

BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

- **The Crux of Sino-Soviet Relations**
- **China and Africa**





Yun Shubi (left), a Mongolian, is a Communist Party member and head of the Public Health Department of Inner Mongolia. She enthusiastically supports young cadres who have ability and political integrity.



Kang Honghe (third from left), a Party member and a senior engineer at the Daqing Oilfield, directs workers on a special project.



Qian Junting, a commune Party secretary in Rongcheng County, Shandong Province, checks on the lives of commune members.

Huang Minghui, an inspector with the Shenzhen Frontier Inspection Station, discovered 16 smuggling cases in a year.



Li Junding, a Party secretary of a production brigade in Shangshui County, Henan Province, sold 10,000 kilos of grain to the state last year.



Shi Qinghui, a returned overseas Chinese who joined the Party, has been working to control the sand in northwest China for more than 20 years. He was cited for his distinguished service by the Chinese Academy of Sciences.



SPOTLIGHT

BEIJING REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

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COVER: A group of Guinean children smile broadly.	

Photo by Lu Houmin

Sino-African Friendship

The road of Sino-African co-operation is broad and its prospects bright, Vice-Premier Li Peng said on his return from a tour of five African countries (p. 16). His views are echoed by a *Beijing Review* photographer who, after travelling through Senegal, Guinea, Niger and Algeria, was most impressed by the friendly people, who are in the midst of a historic change as they shrug off their colonial past and build a new life (p. 18). This vitality is captured in the photographs he and his fellow photographers took (centrefold).

Economics of Africa

Two researchers at the Institute of International Studies analyse the difficult economic situation in Africa, the ways in which the countries are readjusting their economic policies to cope with it and the subtle influences it has had on their international relations (p. 26).

The Crux of Sino-Soviet Relations

The Soviet refusal to remove the three major obstacles to improving the Sino-Soviet relationship and Chernenko's recent attacks on China have cast a shadow over bilateral relations. Behind the whole matter is the Soviet attempt to control China (p. 31).

Third World Unity Stressed

Chinese leaders have told Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou during his six-day visit to China that third world countries are bound by a common cause and interests and that their unity and co-operation are vital. China believes differences between third world countries can be ironed out in a fair and reasonable manner (p. 6).

True Peace Bogged Down in Words

The Reagan administration has accepted the Soviet's June 29 proposal to open talks on preventing militarization of outer space. But it remains to be seen whether negotiations will be held soon, and if both sides can reach an agreement (p. 14).

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Reform in Urban Housing System

by **XIN LIN**
Social Editor

Since 1982, four cities in China, including Changzhou in Jiangsu Province and Siping in Jilin Province, have carried out an experimental reform in the urban housing system. A number of houses built in the last few years have not been distributed to urban households at low rents — as is the current practice — but sold at low prices. The new method, which is conducive to solving the urban housing problem and developing the urban construction industry, has attracted widespread attention.

There are many factors accounting for the shortage of houses in China's cities and towns, among them the excessively rapid growth of the urban population and the one-sided emphasis for a long time prior to 1979 on capital construction at the neglect of residential construction. The problem remains, though 470 million square metres of living quarters have been built in the last five years and about 8 million families have moved into new houses.

The irrational housing system is another important reason underlying the shortage. For years, all urban residential buildings have been put up with state investment and then distributed to individual households. The households pay the state very low rent — about 0.10 yuan per square metre a month. This practice has helped the people maintain certain living standards. However, it has many serious disadvantages. It violates economic laws. Funds used to build residential quarters, as in-

vestment for construction, should be recoupable. Only in this way can new construction projects be undertaken smoothly. The low rents collected under the present system are not enough even to cover maintenance and management fees, let alone build new houses. Therefore, the state must continually make new investments for new houses. The more houses built, the more funds tied up. Moreover, the state has to allocate increasing subsidies to maintain and manage the houses. This only adds to financial difficulties at a time when the state faces the extremely heavy task of economic construction, and adversely affects the development of urban housing construction.

To reduce the burden on the state and benefit the residents, these four cities have all tried out subsidized sales of houses. Buyers pay one-third of the price and the rest is paid by the state or the buyers' work units. By the end of last year, the four cities had built 1,619 flats with a total floor space of 85,200 square metres. Their total investment was 12 million yuan, of which 4 million yuan will be retrieved. The money thus retrieved can be used to build more houses.

Can the workers and staff afford to buy the houses? Yes. A 50-square-metre two-room flat costs 10,000 yuan, and a buyer needs only to pay 3,300 yuan. He can get a 15 to 30 per cent discount if he pays the total outright. If he wants to buy the flat in instalments, he makes a 1,100 yuan down payment and pays the rest of the money over 20 years, at a rate of about 10 yuan every month.

Sales also show that the people have the ability to buy houses. The first batch of flats for sale in the four cities actually fell short of demand. Of those who bought houses, 69.3 per cent paid the money outright. In Siping, workers accounted for 50.4 per cent of the buyers, office workers for 28.9 per cent, middle and primary school teachers for 7.4 per cent, medical workers for 4.4 per cent, technical personnel above the rank of engineers for 5.9 per cent, and leading cadres at and above the rank of bureau deputy directors for 3 per cent. From this, we can see that ordinary people make up the majority of people who have bought houses.

It will be necessary to gradually raise rents after the housing system is reformed so that the state will have more funds for residential construction and maintenance. At the same time, the disadvantages resulting from the current low-rent system such as some people demanding more housing than they actually need will be overcome. Of course, with the increase in rents, workers and staff with low incomes should receive rent subsidies from the state or their work units.

Judging from the result of the reform tried out by the four cities, the system of subsidized sales of houses is in keeping with the present economic level of the people and the socialist principle of distribution; it is beneficial to the state and welcomed by urban residents as well. It represents the direction of the reform of China's urban housing system. The concrete measures necessary can be perfected in future experiments.



Rural Economics Interesting

I read the article "Explaining China's Rural Economic Policy" in issue No. 18 with great interest. For China, with 80 per cent of its population in rural areas, the key lies in solving the problems of the peasants.

Through reading your article, I can understand the root of your problem. Under the aggression of imperialism and the semi-feudal and semi-colonial system, China suffered from economic plunder. During the period of socialist construction, due to inadequate experience China had made mistakes, which hindered the improvement of the people's living standards. Your problems today, such as disparity in wages and diversity of management are phenomena appearing in the process of development.

I hope to read more articles like this. For instance, following the challenge of the reforms in rural areas, what steps will you take for the cities? How will the China International Travel Service carry out the policy on tourism?

Yoshikazu Konishi
Yokohama, Japan

Commodity Production

Beijing Review carried an article in issue No. 9 entitled "Developing Commodity Production in the Countryside." With 80 per cent of its population in the countryside, China has a great responsibility to improve their lives and reform agriculture. China's practice of relying on rural areas to encircle

urban ones is an important contribution to Marxist theory and practice.

China's socialist construction is of worldwide interest, as China has evolved from the closed-door production of a natural economy to socialist commodity production, pushing ahead the division of labour and circulation of commodities. This is neither good nor bad, but necessary. And, evidently, it is also "proceeding from reality."

As Marx pointed out, there was division of labour in ancient times, but no commodity production, nor money. In present-day world, a society like this could be no other than a communist society. But you have a long way to go to realize this.

In your book series "China Today," I read the article "Economic Readjustment and Reform," in which you deal with the important problem of commodity production. Socialist society is none the less a society with a commodity economy, which depends on objective rule, not subjective ideas. As you put it, although under socialist conditions, the nature of commodity production has been changed and its activities have been limited, China's commodity production is still among the oldest in the world. In developing socialist commodity production, China is breaking new ground. I hope you write more articles on capitalist and socialist commodity production.

M. Bernal R.
Bogota, Colombia

Great Changes

The new format of *Beijing Review* is most impressive. I am

interested in all articles about your country. It helps keep us abreast of what you are doing to improve the people's living conditions and your striving to advance the four modernizations programme.

My husband and I have taken two trips to the People's Republic of China, and we returned from a 23-day trip in Oct. 1983, when we observed many changes. One of the biggest changes was all the free enterprises, which have helped the economy of your people. Also, all the new buildings you have put up to improve living conditions. For your people, your work in medicine is fantastic. We in the USA could learn a lot from you.

Your coverage of Premier Zhao's visit to the USA and Canada was well done. We wish we could have had the premier visit our state.

Mr. and Mrs. Dassen
Colorado, USA

Rural Life

I have always liked your reports about the rural life — this includes the peasants' struggle to develop their life.

The techniques that have been devised to improve agricultural production — from soil conservation to seedling and crop breeding, help us to learn from what China is doing. Therefore your analysis of these achievements is invaluable to our struggle to improve our own agricultural production here in Tanzania.

Mutasingwa, E.N.K.
Same, Tanzania

Chinese Leaders Meet Cypriot President

China respects Cyprus' policy of independence, sovereignty and non-alignment, President Li Xiannian told Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou during his six-day state visit to China.

Kyprianou said the principle of non-alignment and the principle of peaceful coexistence provide an important answer to many world problems.

Kyprianou arrived in Beijing on June 26. He left for Shanghai on June 29, after he and Li signed an agreement on economic, scientific and technical co-operation and an executive programme on cultural co-operation for 1984-85.

At a banquet honouring the Cypriot President, Li said the third world countries are bound by a common cause and common inter-

ests. Their unity and co-operation are very important.

For historical and other reasons, differences exist among some third world countries. But China believes these differences can be ironed out in a fair and reasonable manner, through amicable consultations in a spirit of mutual understanding and compromise.

Li highly praised the Cypriot Government and people's persistent efforts and gratifying successes in safeguarding their independence and state sovereignty, revitalizing their national economy and improving the living standards of the people.

Meeting with Kyprianou on June 27, Premier Zhao Ziyang said, "The matter of good or bad relations between countries does not

depend on differences in their ideologies or social systems. Instead, it depends on whether the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence are observed well. If the five principles are accepted by more countries, world peace will be further consolidated. Zhao stressed that China will take a neutral stand towards differences among the third world countries. This non-interference in their affairs is aimed at promoting understanding and unity among the third world countries.

Zhao said the third world countries should rid themselves of interference by the big powers, and settle their own problems. Otherwise, their problems will remain unsolved, and the third world will become the arena for big-power rivalry, forming the so-called "hot spots" of the world.

China wishes to defuse world tensions and maintain world peace, Zhao added. China sincerely hopes for detente between the East and the West, between Eastern and Western Europe and between the Soviet Union and the United States.

Kyprianou said his country has been striving to make the non-aligned movement an effective force in international affairs. He said the serious confrontation between the two military blocs has reached a crucial point. Cyprus hopes to help ease this tension by working with a number of other countries, including China.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction with the development of friendly relations between their countries. Kyprianou said he hoped to see growing co-operation in

President Spyros Kyprianou of Cyprus, accompanied by President Li Xiannian, reviews an honour guard from the three services of the Chinese PLA.



politics, economics, science, technology and culture. He supported China's position on the settlement of international issues.

Hu Yaobang, Chinese Communist Party General Secretary, called for more contacts between China and Cyprus at a meeting with the Cypriot President on June 27.

Hu briefed the Cypriot guests on China's policy towards ethnic minorities. He said China's 56 minorities have generally lived in harmony since the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Kyprianou commented favourably on China's policy towards nationalities. He also explained the domestic situation in Cyprus to Hu.

Sino-Japanese Council Meets

The council of Sino-Japanese non-governmental figures has unanimously agreed to set up a Sino-Japanese non-governmental science and technology co-operation commission and to build a centre for scientific and technological exchanges.

A four-day meeting of the council, the second since its formation in 1982, opened in Beijing on June 26 with an address by Wang Zhen, head of the Chinese delegation.

