't stress the beauty of the children's faces, because that is the natural factor. Some parents had their four- or five-year-old daughters' hair permed and covered their faces with makeup, thinking that would make their children prettier. We did not base our judgment on this kind of artificial beauty, and even deducted some points when giving marks," she said.

The second standard is feeding conditions. For children under six months, breast feeding is required. But the number of children fed this way is too limited. For children over six months, physical checkups stress the development of their teeth, to see if they have yellowed teeth or if they get their first teeth too late because of congenital factors or their environment after birth.

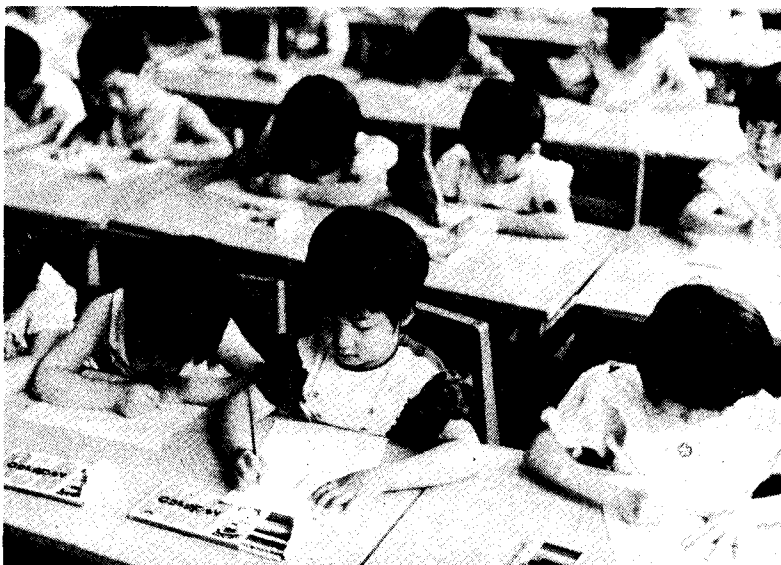
Third, children should be free of such diseases as anaemia and rickets which are common in China in recent years.

Fourth, they should be up to the requirements based on national intelligence screening. At the contest, the children's motor coordination and language abilities were tested, according to their age group.

The fifth standard is hair and eye development. Dr. Gao said, "Many children at the contest were slightly slant or cross-eyed. None of their parents or health care workers had paid attention to it."

Dr. Gao said many other provinces and cities had held this type of contest, much to the benefit of the parents. Many parents wanted to send their children to the contest to have a thorough physical checkup. But, unfortunately, the centre's labour power and funds are limited. "We feel very sorry that we could not satisfy their demands," the doctor said. □

Children of the Beijing Chaoshou Lane Kindergarten drawing pictures.



# Huaiyang Statuettes Moulded by Mythology

It sounds like yet another masterpiece of imaginative literature; the human race was whipped into being out of clay by the goddess who repaired the skies with magic rocks. At the world's very beginning, so the Chinese mythology goes, Goddess Nuwa started moulding yellow clay into human beings. She had so many to make that at last she simply dipped a length of rope into the mud and swung it in the air. The drops of mud splattered to the earth, becoming living men and women.

But what were her creations like? The answer is revealed by a kind of monkey-faced clay statuette in Huaiyang, a city in Henan Province. The local people regard it as the image of their ancestors because, they say, the present model has been handed down since times unknown. Piously, they named it "Father of Humanity."

Statuettes of the "Father of Humanity" are sold at fairs held in front of Huaiyang's mausoleum, established in the ancestor's memory. As legend has it, a fisherman during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC) caught a Gourd-shaped human skull, with two horns protruding from it. When it was brought to Confucius, the sage decided the skull belonged to Fu Xi, father of the human race. The mausoleum was built upon his suggestion.