Wang, Member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, stressed that to ensure peace in Asia and the Pacific region, China and Japan were duty-bound to work together to relax international tension, check the arms race and oppose hegemonism. To achieve this, Wang said, China and Japan should never resort to arms.

He pointed out that since the formation of the council, rapid progress has been made in Sino-



Hu Yaobang (centre front) meets a Japanese delegation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Japanese relations, thanks to the joint efforts of governments and non-governmental figures of the two countries.

The council is the result of a suggestion made by Haruo Okada, former deputy speaker of the Japanese Diet while on a visit to China in 1981.

Wang hoped both countries would strengthen exchanges and co-operation in economic matters, science, technology and culture.

Masayoshi Ito, the former Japanese Foreign Minister and representative of the Japanese delegation, made a keynote speech at the opening ceremony. He said, "It is our common goal that our unbreakable friendly relations should stand the test of any changing world situation and be carried forward for generations."

This meeting, by summing up the experiences from the last meeting, has made an appropriate decision in opening two new fields — science and technology, and education and culture — for discussion, he added.

Ito expressed his hope for further co-operation in the areas of high-energy physics, astronomy, computer science, the peaceful use of nuclear energy and agriculture.

In addition to maintaining close contacts between the two governments, the Sino-Japanese non-governmental council should play a major role in enhancing the unity and co-operation between public figures from various strata and all walks of life, he added.

The delegates, who discussed Sino-Japanese relations, the international situation, economic co-operation, scientific and technological exchanges, education and reform of the written languages, said they gained useful insights and felt the meeting had made substantial achievements.

Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang, in a three-hour talk with the Japanese delegation, said the Chinese people should follow five principles — friendship, mutual benefit, credibility, courtesy and discipline — adopt refined behaviour, language and manners, and be ethical in their dealings with the Japanese.

Friendship means not imposing an ideology, social system or domestic and foreign policies on another party, Hu said. Mutual benefit is necessary because a relationship cannot last long if the interests of only one side are stressed. Credibility means that words must be matched by deeds, he added.

Peng Zhen, Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, met with the Japanese delegation on June 28. When Masayoshi Ito told him that a number of Japanese are doubtful whether China will maintain its policy of opening to the outside world, he said that this policy has been written into the country's Constitution, which, as the nation's fundamental law, cannot be changed at will.

All parties, public groups and governmental and non-governmental organizations must act and function within the frame work of the Constitution, he added.

Asked about protection of foreign investments in China, Peng said China will soon adopt statutes to tackle this issue.

Standing With Group of 77

China will always stand by the Group of 77 and support its just demands in North-South dialogue, Premier Zhao Ziyang said in Beijing at a June 26 meeting with Porfirio Munoz Ledo, Chairman of the New York-based Group of 77.

Zhao said that although the group had put forward realistic proposals for North-South dialogue, no appropriate response has been made by the developed countries. "Under such circumstances, the developing countries should strengthen South-South co-operation," he said.

Ledo, also the Mexican representative to the United Nations,

Deng on Adhering to Socialism

Deng Xiaoping has told a group of Japanese non-governmental figures that it is of great importance for China to adhere to Marxism, to the integration of Marxism with the practice of the Chinese revolution and to socialism.

Meeting with the Japanese guests on June 30, Deng, Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party Central Advisory Commission, said that the Chinese Communists did not clearly realize what Marxism is and what socialism is. "Marxism attaches the greatest importance to the development of the productive forces," he added.

A communist society should put into practice the principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need," Deng explained. This calls for the fullest development of the productive forces and an abundance of social wealth. That is why the most fundamental task in the period of socialism is to develop the productive forces, he said.

Deng went on to say that poverty has nothing to do with socialism, still less with communism. The superiority of socialism should be manifested in the gradual improvement of the people's material life.

He stressed that if China should take the capitalist road instead of the socialist road, only a very small fraction of the people could get rich while the overwhelming majority would remain in poverty. "The Chinese people will all enjoy a comparatively well-off life at the end of this century, when China attains the goal of an average income of US\$800 per capita, thanks to the socialist principle of distribution," he said.

Speaking of China's economic policies, Deng said that it would not do for the Chinese to build up the country behind closed doors in the present-day world. To speed up the country's economic growth, the Chinese Government pursues the policy of enlivening the domestic economy and opening to the outside world. We welcome foreign entrepreneurs to invest in China.

"Practice in the past five years shows that we are on the right track. This enhances our confidence," he said.

was on a nine-day visit to China. He said that the Group of 77 is willing to co-operate with China.

Wu Xueqian, State Councillor and Foreign Minister, hosted a banquet on June 23 for Ledo, who came to China on June 21 as a guest of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Wu said in recent years the ties and co-operation between China and the Group of 77 have been gradually strengthened, and relations between China and Mexico have constantly deepened.

Ledo said that North-South dialogue is now at a standstill because of serious conflicts between the superpowers and the refusal of some developed countries to co-operate with the developing countries.

On June 26, Ledo spoke at a Beijing symposium commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Group's

adoption of the "Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order" and the "Programme of Action."

EC, China Share Common Interest

China and the countries of the European Community have no fundamental conflict of interests, Peng Zhen has told the Speaker of the European Parliament.

"We all work for defending world peace and our countries' security," said the NPC Standing Committee Chairman as he met with Pieter Dankert on June 21.

"Economically," Peng said, "the countries of the European Community are developed nations with advanced technology, while China is a developing country rich

in natural resources." He added that co-operation on the basis of mutual benefit would enable us to overcome difficulties to meet each other's needs.

Dankert is the third Speaker of the European Parliament to visit China. From June 21 to 25 he visited Beijing at the invitation of the NPC Standing Committee. In 1979 Emilio Colombo visited and in 1981 Madame Simone Weilin.

President Li Xiannian met with Dankert on June 23 and expressed satisfaction with the development of Sino-European relations.

China's economic policy of opening to the rest of the world is not a stop-gap measure, Li said, adding that it will not change but can only be further improved.

Dankert spoke highly of Premier Zhao Ziyang's visit to Western Europe. The growth of such political relations will help promote economic and technical exchanges, he added.

"Given a favourable development in the whole economic situation," he said, "the friendly and co-operative relations between the European Community and China could reach new heights."

News in Brief

Hu Congratulates New Italian Leader. Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), sent a message June 27 to Alessandro Natta, warmly and heartily congratulating him on being elected General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party.

Natta was elected on June 26 to succeed Enrico Berlinguer, who died of a stroke on June 11.

"The Central Committee of the CPC is convinced that the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party with you as General Secretary will assuredly direct the whole Party to overcome various

difficulties in the way ahead, and open up new and bright prospects for the promotion of social renovation and progress and the struggle for socialism and maintaining world peace," the message read.

Delegation Visits Korea. A delegation from the National People's Congress (NPC) returned home July 1 after a goodwill visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The delegation, led by Chen Pixian, Member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee and Vice-Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, arrived in Korea on June 22. It toured Pyongyang, Hamhung and Wonsan.

Rural Enterprises Raise Output Value

China's township enterprises, which employ 32 million peasants or 9.3 per cent of the national agricultural labour force, earned 92.87 billion yuan last year, or one-quarter of the total agricultural income.

A major factor underlying the development of township enter-

prises is that peasants who have prospered under the responsibility system are investing in these enterprises with their own funds. According to preliminary statistics, total investment by collective units and individual peasants in the suburbs of Beijing topped 40 million yuan in the first two months of this year. Commune members on one production brigade in Fengtai District invested 370,000 yuan in a hotel being built jointly with other units. Liu Ruiquan, a worker in the brigade's plastic-weaving factory, alone invested 2,500 yuan.

Another is the large surplus of labourers that has appeared with the production responsibility system introduced in 1979. Apart from turning to forestry, animal husbandry and fishery, many have shifted to rural industry, construction, transportation, commerce and other service trades and household sideline occupations. In the suburbs of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Guangdong, Liaoning, Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and other large and medium-sized cities where the economy is well-developed, more than half of the commune and brigade members have abandoned agriculture for other trades. The peasants of Jiangsu, Zhejiang,

Workers at a fan and chopstick factory in Puqi County, Hubei Province, discuss new designs. Their products are in great demand abroad.



Guangdong and other regions earn more than 60 per cent of their income from township enterprises.

The peasants' shift to township enterprises has not only provided an outlet for surplus agricultural labour, but increased the state's accumulation of funds as well. Last year state revenue from township enterprises was 5.89 billion yuan, an increase of 31.6 per cent over the previous year.

First Prizes Go to Corn, Welding

An arc control system in welding and a new strain of corn *Zhongdan No. 2* received first prizes in the national awards for inventions during the first half of 1984.

Developed by a research group headed by Professor Pan Jiluan of Qinghua University, the new welding system is a revolution in the traditional human control method used since the welding arc was invented 100 years ago. It automatically controls the arc, to keep it steady and to raise the quality of the finished products. It provides a new way to improve the welding quality of low-alloy, high-intensity steel products and pressurized containers.

Used with welding robots, the system will boost automation in the welding industry. It will be applied in various industries, including machine-building, chemical, petroleum, marine, ship-building, spaceflight, aviation and nuclear energy.

The new corn strain was developed by Li Jingxiong of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences by combining nuclear radiation and hybridization. It is resistant to leaf blight, leaf spot and head smut, three common diseases which so far cannot be controlled by any known chemicals. On the

average, these diseases cause China a loss of half a million tons of corn a year, because their incidence in ordinary corn strains is generally more than 10 per cent, as against 2 per cent in the new strain. Per-hectare output of *Zhongdan No. 2* is 15 to 20 per cent, or 750 kilogrammes, more than that of ordinary strains.

The total growing area of *Zhongdan No. 2* in the seven years between 1977-1983 has reached 6.27 million hectares, adding an extra harvest of 4.7 million tons of corn. It has become the most popular corn strain in China during the past two years.

The two first prizes, four second prizes, 34 thirds and 20 fourths were chosen by the Recommendation and Examination Committee for Inventions under the State Science and Technology Commission.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the meeting of recommendation and examination, Wu Heng, chairman of the committee, said that the 60 inventions had brought in more than 900 million yuan so far.

Opening More Graduate Schools

The Graduate School of Qinghua University, one of the most famous institutes of higher learning in China, was officially established recently. Teng Teng, vice-president of the university is concurrently dean of the graduate school.

Twenty-one more experimental graduate schools will soon open in universities and colleges across the country, including Beijing University, Chinese People's University, Beijing Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Beijing Teachers' University, Nankai University, Harbin Engineering University, Fudan University, Jiaotong Univer-

sity, Shanghai First Medical College, Nanjing University, Wuhan University and Xian Jiaotong University.

The graduate schools will promote the training of masters and doctors. More decision-making powers over student enrolment, management, teaching and conferring degrees will be granted to the schools by the state.

This year, 22,000 post-graduates will be enrolled in master's degree courses, and 2,000 will study for Ph.D. degrees, the largest number in recent years. Altogether 177 higher learning and research institutes have plans to enrol post-graduates for doctor's degree studies in 926 specialities.

China enrolled 420 post-graduate students to study for doctor's degrees for the first time in 1982. The figure increased to 1,000 in 1983. So far, 34 of these students have received their doctor's degrees.

Bureaucrats Blind To Economic Crime

Before he was arrested, Tian Shunjiang was a canteen purchasing agent for Hebei Province's Xingtai Colliery. In two years he pocketed 100,000 yuan from selling large quantities of grain and edible oil he had embezzled.

Tian's was only one of several serious economic crimes which have hit the headlines in China recently. Facts show that disorderly management and bureaucratism have served to protect and cover up such crimes.

The Xingtai Colliery leaders had long ago been informed of the fraudulent purchases Tian made, but none of them cared enough to do something about it. In 1982, when Tian made away with 70,000 kilos of grain at one time, a colliery

leader had the accounts checked but found nothing wrong. This encouraged Tian to commit bigger offences. In 1983, he stole 400,000 kilos of grain, and in the two years before his arrest, he had embezzled 545,500 kilos of grain, 900 kilos of edible oil and many other materials.

Bribery was yet another weapon for Tian. He greased the palms of 50 people — prefectural and city government officials, department store managers, police station heads, and so on.

Zhong Shuixing, a construction team leader in Chengdu, Sichuan, likewise bribed his way down the road of crime. He lined his pocket with 48,600 yuan from the 150,000 yuan worth of public property he had embezzled while undertaking a construction project in 1979-83.

A *Renmin Ribao* commentary pointed out that while the criminals should be brought to justice, bureaucrats who neglect their duties should also be held responsible for serious economic criminal activity. "Irresponsible bureaucratism has led many people to apathy," the paper said. This explains why the Party Central Committee has repeatedly urged those units undergoing Party consolidation not to slacken their efforts in combating those who seek personal gain by taking advantage of their position and power, and those who have shown serious bureaucratic tendencies.

Centre to Make Use of Talent

In order to promote job mobility among Chinese scientists and technicians, a service centre for talent exchange and consultation has been established in Beijing by the Ministry of Labour and Personnel. This is part of the reform aimed

at changing the inflexible personnel management system.

In China, work is usually assigned to college graduates under a unified plan. Because the emphasis is on government organizations and state-run enterprises, they tend to be over-staffed, while collectively run enterprises are desperate for trained personnel.

The centre's main function is to move people from jobs where their talents are not being used to places where they are needed. It will invite professionals and technicians to serve as part-time advisers to enterprises. It will act as a coordinator in transferring and borrowing technicians between units, and it will help train skilled professionals.

Any one with special training and any skilled worker or youth awaiting a job assignment, who has graduated from TV university, workers' college or correspondence college, will be allowed to register at the centre if their skills are not or have not been fully used. The centre will help these people transfer to units where trained personnel are needed.

Technicians, scientists and other professionals can register to give part-time help if they have permission from their own units. Units which want to invite technical advisers, teachers, scientists and professionals can also register at the centre, which will help them sign contracts. The centre will also help make contacts with colleges and universities where skilled personnel can be trained for the units according to a plan.

In the previous year, service organizations for labour exchange were set up in many regions throughout the country. Results proved successful. The Professional Service Corporation in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, set up a year ago, has received 6,800 scientists and technicians. A dozen of them have been transferred to

new work units better suited to their abilities. Not long ago, the corporation published an advertisement announcing that 792 students from a four-year night school course would graduate this year. They were soon requested by 59 units, and the numbers needed were more than the school could supply.

Other service centres in Shanxi, Guangdong, Anhui and Hunan Provinces and in the cities of Harbin, Hefei, Wuhan, Fuzhou, Chongqing, Chengdu, Guiyang and Xian have all been valuable in getting the right people into the right jobs.

Though there have been some changes in China's personnel management system in recent years, mobility of talented people is still tightly restricted. In early June, 10 faculty leaders from Qinghua University in Beijing suggested reforming the current system of life-long tenure for teachers and researchers, wage and household registration systems, and gradually moving to a less structured employment system.

CORRECTION: In our last issue, page 11, left-hand column, para. 2, the last two lines should read: "in Beijing on June 21. (*Paukphaw* is Burmese for fraternal friendship.)"



Soviet Union

Escalating Anti-China Propaganda

by ZI XU

THE slanders and attacks launched against China by the Soviet paper *Izvestia* are part of an escalating anti-China propaganda campaign by the Soviet Union.

On June 26, an *Izvestia* commentary blamed China for ASEAN countries' failure to accept Viet Nam's "partial troop withdrawal" from Kampuchea. That article also accused China of attempting to exert influence on the political alliances in Southeast Asia and the West by using its anti-Viet Nam and anti-Kampuchea (actually Heng Samrin regime) position.

Izvestia is blaming China because Viet Nam's "pull-out" ploy is not working, Viet Nam is bogged down in the Kampuchea quagmire, and Hanoi's peace offensive has been snubbed everywhere.

Viet Nam's "partial pull-out," only a routine troop rotation, as the ASEAN countries pointed out, has become a mockery to the world. Contrary to the wishes of Viet Nam, foreign reporters invited to Phnom Penh to witness the withdrawal have sent dispatches ridiculing the "pull-out."

Neither the Soviet cover-up attempts nor its accusations against China can alter the plain facts. Viet Nam's military occupation of Kampuchea and its threat to the peace and security of the ASEAN countries have provided the best evidence that Viet Nam is not telling the truth when it talks about its dedication to normalizing the situation in Southeast Asia and easing its relations with ASEAN countries.

The tensions and problems in Southeast Asia spring from Viet Nam's occupation of Kampuchea and its policy of pursuing regional hegemony with Soviet support. Unless this changes, tensions in the region will not disappear and the ASEAN countries cannot but protest.

The real aim of Moscow's calls for dialogues, mutual understanding and good neighbourliness in Southeast Asia is to trick coun-

Lebanon

Major Step Towards Peace, Security

by ZHU PING

THE recent agreement reached by the major Lebanese factions on a national security plan and military reform contributes to the realization of peace in that country.

The agreement, reached on June 23, includes abolishing the "green line" between the east and west districts in Beirut, reopening all the corridors linking the two districts and the Beirut airport, which had been closed since February, and forming a six-person military committee, which will share the top military power with the commander-in-chief.

The agreement, a major victory for the national unity government, should encourage progress in the Lebanese situation. It will help restore peace and security in the shattered city of Beirut. And it also provides the various factions

tries in the region into accepting Viet Nam's occupation of Kampuchea and giving the green light to Viet Nam's further expansion.

As long as Viet Nam refuses to terminate its occupation of Kampuchea, the Democratic Kampuchean people will not stop their struggle against the Vietnamese occupationists, and China and the ASEAN countries will continue to support them.

Is it incidental that the Soviet Union has been making anti-China propaganda in recent months? Moscow's sincerity in normalizing Sino-Soviet relations will be judged by its actions.

with favourable opportunities to work for national harmony and reunification through peaceful consultations.

At present, the government has four major tasks ahead. It must liberate the southern part of the country currently occupied by Israel, restore and maintain peace and security at home, rebuild the national economy, and carry out political and social reforms. To fulfill these goals, the various factions must, first of all, put aside their differences and unite.

In fact, reforming and reorganizing the national army is vital to the realization of peace and security in Lebanon. This problem has been the most sensitive of all the major issues in Lebanese politics, and the focus of the debate among the opposing factions.

The recent agreement also shows the various factions' desire to become reconciled and rebuild the

country and that it is possible for them to peacefully resolve their differences through consultations.

The situation in Lebanon is a reflection of the entire Middle East. Israeli aggression and the protracted civil war have made the country's internal contradictions more complex; they are unlikely to be solved overnight. However, a good start has been made.

Now, while continuing efforts to remove obstacles blocking peace and reunification among various

factions, the Karami cabinet is trying to consult some Arab countries and other influential nations on ways to restore peace in Lebanon. Because of many internal and external problems, the Lebanese Government must work long and hard to meet its four major tasks.

It is hoped that the various factions in Lebanon will earnestly implement the agreement and continue to work towards national reconciliation and the recovery of their country.

and more people in Western Europe realized that if the EEC was got entangled in the internal disputes, it would not be able to go forward and its role in international affairs would be weakened. This knowledge has brought home to many the urgent need for a settlement.

This proves that although there are serious disputes within the EEC, the West European alliance is more vigorous than was considered by some pessimists. If for no other reason than this, the West European alliance is necessary and inevitable.

The West European countries were considerably weakened by World War II. The only way for them to assume importance in world affairs was to unite. Today the EEC has a population of 270 million and its gross national product and trade volume exceed those of the United States. And it is playing an increasingly significant role in international affairs. It must, however, strengthen its unity to face with the new challenge of the intensified contention of the two superpowers for world domination and the technological revolution, in which Western Europe lags behind. Under these circumstances, further unity will produce vitality within the EEC while division will only lead to weakness. The Fontainebleau summit has proved that the West European politicians understand this.

EEC

Accord on Britain's Contribution

by XI SHENG

THE summit meeting of the European Economic Community (EEC) wound up in Fontainebleau, near Paris, on June 26 after reaching a compromise agreement on the long-standing dispute over Britain's budget contribution. The settlement of this question, which brought the 10-nation group to the brink of financial crisis, will strengthen the unity of Europe.

According to the agreement, Britain will receive a refund of 1,000 million European currency units (about US\$800 million) for 1984. In the ensuing years it will get two-thirds of the difference between its value added tax payments to the community and its receipts from Brussels. For 1985, the year used for reference calculations, this would have produced more than 1,100 million European currency units, or US\$880 million.

Originally Britain should have paid 2,000 million European currency units, but Mrs. Thatcher asked to pay only 500 million and get an EEC rebate of 1,500 million. But at the previous summit in Brussels, the other EEC members

only agreed to a rebate of 1,000 million European currency units. Britain and its nine neighbours could not come to an agreement.

Britain's contribution has directly affected the EEC budget. If Britain refused to pay its share, the community would not have enough money to continue its agricultural subsidies and other joint programmes. President of the EEC Commission Gaston Thorn warned that failure to reach an accord on the budget could provoke a political crisis which would plunge the EEC into bankruptcy.

After the failure of the summit meetings in Athens last December and in Brussels last March, more

France-Soviet Union

Mitterrand's Visit Underlines Hopes

by MA WEIMIN

A THREE-DAY visit by French President Francois Mitterrand to the Soviet Union ended on June 23 with some improvement in their bilateral relations. But differences

still exist between the two nations on many major international issues.

Mitterrand is the first French leader to visit Moscow in five years, and the first Western head of state to speak directly with the top Soviet leader since relations

between the East and West came to a deadlock at the end of last year.

During the visit both sides concentrated their talks on East-West relations, the situation in Europe and disarmament. They said they found the dialogue helpful. According to the media, France's opposition to anti-satellite and anti-ballistic weapons has brought them closer, but they are locked in a stalemate on resuming nuclear arms control negotiations, because the Soviet Union will not change its position on NATO missiles.

Mitterrand had long prepared for this visit. Since last year, he has often stressed the necessity of dialogue with the Soviet Union. He had, in fact, hoped to go to Moscow before he visited the United States last March, on the invitation of Yuri Andropov, which Konstantin Chernenko reaffirmed.

According to the French media, Mitterrand insisted on the visit, despite icy East-West relations, because the time is ripe to get to know Chernenko and to make clear France's disapproval of Soviet policies on nuclear disarmament, human rights and Afghanistan.

But a spokesman for the French presidential palace pointed out before the visit that Mitterrand did not expect to persuade Chernenko to change his policies, but only to establish a dialogue on their differences.

France, like other West European countries, opposes both collusion and enmity between the superpowers, either of which would be at the expense of third parties. Under the present circumstances, France wishes to take the first step in exploring conditions for restoring the dialogue between the East and West.

Mitterrand felt France had showed some weakness in its relations with the Soviet Union. After he

was elected president, he strengthened ties with the NATO countries and took a strong attitude towards the Soviet Union.

After deployment of missiles began in Europe, Mitterrand said the actions taken by France would not allow anyone to count on its weakness or hesitation in the future. But some in France felt Mitterrand was backing the NATO alliance too strongly, especially in his firm support of the latest missile deployments. The Moscow visit showed that France wants to readjust its relations with the two superpowers to some extent.

In the past several years, bilateral economic relations have also been affected by the cold political relations. Since 1981, the total value of equipment contracts France has signed with the Soviet Union has dropped year by year, from 8,000 million French francs in 1981 to 5,000 million francs in 1982, and 1,300 million francs last year, the lowest since former President Charles de Gaulle visited the Soviet Union in 1966. France's trade deficit with the Soviets came

to 1,800 million francs in the first four months of 1984.