According to Chinese mythology, both Fu Xi and Nuwa, his sister and wife, had human heads and snake bodies. To honour them, the Huaiyang people held religious ceremonies every year in front of the mausoleum. Such ceremonies later became fairs, at which clay sculptures of all kinds are sold.

The Huaiyang clay sculptures are all hand-made in a unique local style. Designs are archaic as a rule, and underneath their rough, somewhat boorish facades flows a quality at once tranquil and charming. Here, imagination has taken wings. The tigers, for example, are given a touch of human feeling by wearing straw hats, or, perhaps to show their unyielding valour, have heads bigger than their bodies.

If the images are strictly archaic, the coloration is a classic example of the Chinese tradition. The Huaiyang clay figures are usually painted jet-black, and graced with colourful patterns. The result is a stark contrast of colours. In fact, black is a favourite colour in ancient China. Both Shun and Yu, patriarchal clan leaders thousands of years ago, liked to have their wooden daily utensils and ritual objects painted black. The lacquerware unearthed from Han tombs near Changsha is also predominantly black. Obviously the Huaiyang clay figures have inherited the same tradition.

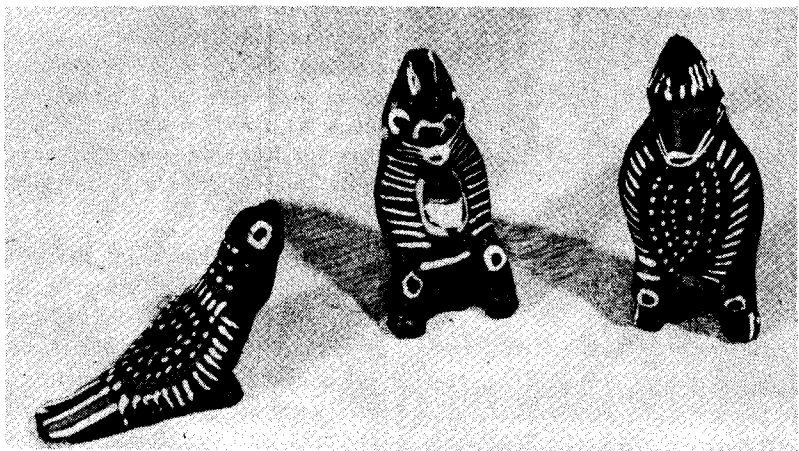
The subjects are ancient, too.

Unlike China's other figures, which borrow heavily from daily life, the Huaiyang images are often fantastic. For example, the turtledoves grow crooked beaks, while the geese all have monkey faces. There are also contorted catfish, peculiar deer and nine-headed birds. It is possible these are modelled after the grotesque beasts and birds described in *Shan Hai Jing* (The Mountains and the Seas) a Chinese geography book from the Warring States Period (475-221 BC).

But the statuettes of the hairy monkey-faced "Father of Humanity" are, of course, the most typical of the Huaiyang art. Under close scrutiny, they reveal a coincidence of mythology and science.

Darwin declared in 1871 that human beings were evolved from apes. But long before him, the Huaiyang people were already making clay sculptures of human beings with monkey faces. Small wonder some scholars regard these statuettes as "living fossils," indispensable in the study of ancient Chinese society.

"Father of Humanity" and a little bird.



## Los Angeles Olympics

# High Hopes for China's Weightlifters

After many years of inaction, Chinese weightlifters suddenly caught the attention of the world when they staged a successful comeback at the Ninth Asian Games in 1982, winning four golds, two silvers and three bronzes and placing first in six individual events, second in five and third in three. Today, they are ready for the Los Angeles Olympics.

Among all the Chinese weightlifters, Wu Shude unquestionably has the best chance for an Olympic gold medal. He has chalked up more world records than any of his countrymen. The son of a Guangxi carpenter, Wu had dreamed of becoming a painter. But a chance encounter with a weightlifting coach in 1973 landed him on the platform. Before long, he had worked his way to stardom.



Wu Shude at a workout.