Meanwhile, in other West European countries' trade with the Soviet Union has increased. In view of the French economic situation, Mitterrand also felt it is necessary to improve trade ties with the Soviet Union.

Of course, the two countries need each other. The Soviet Union regards France as a link in its contacts with the United States. According to the Soviet news agency TASS, French-Soviet relations, ignored for years, should be restored. While the Soviet Union is not prepared to make any concrete bilateral agreements, it seems truly interested in improving ties and is prepared to make some compromise to achieve this.

Although Mitterrand's visit showed the two countries' hopes for better relations, any substantial improvement will be difficult to achieve because of deep differences on many major issues. It is also too early to predict whether the visit will have any real effect on relations between the East and West.

Moscow-Washington

True Peace Bugged Down in Words

by ZHONG TAI

WASHINGTON, while accepting the Soviet proposal that talks be opened on preventing the militarization of outer space, has in the meantime stressed the need to resume the talks on the dismantling of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe and on strategic disarmament.

The Soviet proposal was made on June 29. Two days later the Soviet news agency TASS described the US response as "negative"

and "totally unsatisfactory," saying "the Soviet Union resolutely rejects the attempt to advance preconditions."

This is the latest development in the squabble between the two superpowers over the arms race, in which each side accuses the other of not being sincere. At the forefront are Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko and US President Ronald Reagan, who each says he is not opposed to fresh talks but then puts forth prerequisites for the other to meet before he will enter a new round of talks.

The United States has repeatedly stated that it is prepared to talk about nuclear arms controls at any time and any place and wants the Soviet Union to come back to the negotiation table. Lately Reagan has said that he would like to meet Chernenko at any time in the hope of establishing more realistic US-Soviet working ties.

For his part, Chernenko told the Soviet newspaper *Pravda* that dialogue and negotiations are needed and that the Soviet Union is ready to enter into talks but they must be sincere.

Since the United States began deploying Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe last year, it has repeated its demand for a resumption of the talks with the Soviet Union on Euro-missiles and strategic weapons. But Moscow alleges that the presence of US medium-range missiles in Western Europe constitutes an obstacle to further negotiations, which can be resumed only after the United States stops its latest deployment and removes the missiles already in place.

There have also been fierce arguments over other problems with the same outcome. Each pretends to be sincere about talks and arms reduction while accusing the other of playing games.

But behind the wrangling people can see an arms escalation. The two superpowers are producing more and more medium-range missiles with nuclear warheads and strategic and conventional weapons, which gravely threatens world peace and security.

Despite the Reagan administration's acceptance of the Soviet offer to talk about anti-satellite weapons and its proposal to broaden these talks to cover strategic and medium-range missiles, it remains to be seen whether negotiations will be held soon and whether an agreement will be signed.

Uruguay

Leader's Arrest Hinders Democracy

by FANG QIU

THE arrest of a well-known Uruguayan opposition leader upon his return from 11 years in exile has aroused strong protests against the military government not only among the Uruguayan people but also in other Latin American countries.

Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, a leader within the National Party (popularly known as the Blanco Party) and the party's presidential candidate, was arrested on June 16 as he returned to Uruguay from Argentina in defiance of a ban on his presence in the country.

Uruguay is one of the few Latin American countries where the military controls the state. However, faced with a strong popular movement for democracy and influenced by the democratic current throughout Latin America, the military in 1981 promised to hold general elections next November and to hand over power in March 1985. But judging from the events of the past two years, the advance towards democracy is not progressing smoothly.

The military took over the power in a 1973 coup. It banned activities by political parties and labour unions. Many important political figures were arrested or exiled. Ferreira was wanted on the charge of taking part in subversive activities after he went into exile.

In June 1982, the military partially removed the ban on political parties, in part as a step towards transferring power to civilians. Three parties, the Blanco Party, the Colorado Party and the Civil Union, were allowed to operate; the others remained illegal. Moreover, many leaders of the Blanco and Colorado parties, Ferreira among them, were still barred

from political activities, despite continued protests by the Uruguayan people and political parties.

However, on the pretext of "national security," the military has refused to entirely remove its ban on political parties and certain political leaders and has tried to preserve political privileges for itself through constitution manipulation. Ferreira's arrest clearly reflects the sharp differences existing between the military and political parties.

Defying the prohibition, the Blanco Party chose Ferreira as its presidential candidate in December's congressional elections. In last May Ferreira announced he would return to Uruguay on June 16. The military refused to yield an inch, saying on several occasions that it would arrest him the moment he stepped on Uruguayan territory, which it did.

As well, it closed newspapers that reported the event and other relevant news and barred demonstrations, actions that evoked opposition from all political parties. The Blanco Party indicated that it would not take part in the election as long as the issue was unresolved.

Ferreira is a talented leader and influential among the young. According to watchers in the foreign press, the military, by excluding him from the elections, hopes to control the development of democracy in Uruguay.

At present, the economic situation in the country is worsening and the democratic movement is reaching a new high. Though aware of the great difficulties in maintaining power, the military is apparently not willing to give up power without preconditions. So it would seem that the road to democracy will be tortuous.

Vice-Premier Li on Sino-African Relations

In late May, a Chinese delegation, led by Vice-Premier Li Peng, visited Libya, Tunisia, Sudan, Mauritania and Senegal. This trip is the most important to Africa since Premier Zhao Ziyang's visit at the end of 1982 and the beginning of 1985.

Our correspondents recently interviewed Li about his tour and the prospects for Sino-African relations.

Question: Could you comment on your visits to the five African countries?

Answer: One of our major goals was to attend the inauguration of the Mejerdan-Cap Bon Canal Project, jointly built by Tunisia and China, which is designed to divert water from the west to the east of Tunisia to promote the development of agriculture there. The project is an excellent example of Sino-Tunisian friendly co-operation. I was pleased to attend the inauguration.

In the tour of Libya, Tunisia, Sudan and Mauritania, we were warmly received by the governments and the people. We made a short stopover in Dakar, but the Senegalese Government gave us a very cordial welcome.

All this reflects the friendly feelings of the African peoples towards the Chinese people and moves us deeply.

Q: What results have come from your visits?

A: During our stay in these countries, we exchanged views with their leaders in all sincerity. This has enhanced mutual understanding, strengthened friendship and promoted economic co-operation.

In Tunisia we met Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasser Arafat. We told him of the support of the Chinese Government and people for the Palestinians' just struggle.



Vice-Premier Li Peng.

It should be pointed out that China and these African countries have many views in common on the international issues, particularly on the questions of opposing imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism, safeguarding world peace and strengthening co-operation in the third world.

In the talks with these nations' leaders we once again stressed that China hopes the third world will strengthen its unity. Divisions will only further weaken countries which are already oppressed and exploited. China does not interfere in others' internal affairs or involve itself in the disputes between third world countries. But we do believe disputes between African countries should be solved through negotiations. We hope to promote understanding and co-operation between the African countries, and have never supported one side to oppose the other. Through our talks we found that

African leaders fully understand and highly appreciate the Chinese Government's position.

Q: After your talks with the leaders of these African countries, would you please say something about their views on China and your views on Africa?

A: In the talks I briefed the African leaders on the fact that China is pursuing an independent foreign policy. China is one of the initiators of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and has strictly adhered to these principles in our external affairs. China is neither attached to the Eastern bloc nor to the Western bloc. Our hosts are very appreciative of this. In addition, China has carried out economic reforms in recent years and undergone stable development, to which these countries have paid much attention.

We told them China is still a developing country. Our country is very big and its development is extremely unbalanced. If you visited such cities as Shanghai, Beijing, Tianjin, Guangzhou you would see a relatively high level of development. But on the whole China is still comparatively backward economically.

The African countries are facing the task of developing their national economies and raising their people's living standards. Those countries I visited have done a lot in this regard and have gained some gratifying results. I already mentioned the Mejerdan-Cap Bon Canal Project, part of the large-scale programme worked out by President Habib Bourguiba and the Tunisian Government for the welfare of the Tunisian people. Mauritania is struggling against drought, the Sudan is overcoming its economic difficulties, and Libya has

exerted great efforts in developing its oil industry.

Of course, for various reasons the African countries have met with economic difficulties to different degrees. However, I consider that Africa is big, rich in natural resources and has a promising future. If they fully utilize and exploit their natural resources, the prospects for developing their national economies are broad indeed.

In our talks with the leaders of these African countries, I shared with them our country's experience in construction. We have found that to develop the economy, we must rely mainly on ourselves. At the same time, we need international support, and our open policy is designed to gain foreign investments and technology.

We support North-South dialogue, but South-South co-operation is also very important in developing the economy. The third world countries have many strong points which they can learn from each other to overcome each one's weak points. South-South co-operation can stimulate North-South dialogue. This is a dialectical relationship. Those who rely only on the developed countries are looked down upon by the latter, and it is difficult to get things done. South-South co-operation is therefore vital to the promotion of North-South dialogue.

Q: Would you care to comment on the present state of Sino-African economic co-operation and its prospects?

A: In Africa, I explained the four principles of economic co-operation put forward by Premier Zhao during his African visit, which are equality and mutual benefit, stress on practical results, diversity in form and common progress. We told our hosts that, in accordance with the four principles, China is willing to explore

new ways to diversify co-operation with the African countries. This will help make up for each other's deficiencies and thus put our relationship on an even more solid base.

In light of different situations in these African countries, the following seven forms were found for such co-operation:

- Assistance programmes — China is willing to provide as much aid as it can afford, but the emphasis will be shifted to projects which need less investment, produce immediate gains and return more practical results. We also stressed that a good job should be done on the agreed projects, and efforts should be made to raise efficiency of those projects in operation.

- Providing technology — China will provide the necessary technology on agreed projects, while funds will be supplied by the countries concerned. We think we are qualified to do this because we already have a well-trained and well-equipped construction team stationed in Africa. Some breakthroughs have been made in this area. For example, China is negotiating to construct a railway in Libya and a reservoir in Tunisia this way.

- Providing labour.

- Setting up joint enterprises in Africa and China — Several multilateral agreements of this type have been under consideration.

- Expanding trade.

- Bilateral technological co-operation — For example, experts can be dispatched to teach Africans silkworm breeding and rice growing.

- Providing administrative technology — According to what is needed, China can send experts to help the African countries manage the assistance projects already completed.

In brief, more new ways to co-operate are in the making. The road for Sino-African co-operation is broad and its prospects are bright.

During our tour, we saw that our experts and workers have worked very hard there, observing the laws and customs of these countries. It's no wonder they have earned the respect and friendship of the people around them.

Finally, I hope to express, through your magazine, my thanks to the governments and people of our host countries. It has been more than a month since I came back, and I still recall the happy memories and impressions of my trip. □

International Studies

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Notes From a Trip Through Africa

by CHEN ZONGLIE

MORE than 80,000 Chinese and foreign visitors poured into the China Art Gallery in Beijing recently to see an exhibition of photographs entitled "Travel in Africa." During the two-week show, some said the pictures were so convincing and moving that they could hardly believe they were not actually standing in Africa in all its beauty and strangeness. (See the front cover and centrefold.) Most people believed the pictures would certainly promote mutual understanding and friendship between Chinese and Africans, and the many African ambassadors and students in China expressed their appreciation for the show.

The exhibition was the result of a tour last November and December through Senegal, Guinea, Niger and Algeria, where under a cultural agreement, a delegation led by Lu Houmin and made up of Ren Shugao and myself was to exhibit a collection of works by Chinese photographers. Though we had less than a month to cover four countries and the number of places we could visit was limited, a deep impression of the continent was carved in my mind. The people there were friendly, honest and frank, and treasured their friendship with China. And we could witness the African people in the midst of a historic change as they shrug off their colonial past and restructure a new life for themselves.

To reach Senegal, the most westerly country in Africa, we had to fly for two days from Beijing.

The author is a staff photographer with *Beijing Review* and a council member of the Chinese Photographers' Association.

arriving at night. On the highway from the airport to Dakar, the capital, soft, damp breezes would puff into our faces from the Atlantic, moments of freshness into our car. Between the stretches of new buildings flashing by, clumps of banana trees and coconut palms stretched up into the night. Our first night in the tropics was bliss.

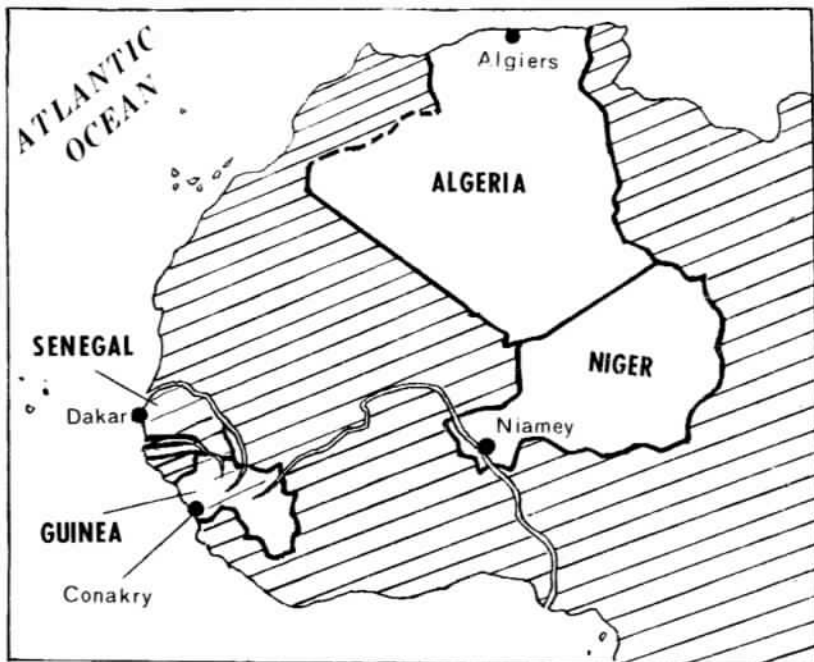
The next day we got down to examine this country of 5.9 million people closely. It has an area of 200,000 square kilometres, and half the arable land is cultivated for peanuts, which takes up 80 per cent of its farm labour. Senegal's average annual output of peanuts is one million tons, the fourth in the world after India, China and the United States. However, Senegal is the No. 1 exporter of peanuts in the world, with annual sales abroad of 200,000 tons, which has earned it the nickname the "Peanut Kingdom."

But this lopsided emphasis on peanut production—the result of former colonial policy—has borne

bitter fruit. There has not been an even development of Senegal's overall economy. The country has not been self-sufficient in the production of cereal grains for years, and except for peanuts, it has long had a trade deficit and the industrial products have to be imported. As a Senegalese friend pointed out: "Peanut oil is very cheap on world markets. One bottle of oil is the same as one bottle of mineral water in foreign trade."

Southeast of Dakar lies the small island of Goree. It was there that the earliest European slave traders built up a stronghold from which they could traffic in human lives. There are still batteries standing and the notorious guardhouse where captured Africans were kept. The guardhouse was damp and dark, its door opening to the sea to prevent slaves from escaping.

According to research by former President Leopold Senghor, between 100 million and 200 million Africans suffered directly from the



SENEGAL



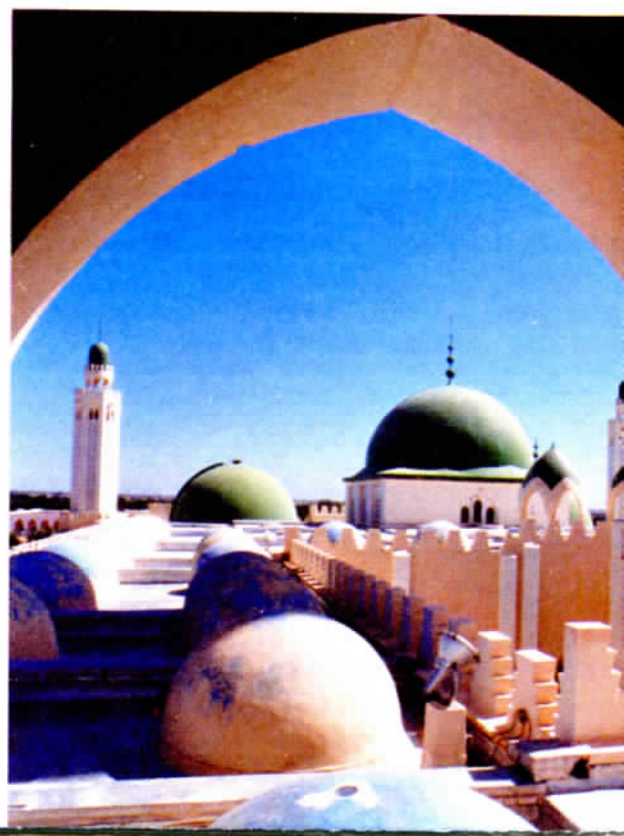
Peanut storehouses in Dakar.



A flower girl.



Woodcarvings are popular in West Africa.



A mosque in the Douba area.

GUINEA



A lively crowd.



Banana orchard.



Standing guard.

Photo by Lu Houmin



Beautiful Conakry.

The younger generation. *Photo by Lu Houmin*



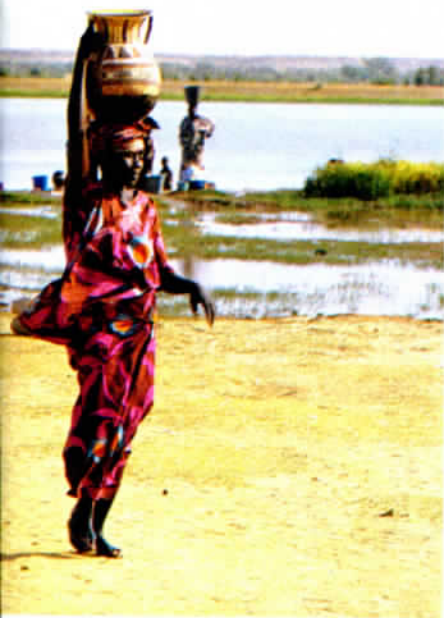
GER



Going fishing.



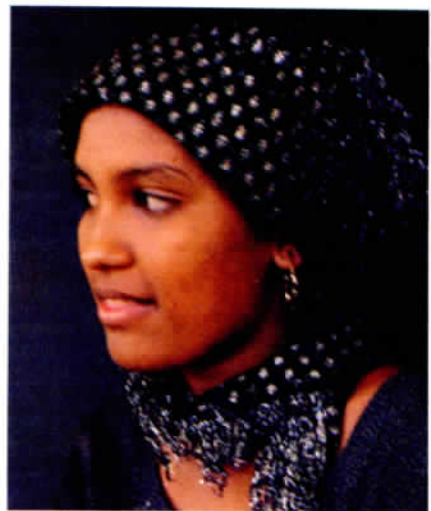
Cultural Centre O.G.



Living life from the Niger River.



Cloth for sale on the market.



Niamey girl.

Roasting mutton.

A crowned crane. Photo by Lu Houmin



ALGERIA



A construction site in Algiers.



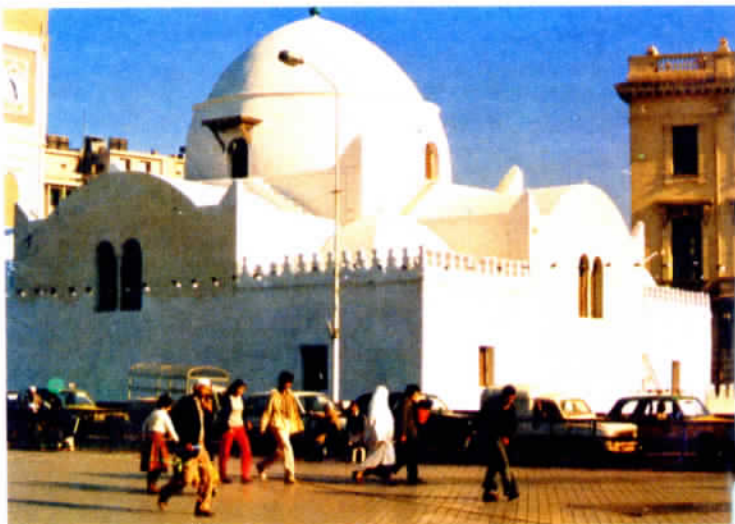
A woman in the ancient city of Casbh.
Photo by Lu Houmin

(All other photos by our correspondent Chen Zonglie.)



Restoring ancient Roman ruins in Guelma Province. *Photo by Ren Shugao*

Gathering ripe dates.



Mosque overlooking the martyrs' square. *Photo by Ren Shugao*

Mediterranean harbour.



Photo by Ren Shugao

slave trade, tens of millions being transported to other continents, and another four or five times as many dying during capture and transportation, or of disease. An estimated 20 million passed through the transfer station at Goree.

Near Dakar there is a village housing dozens of handicraft studios and shops. As we strolled through the village one morning, we saw craftsmen sitting on the ground in simple and crude sheds, carving ivory, wood, stone and copper. Their carvings covered a wide range of subjects — from heroes and spirits of African legends, which are their main source, to farmers, sailors and women at work or play, to beautifully shaped birds and animals with vivid and lively expressions.

The most distinguished pieces are those expressing Africa's unique artistic accomplishments. Some are realistic representations of the human figure, while others distort the human figure. Curly hair is transformed into beautiful patterns, the size of the eyes is exaggerated, two lotus petals make up the thick lips and the nose is cubic.

Working without models or sketches, the craftsmen create all their works with their inner genius. I had long heard of the sculpture of west Africa, but learnt, as the saying goes, that "It is better to see once than to be told a hundred times." Enchanted by these wonders, we were sorry to leave the village.

In return, we showed our first exhibition of photos in Dakar, which immediately caught the attention of the local residents. The show was covered by *Le Soleil* and local radio and TV stations. Our guest book was filled with praise of our photos and expressions of Sino-Senegalese friendship.

A senior official of the Senegalese Ministry of Culture told us: "Your exhibits have not only given us aesthetic entertainment, but have also further acquainted our people with your great country." He expressed his hope that there would be more cultural exchanges.

The next stop on our tour was Guinea, the first African country to gain independence from France and also the first to establish dip-

lomatic relations with China in October 1959 in west Africa.

Rice, sugarcane, bananas, mangoes, coconut palms, pineapples and numerous other tropical plants flourish on the fertile coastal plains. In central Guinea tower mountains, among them the great plateau of Fouta Djallon — the "Water Tower of West Africa" — where many of the region's rivers originate. Here is the source of dozens of rivers, large and small, the Niger, the Senegal, the Gambia, which bring life-supporting moisture to the vast expanse of west Africa. We viewed its enchanting tropical scenery when we visited the magnificent Bride's Veil waterfall in Kindia.