In 1978 and 1979, he broke six world youth records in the snatch, flyweight class, and that was only the beginning. Wu set the world record in the snatch, lightweight class, in 1980, snatched another record in the bantamweight class, at the Asian Weightlifting Championships in Nagoya in April 1981, and topped the world again at 128 kg in the same event at the Fifth National Games in 1983.

Another of China's top weightlifters, Chen Weiqiang, started lifting the barbells in 1972. During a visit to Japan four years later, he equalled the world flyweight record of 125 kg in the clean and jerk. In the next two years he chalked up eight world youth records. In 1979, he twice set new bantamweight records in the clean and jerk. But in 1980, after three elbow dislocations, Chen put down his weights for awhile.

Through willpower and hard work, he recovered and retrained, joining the national team again just two years later. At the Ninth Asian Games he captured the titles in the snatch, featherweight class, and in total points.

With many victories under their belts today, Wu and Chen have a lot to thank their boyhood coaches for. Both were trained in classes for teenagers established by sports training schools in an effort to discover new talents in Chinese athletics. As part of that effort, a category for teenagers was introduced to national weightlifting championships.

The rapid advance of the Chinese barbells may also be attributed to national competitions, held twice a year, which have provided them with ample opportunities to show their strength and ability. And the 1980 Shanghai

International Invitational Weightlifting Championships set the stage for friendly competition among Chinese and other weightlifters.

Today Chinese weightlifters, led by Wu and Chen, are a force to be reckoned with. Since the founding of New China, China's strongmen have chalked up 36 world and world youth records. They led the world in at least four individual events in the early 1960s, and after 1973, they came into their own again by repeatedly rewriting world youth and Asian records.

The 1983 Fifth National Games proved to be a milestone for Chinese weightlifters: one world record, five Asian records, one youth world record and 13 national records fell before them, and the best athletes in the 52-67.5 kg classes found themselves among the world's top six.

However, not everything is smooth for Chinese weightlifters on their road to Los Angeles. While they have the edge in some events, there is no denying the wide gap between China and the world's top athletes in many others. For example, in the five years between 1977 and 1982, the world weightlifting records were raised to alarming heights. The 52 kg class record rose by 5 kg, and that for the 100 kg class shot up 42.5 kg. Experts believe that this trend will continue for some time, due to improved training methods and conditions.

Arrayed against the Chinese weightlifters are, among others, European competitors who are physically stronger and have better training techniques. By contrast, many weightlifting teams in China are still following the beaten track of the 1960s in training. Keenly aware of this gap, the Chinese are sparing no efforts to update their training and learn better techniques, all in a gallant bid for more strength and skill.