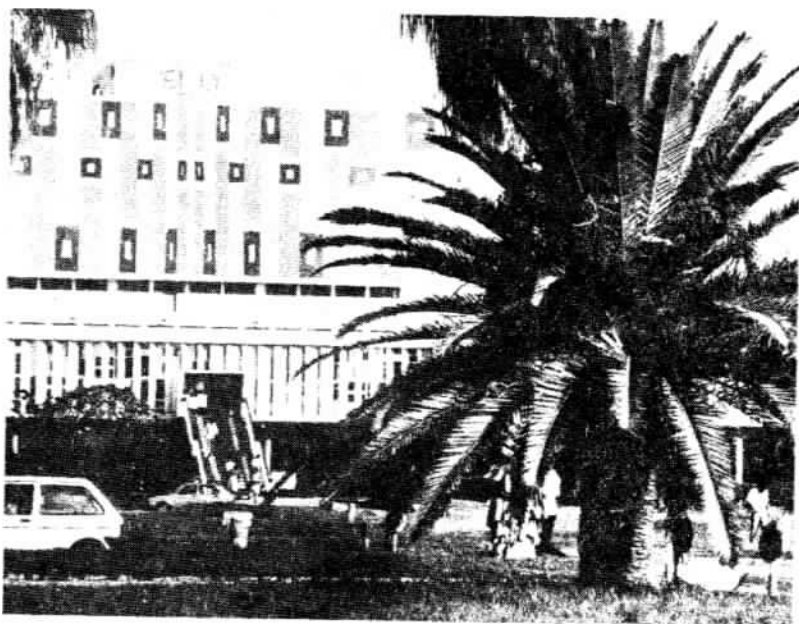
Guinea is also rich in mineral resources. What first impresses visitors to its crowded capital of Conakry are the huge heaps of bauxite and alumina. The reddish brown soil is a clue to the alumina found almost everywhere. According to statistics, Guinea possesses about 12,000 million tons of bauxite, or more than half of the world's total reserves. It is the world's third largest producer of alumina, mining more than 10 million tons of alumina a year.

Guinea, with an area of 240,000 square kilometres, has an oceanic climate with abundant rainfall — ideal conditions for farming the rich soil. Even using primitive farming method, Guinean farmers can reap good harvests. By adopting scientific methods, they can have two or three crops a year and increase grain yield many fold.

We visited the Fria Agricultural Institute, where the government sends youths to study modern agricultural techniques. In the fields, teachers and students were practising surveying, ploughing virgin soil, or cultivating bananas in a newly opened orchard.

Not long ago Chinese experts had been there passing on their knowledge and skills in growing

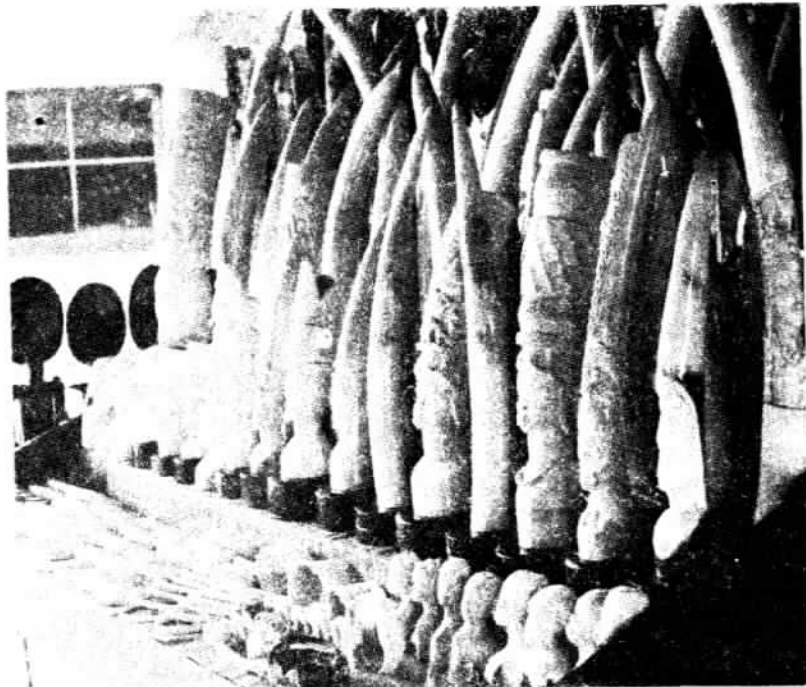
A look at Dakar University's campus.



paddy rice and vegetables and bringing with them samples of high quality strains of crops. Escorted by a crowd of people, we saw melons, fruits and vegetables cultivated by the Chinese experts on beautiful campus. The newly introduced strains of rice were also coming along nicely.

On the next leg of our trip, we flew along the serpentine Niger, which looks like a giant yellow python, as we traversed the boundless desert to Niamey, the capital of Niger. No sooner had we alighted from the plane than we were engulfed in arid heat reaching 40 degrees Celsius. There were fewer cars in Niamey than one could see in Western countries. Instead, herds of camels clattered along the road. Everywhere we could see women balancing clay jugs on their heads as they walked about the city on their household chores. On the walls were posters reading, "Bring about self-sufficiency in grain" or "Everyone has a right to education."

Niger has few natural advantages. Two-thirds of its land area of 1.2 million square kilometres is



Ivory carvings from a village specializing in handicrafts.

desert, which is not the ideal condition for agriculture and animal husbandry, which dominate its economy. Half the country's livestock died during a severe drought from 1970-73. As well, famine and disease threatened the population and crop production fell drastically.

Confronted with this formidable situation, the Supreme Military Council headed by Mintou Kountche took charge of the government in April 1974. Thanks to its emergency relief measures and the joint efforts of the people, satisfactory achievements have been made. The country is nearly self-sufficient in cereal grains and the number of livestock has reached the record previous to the drought.

Fruit stalls at a village fair in Kindia, Guinea.



Kountche initiated friendly ties with China. Upon assuming office 10 years ago, he sent a government delegation to visit China and signed an agreement to establish diplomatic relations. He personally visited China in 1977 and this past May, further boosting friendly co-operation.

In recent years, Niger, aided by China and other countries, has opened a number of reclamation areas along the Niger to expand the area available for grain production. Touring the Saga reclamation area, we met a group of young volunteers from the city who were helping to bring in the crops. They greeted us warmly, shouting, "xing, xing" ("China, China").

Some of them shook our hands, asking in Chinese, "How do you do?" They had never been to China but had had some contact with Chinese experts. Some chimed in that their relatives or friends are close friends of the Chinese. Owing to help from the Chinese experts, they said, they were now able to turn formerly barren ground into rice fields which is why they love the Chinese people.

At the Niamey Cultural Centre, we were warmly welcomed for a second time. Large numbers of young people there have taken great pains to study the arts. Music lovers were rehearsing a programme, playing elegant local melodies for us.

The last country we visited was Algeria, where we were greeted by many friends in the press and the arts. The first thing we noticed is the predominance of the white colour. Algerians — there are just over 20 million, almost all Arabs and Berbers — like white and regard it as a symbol of peace. Half the national flag is white. Most of the buildings are white in Algiers.

In the streets we saw few Algerians wearing European clothes. Most dressed themselves in white robes and covered their heads with white kerchiefs. The women wore white veils, revealing only their bright eyes.

Algiers lies beside the sea, with hills rising behind it. We visited the famous Casbah, where the narrow streets and lanes wind like a labyrinth. An Algerian companion told me many revolutionary stories about this district. Before independence, he said, the revolutionaries took advantages of the complicated streets in fighting against the colonialists.

At 2.3 million square kilometres, Algeria is the second largest country in Africa after Sudan. Most of the southern part of the country is



Boys and girls with their teachers at a primary school in Algeria.

part of the Sahara, the world's largest desert, which made a lasting impression on us when we saw it. Hospitable herdsmen there offered us clear spring water from a well and sweet dates from their orchard. They also gave us the rare and beautiful crystalline rock called the "desert rose" — which has the shape and colour of a red rose.

Algeria has a variety of mineral resources. The Sahara has long been known as the "oil depot of North Africa." In the desert we saw numerous derricks built over the abundant oil and natural gas resources. In 1980, by rough estimates, Algeria's petroleum reserves were 980 million tons, ranking third in Africa. Natural gas reserves are 3,750,000 million cubic metres, the fourth largest in the world.

Since the Democratic and People's Republic of Algeria was founded in 1962, it has been transformed from a backward agricultural country into an agricultural and industrial country, beginning

to enjoy prosperity. In recent years, under the stress of the world economic crisis, only a few developing countries have maintained their economic equilibrium. Algeria is one of them.

Boualem Bessaeh, Minister of Information and Member of the Central Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front, told us he had visited China in the late 1950s as a member of provisional government delegation. He said the Algerian people had a deep friendship with China because the Chinese people gave them assistance during Algeria's War of Independence, and had not demanded for repayment. He said he hoped that co-operation between the two countries would be strengthened and developed.

Now that we've come to the end of our journey, we would like to thank the governments and people of the four countries for their incomparable hospitality. We hope the Chinese and African people and all people of the third world will unite to build a new, brighter world. □

Economic Situation and Its Impact in African Countries

Economic difficulties have brought new factors of instability to the countries of Africa and compelled them to readjust their economic policies. At the same time, the difficult economic situation has subtly influenced their relations with the rest of the world

by **LIU CHANGQIN** and
YANG RONGJIA

SINCE many of them became independent in the 1960s, the countries of Africa have made great efforts to develop their economies, achieving quite good results in this area. But in recent years, especially in the 1980s, their economic situation has deteriorated as the Western countries shift their economic crisis on to them. This is aggravated by poor economic management, natural calamities and inappropriate policies. Their economic difficulties are manifested in the following ways:

(1) **Economic growth has slowed down.** From 1970-80, the average annual growth rate of total output value in Africa was 5.2 per cent. (The figures in this article do not include South Africa.) However, the actual growth of the non-oil-exporting countries in 1982 was only 1.5 per cent, about the same as in 1981 and lower than the 3.7 per cent growth in 1980. Since 1977, the population growth rate of these countries has been 2.5 per cent. Therefore, the growth of average per-capita income from the total output value has greatly slowed down since 1978. The economic situation of the oil-exporting countries was once good. In 1980, their economies still achieved a 6.5 per cent increase. In 1981, however, their economic growth fell to around 4 per cent. In recent years, the economic situation in certain

countries whose economies had developed fairly quickly has also deteriorated noticeably.

(2) **The export situation has worsened.** Most African countries, which long suffered from colonial rule, have mono-economic structure. They depend to a large extent on exporting agricultural and mineral products to Western countries. Up to now, there has been no fundamental change in this situation. These countries bear most of the brunt when an economic crisis sweeps the West. In 1980 African exports totalled US\$96,300 million. In 1981, they

came to only US\$76,060 million, down 20.4 per cent, and in 1982 dropped a further 15.4 per cent.

This decline has delivered an extremely heavy blow to the non-oil-exporting countries. With export commodity prices dropping and import prices rising, their trade deficit jumped from US\$6,600 million in 1979 to US\$10,400 million in 1980. It rose to US\$16,200 million in 1981. The situation in the oil-exporting countries is not encouraging either. Their trade surplus fell drastically from US\$24,500 million in 1980 to US\$8,900 million in 1981.

A street in Dakar, capital of the Republic of Senegal.



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(3) **Agriculture problems have become more acute.** In 1980, the non-oil-producing countries' agricultural production increased only 1.3 per cent. However, even in that year, which saw a fairly good harvest, agricultural production in 13 countries did not register any increase. Farm output in another 17 countries increased at a slower pace than their population growth.

Food production is the most serious agricultural problem in Africa today. In the early 1960s, about half the countries were self-sufficient in cereal grains. But by the 1970s and 1980s, a food shortage developed, becoming more and more serious. In recent years, grain imports have increased annually. In the fiscal 1980-1981, grain imports totalled 18.5 million tons. By the fiscal 1981-1982, they had reached about 21.4 million tons. The serious agricultural problem has greatly affected the economic development in many countries.

(4) **The debt burden has become heavier.** In 1981, the countries south of the Sahara borrowed US\$9,046 million from abroad. In the same year, they repaid US\$5,524 million in principal and interest. In 1981, most countries' debt burden exceeded 40 per cent of their gross national output value. In 1983, the debt burden of countries south of the Sahara was US\$72,100 million. In the fiscal 1981-1982, of the 16 countries in the world requesting debt rescheduling, 12 were African.