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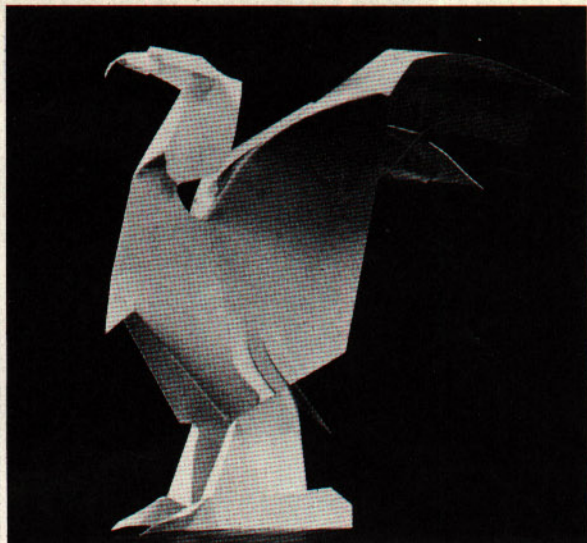
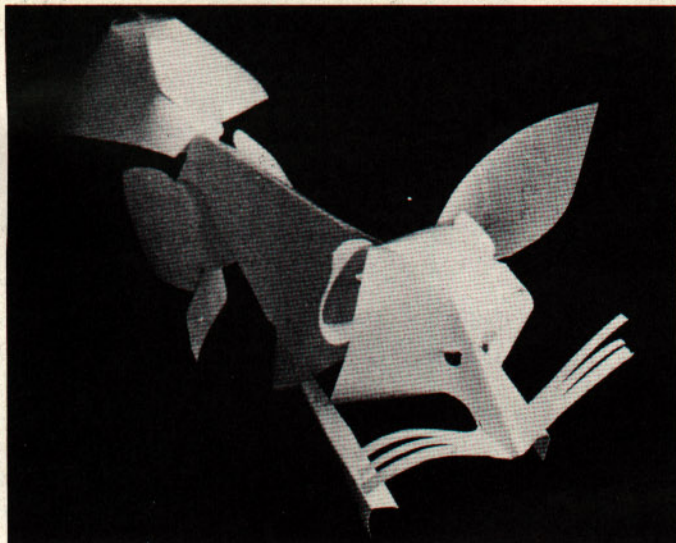
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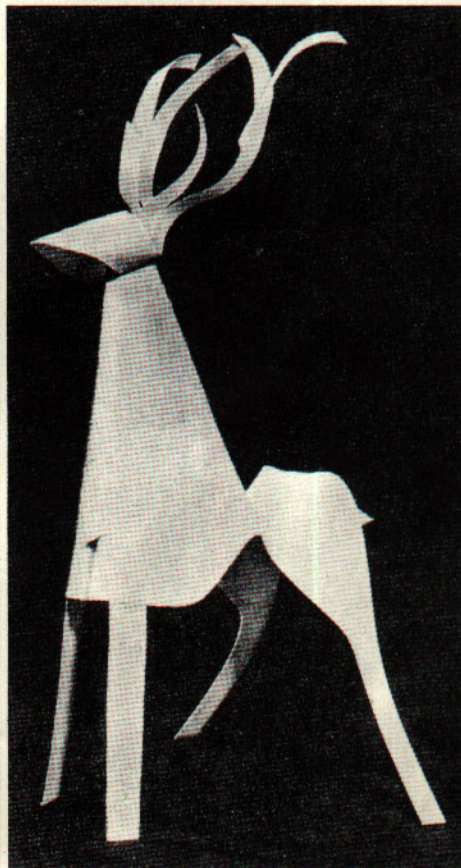
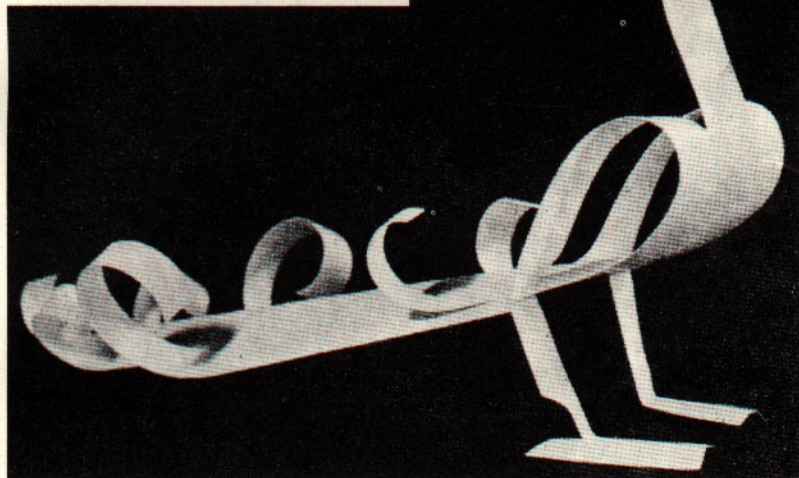
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The animals on this page were all made by Lu Rongqi, 47-year-old teacher at the Beijing Institute of Applied Arts, who started studying art at the age of 13. He has been working on this type of papercut for three years.



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