The economic deterioration has further aggravated poverty, social turbulence, and political instability. In 1980, the average inflation rate in Africa was 28 per cent, which greatly reduced purchasing power, with people in the middle and lower strata in the cities suffering most. In recent years, discontent has risen and the number of strikes and boycotts of classes increased sharply. Countries where the political situation had previous-



A Guinean girl picking bananas.

ly been unstable — among them Ghana and Upper Volta — have seen this instability worsen. Other countries which formerly were relatively stable, such as Kenya and Tanzania, have also been beset with problems. In August 1982, Kenya experienced its first abortive military coup since independence. Several months later, Tanzania uncovered a serious coup plot. Of course, there are many reasons behind the increased instability. But the deterioration of the economic situation is no doubt an important one.

To extricate themselves from the dilemma, all African countries have now come to see the importance of readjusting their economic

policies, and in recent years economic readjustment and reform has become an important policy for most of them. The readjustments are manifested mainly in the following ways:

(1) **The scale of capital construction has been reduced.** This is most conspicuous in some oil-exporting countries. When their export income increased rapidly a couple of years ago with the rise in oil prices, they ambitiously embarked on large-scale capital construction. Today, they have adopted measures to cut expenses. Algeria has stressed a reduced scale of capital construction and drawn up plans to concentrate investment for projects under construction in

its 1980-84 five-year plan. In 1981, Nigeria decided to provide projects already undertaken with only 30 per cent of the investment needed and re-examine new projects. In April 1982, it decided again to postpone the construction of new large projects. In 1982, Libya stopped signing new contracts and cut down the scale of capital construction. When the Congo reaped a huge income from oil in the early 1980s, it mapped out a five-year plan (1982-86) of vigorous development. Now, with its oil income reduced, it has drastically cut the number of projects in the plan. Other countries have also done the same in this field. For instance, Tanzania has adopted a "three-year plan of structural reform" for 1982-84.

(2) **Importance has been attached to agricultural development.** Although many of the countries stress that agriculture is the foundation of their economies and called the development of it their main priority, they have actually long ignored its development, with the result that self-sufficiency in food production has become more and more difficult to achieve. Faced with this serious situation, they have come to realize the importance of agriculture in boosting the national economy and have adopted measures and made efforts to speed it up. The first measure adopted has been to increase agricultural investment. In 1981, Nigeria invested five times as much in agriculture as it did in 1980. In 1982, Ethiopia increased its budget for agriculture by 55 per cent over 1981, while Senegal earmarked 37.1 per cent more funds for agricultural development in 1982 than in the previous year. The second measure is to raise commodity prices so as to stir up enthusiasm for increased production. Since 1981, many countries, including Tanzania, Kenya, Niger, Somalia, Zambia and Botswana, have adopted such policies. Third,

some countries have adopted more flexible agricultural policies. For instance, Algeria is encouraging individuals to engage in agricultural production and has lifted limits on the production and marketing of farm produce. The Congo formerly concentrated on developing state farms. It has now shifted the focus on to encouraging individual production on small pieces of land. Mozambique is also allowing its peasants to engage in individual farming.

These efforts are expected to yield positive results.

(3) **Reorganizing state enterprises and improving their management.** Poor management, rampant graft and embezzlement, and long-term losses are common problems at state enterprises, which urgently need reorganizing and help to eliminate losses and increase profits. Steps have been taken in many countries, including the Congo, Zaire, Guinea, Tanzania, Benin, Mali, Somalia, Mozambique, Algeria and Guinea-Bissau. Among their methods: asking the state enterprises to take sole responsibility for their profits and losses; stopping or limiting the amount of subsidies; shutting down or suspending operations of those state enterprises which have incurred losses, or amalgamating them with other enterprises, or switching them to the manufacture of other products; cancelling or limiting government control over the domestic and foreign supply and marketing; delegating powers to lower levels; and reshuffling management.

(4) **Private businesses have been given a greater role.** After achieving independence some countries followed a policy of nationalizing foreign-owned and private companies. For a long time, they limited and even banned the development of private businesses. But experience, especially the difficult economic situation in recent

years, has shown them the damage caused by extremist policies, and they are now making efforts to readjust them. Somalia is allowing free enterprises and capitalist management methods. The Congo and Guinea have allowed their medium-sized and small-scale capitalists to run businesses. Madagascar is allowing private enterprises. Angola and Mozambique have also begun to take steps to encourage private businesses. These measures indicate a trend towards readjusting economic policies in recent years. They have invigorated the economies initially.

(5) **The pace of nationalization has slowed down.** To develop their economies, some African countries with market economies, including Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Cameroon and Senegal, have been gradually nationalizing privately owned companies. But recently, in the midst of economic difficulties, they have slowed down the process and again sought foreign aid and foreign investment. Nigeria has relaxed its provisions about foreign investment. Senegal has not only greatly slowed down its process of "Senegalization" but also has done its utmost to create conditions for building processing and export zones to absorb foreign funds. These countries have come to see that nationalization must be a slow-moving process and that they should not act hastily if they are to develop consistent and reasonable policies for economic development.

In summary, their efforts to readjust their economic policies will have a positive effect on increasing their income, reducing expenditures and overcoming the current economic difficulties. Furthermore, these measures are a new and more mature approach to solving their problems, based on experiences which will be of far-reaching significance in directing future economic efforts.



A fair at Niamey, capital of Niger.

The economic slump has, as we have seen, forced the countries of Africa to seek from abroad new ways of overcoming difficulties and rejuvenating their economies. This in turn has brought about changes in their relations with other countries as manifested in the following ways.

(1) Speeding up regional economic co-operation. Despite the vast area and rich natural resources of Africa, many countries have poor economic foundations and backward transportation and communications, are short of funds and technology, and face numerous other economic problems. This state of affairs has pressed upon them the importance of mutual co-operation. During the latest recession, the shifting of the economic crisis by the developed countries on to the developing countries forced the countries of Africa to learn from and help each other resist the oppression of international monopoly capitalism.

In the Abidjan Declaration adopted in 1979, the African lead-

ers appealed for the first time to all countries on the continent to carry forward the spirit of collective self-reliance, to work in co-operation and to take the road to common development. Since then, regional economic co-operation has developed swiftly, with regional co-operative organizations mushrooming all over the continent.

In addition to the Economic Community of West Africa and the Economic Community of West African States (two regional co-operative organizations in West Africa which were founded earlier and have achieved fruitful results), the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference was founded in 1980 by 10 countries. In eastern and central Africa, Tanzania, Zaire and four other countries reached an agreement in 1981 on the construction of six projects, including the expansion of harbours, railways and highways shared by these countries, while Uganda, Kenya and four other countries have unified their cus-

toms systems and abolished limits on materials in transit. They have formed two regional transport co-ordination groups — the "Central Corridor" and the "Northern Corridor" — with Mombasa and Dar-es-Salaam as their bases. At the end of 1981, 18 eastern and southern African countries established a preferential trade zone. Last October, 10 central African countries formally set up the Economic Community of Central African States. Discussions are also being made to revive the Community of East Africa, which was dissolved in 1977.

Regional economic co-operation comes in varied forms. Although African countries generally have a poor economic base and are short of funds, their economic co-operation is developing satisfactorily.

(2) Readjusting realtions with Western countries. More than 80 per cent of Africa's exports go to Western Europe and the United States. Trade with the Soviet Union and other East European countries, however, is limited. In 1979, trade with Eastern bloc countries ac-

counted for only 7.1 per cent of the total. In recent years, as the West tried to shift its economic crisis on to the third world, the African countries' disapproval of Western countries has increased noticeably. They are demanding changes in the existing irrational international economic order. At the same time, however, to overcome their difficulties and develop their economies, they have had to increase their exports to the West and ask it for more aid and investments.

The trend most recently has been to maintain and develop economic relations with the Western countries. Many countries have adopted an open policy regarding foreign funds and introduced other flexible methods. Even some countries which were close to the Soviet Union have changed. For instance, Ethiopia, Benin, Guinea and Equatorial

Guinea have issued laws to ensure the rights, interests and legal incomes of foreign investors. The Congo, in its revised investment law, assures foreign companies it will not nationalize them. Madagascar has declared it will stop nationalizing foreign companies. Algeria, Mozambique and Angola have tightened economic ties with Western countries.

Foreign investments have come mainly from Western Europe. In 1979, Western Europe's direct investment in Africa accounted for more than 70 per cent of the total foreign investment in the continent that year. The former West European colonial countries have always made Africa the main targets of investment. This being the case, the changes made by some African countries in their foreign investment policies are conducive to strengthening Afro-European economic relations.

A street in Algiers, capital of Algeria.



In turn, their tightened economic relations will help improve political relations. In the last three years, some African countries have, to varying degrees, improved their relations with their former colonizers. For instance, Angola, Mozambique, Verde Cape and Guinea-Bissau have distinctively improved their relations with Portugal, as have the Congo and Algeria with France. To varying degrees, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia and Ethiopia have strengthened their relations with Spain and Italy, with Somalia receiving more aid from Italy. There is also increased economic and cultural cooperation between Ethiopia and Italy. Of course, there are many reasons for the improved relations with southern European countries where socialists are in power. The African countries, apart from seeking economic support from Europe, want to use Europe politically as a counter balance against the two superpowers.

After President Ronald Reagan came into power, the United States attempted to include Africa in its anti-Soviet global strategic plan. To achieve this political aim, the Reagan administration, more blatantly than its predecessors, has resorted to economic means. It has increased its economic aid to Africa (US\$965 million to the countries south of the Sahara in 1983, compared with US\$694 million in 1980). It has also changed its traditional practice of concentrating its aid on a few countries by taking other countries into consideration without neglecting its former recipients. In 1975 it granted aid to only 10 countries; in 1983 it provided 42 countries south of the Sahara with aid.

The United States has also attached particular importance to using economic means to develop relations with countries close to the Soviet Union. For instance, in July 1981 the US Government approved a loan of US\$85 million

by the Import and Export Bank to Angola, adding that after US-Angolan relations became normalized it would increase its aid.

The United States and some other Western countries all base their African policies on self-interest. But the US policy is more barefaced. In May 1982, Zaire refused to accept aid from the United States because of the United States' flagrant interference in Zaire's disposal of its foreign aid. In November 1982, during US Vice-President George Bush's visit to seven African countries, he claimed that the United States would increase its economic aid to Africa while trying to peddle the US scheme concerning Namibian independence at the same time. He met unanimous opposition from these African countries. Africa, though it has generally strengthened its economic ties with the West, has not forgot its long-term objective of consolidating its political independence and winning economic independence. These countries deeply understand the importance of a peaceful international environment for their economic development and don't want to fall into the noose of serving the super-powers' political aims.

(3) Trend away from the Soviet Union. For many years, the Soviet Union, in the name of supporting the African countries' struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism, has done its utmost to seek political and economic advantages on that continent. But except for military aid, Soviet aid to Africa has been limited. In addition, it has attached terms to its aid which are much harsher than those attached by the Western countries.

Naturally, in the midst of the current economic difficulties, securing foreign aid is a vital concern to the developing African countries. This need definitely affects their relations with the Soviet Union. Usually whenever a radical regime is formed, it maintains fairly close ties with the Soviet Union in the beginning. But once the situation has become stabilized and attention is shifted to economic development, the country often turns to the West for economic aid after failing to get the aid it expected from the Soviet Union. This eventually affects relations with the Soviet Union. The Congo, Mozambique and Angola are typical examples of this. Of course, they readjusted their policies grad-

ually and did not make a drastic 180-degree turn. This readjustment significantly affects the development of these countries' economies and will help them get rid of foreign interference.

In summary, countries of Africa have readjusted their domestic and foreign policies in recent years, but this does not mean that they will give up their long-term anti-imperialist, anti-hegemonic and anti-racist stands and their long-term targets of economic development and economic independence. In the short run, the current economic difficulties are a disadvantage; but in the long run, they may bear positive results. These countries are summing up their experiences so as to adjust their policies and seek the most suitable road based on their conditions. They cannot overcome their current economic difficulties overnight, but as long as they earnestly sum up their experiences, adhere to the principles of independence and self-reliance and strengthen unity and co-operation, they will have a bright prospect for their future development.

(An abridged translation of an article in the quarterly "Journal of International Studies," No. 1, 1984.)

Why the Sino-Soviet Strains?

by WANG JINQING

RELATIONS between China and the Soviet Union are complicated, and we could discuss them for days. In this limited time, I can only touch upon a few aspects of the relationship.

The problems in Sino-Soviet relations are, in essence, a struggle between control and anti-control.

Wang Jinqing is a research fellow with the Research Centre for International Issues. This is his speech at a panel discussion of a conference of non-government leaders from China and Japan.

In our vehement, sometimes emotional disputes, both sides have said things which go a bit too far or which are incorrect. But this does not in the least affect the basic nature of our relations.

The real problem lies in the fact that while the Soviets attempt to control us, we are opposed to being controlled. Or, in the Kremlin's logic, you are good and revolutionary if you toe its line, and you become a bad counter-revolutionary or a narrow-minded nationalist if you don't. In that case, you should be opposed and pressured. This is exactly what the So-

viet Union has done to China. Once differences of opinion occurred, it turned politically hostile, bringing economic pressure to bear on us and laying a military siege along our borders

To this day, the nature of the Sino-Soviet relationship remains unchanged. The Soviets refuse to budge an inch from their stand on China's proposal that they remove the three major obstacles to improving Sino-Soviet relations. Recently, they have become even more stubborn about it. In a matter of days, Chernenko twice attacked China publicly, and some

Soviet officials published articles under assumed names calling into question the independent policy followed by China and some East European countries. The articles accused them of violating the principles of internationalism and pursuing nationalism.

Judging from the foregoing analyses, the improvement of Sino-Soviet relations will be long and slow, despite the progress already made by both sides in expanding economic, cultural, educational and sports exchanges, and visits between non-government organizations.

On our part, we sincerely hope that Sino-Soviet relations will be improved. We do not want to maintain a strained relationship, and still less do we want to go to war. The relaxation and improvement of Sino-Soviet relations are in the interests of both nations and peoples and are conducive to peace in Asia in particular and the world in general.

Even if the Sino-Soviet relations become normal tomorrow, this relationship must be based on the Five Principles of Peaceful

Coexistence. Such a relationship is by no means that between a father and his son or between a master and his servant. In short, it is not the relationship of one at the beck and call of the other.

No matter what the Soviets plan to do, China will, as always, follow the principles of peace, friendship and co-operation in handling its relations with other nations. We will not serve as a "cat's paw" for others, nor will we stick our hand into the "fire" to grab others' "chestnuts." We are satisfied if we can keep our own "chestnuts."

China follows an independent foreign policy. A non-aligned country, China takes the side of the third world. Even if Sino-Soviet relations improve, China's independent policy will be different from the Soviet policy of alignment.

We do not favour antagonism between blocs of countries, because it is detrimental to maintaining and developing peace, friendship and co-operation among all countries. It is unrealistic and impossible for Sino-Soviet relations

to return to what they once were in history.

In the present-day world, relations between different countries should be based on principles, good faith and established moral codes. A bilateral relationship is determined by the common interests of the two nations; it is not determined by any third country. That is to say, the good, stable ties between two countries do not necessarily demand that either country improve or relinquish its relations with any other country.

China's policy is to maintain and develop friendship and co-operation with all countries, socialist and capitalist alike, on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Countries under different political systems can maintain good relations as long as they act according to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Contradiction or even confrontation and clashes may arise between countries under the same political system if they fail to follow the Five Principles. We have witnessed many such examples in the world today. □

Hainan — A Treasure Island (2)

by HAN XI
Our Correspondent

Hainan Island has one of the densest rainfalls in China. It is hot and moist all year round.

Aquiculture

Although just an island, it has about one-tenth as much coastline as the mainland—about 1,528 kilometres. Dotted around this coast are 68 ports and bays, including 24 main fishing ports, and 78,000 square nautical miles of fishing ground.

The Baimajing fishing harbour is a key fishing area in the south, and is one of the five most important fishing bases in China. Its warm climate and rich baits in the surrounding waters attract and nurture fish, prawns, shellfish and seaweeds. There are 600 types of aquatic products to be harvested. More than 40 are highly valuable.

The *hele* crab is a speciality of the island, and is essential on a table arranged for guests. The prawns are quite big—eight to a kilogramme. There is a type of prawn which takes off its shell at midnight. If it is caught before

its new shell grows, it is very delicious and is convenient for cooking. One metre long, the pipeapple ginseng is the biggest member of the sea cucumber family. It is unique to southern Hainan.

Hainan Island has a great potential for even more aquatic production. A total fishing ground of about 25,666 hectares is available for cultivating more than 20 varieties of fish, prawns, shellfish and seaweeds.

The island is also a key producer of Chinese unicorn, a precious alga growing in the tropical sea. Chinese unicorn is the main raw material of agar, which is

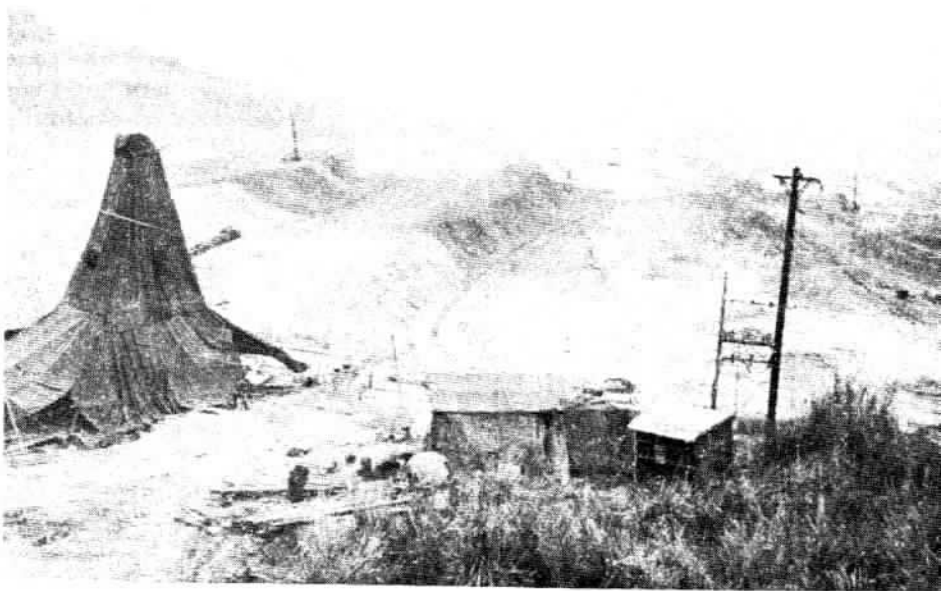
used to solidify canned foods, to make quality candy, ice cream and cold drinks for the summer. Agar is also used in research as a germ medium and in medicine as a laxative or something to treat high blood pressure. It is used widely in the textile, printing and dyeing, photo production and cosmetics industries. China has a long history of cultivating and utilizing Chinese unicorn.

Cultivating pearl oysters in the sea is now becoming popular around Hainan Island. A kind of shellfish are being used to cultivate the most precious pearls in the world. Aquatic farmers are also scientifically cultivating and processing sea horses, coral and hawksbill turtles.

Unfortunately, marine aquaculture in Hainan is far from fully developed. Only a little more than 1,333 hectares of water surface, or 5 per cent of the total that can be utilized, have been brought under cultivation. The annual output accounts for less than 1 per cent of the island's total catch of sea products. And most of the products are still being bred on an experimental basis. There is an urgent need to import advanced technology to tap the island's marine resources.

Apart from large tracts of virgin forest, Hainan Island abounds in tropical crops. The most abundant is coconuts, which are a major source of income for the islanders. Coconut trees have been planted there for 2,500 years, and today these leafy palms wave over 14,666 hectares of land, yielding more than 30 million coconuts annually.

Coconuts are not only valuable for their sweet meats. Coconut shell carvings, for example, were treasured gifts to feudal emperors in ancient times. Today, artisans produce more than 200 designs, many of them inlaid with patterns of silver, tin, sandalwood or seashells. They are highly valued



The Shilu open-cast iron mine.

souvenirs and enjoy brisk sales in nearly 100 countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia and those in Southeast Asia.

These coconut trees, which can withstand high wind and drought and grow luxuriantly at salty seashores, have yielded substantial economic returns to the people of Hainan. Although producing capacity is still low, the islanders netted 1.3 million yuan from processing 5 million pieces of coconuts, with a total output value of 5.37 million yuan last year. Of Hainan's 1983 tax payment of 380,000 yuan, 300,000 yuan came from processing coconuts.

If the 200,000 hectares of wasteland on Hainan were planted with coconut trees, the island's annual output of coconuts would top 900 million pieces. Given the present processing capacity, this would produce a total industrial output value of 1,800 million yuan.

Hainan is also rich in lemongrass, from which essence is ex-

tracted. Lemongrass can be harvested once every three months, six months after the seeds are sown. Because the grass yields quick returns, is easily attended and needs little money, its cultivation is regarded as an important way to get rich quickly.

The island's vast tracts of hilly land are ideal for planting pepper trees. The 5,533 hectares of plantations produce 1.3 million kilos of pepper annually, accounting for half of China's total each year. Per-hectare output is about 750 kilos, worth 12,000 yuan. This could be much higher if scientific techniques were introduced.

Betel nuts lead Hainan Island's trade with other parts of the country. Also called areca, betel nuts are a valuable medicine native to south China. At present, each betel tree yields an annual income of 120-150 yuan, higher than a coconut tree. One islander earned 12,000 yuan by selling the products of a betel tree plantation covering just a seventh of a hectare. This

single example shows that planting betel trees can be a lucrative undertaking.

Tropical crops, which also include sugarcane, sisal hemp, coffee, cocoa and tea, constitute the mainstay of Hainan's economy. They cover about 306,000 hectares on the island, and there

deposits of copper and cobalt. Its verified cobalt deposits stand at 13,000 tons, which, with a cobalt content of 0.196 per cent, make the mine China's largest and richest. Cobalt is an indispensable raw material for making special steel and alloys needed in the manufacture of missiles, airplanes and tanks.

and veins as beautiful as those of marble.

The high salt content of the water and the long periods of sunshine have nurtured a booming salt industry in Hainan. The Yinggehai saltern on the southern tip of western Hainan is the most famous. The salt content in the local seawater reaches 3.5 Baume degrees, and is topped only by the Red Sea. Construction of the saltern started in 1958, and by the late 1980s it will be larger than the city of Guangzhou, with an annual production capacity of 150,000 tons. Yinggehai is only one of nine salterns in Hainan, and there are still 3,000 hectares that can be developed for this industry.

Most encouraging, perhaps, are the large deposits of lignite (brown coal) and oil shale believed to be rare in south China, which have been discovered on Hainan. Both will add fuel to the island's economic growth.

The Yinggehai and the Beibu Gulf Oilfields, the largest in the South China Sea, are both located in the sea territory of Hainan. The island itself is rich in oil as well. Eleven of the more than 30 wells drilled by the end of last year have shown indications of oil and gas. Six oil wells are now producing regularly. The development of the land and offshore oil industry augurs well for the future development of China's "treasure island."

(This article is the second of a series. The first appeared in our last issue.)



The limestone peaks in Changjiang County.

are another 666,000 hectares that can be used.

Mineral Resources

The Shilu Mine, in the western part of Hainan, is China's largest open-cast iron mine. Its ore has a 70 per cent iron content. A railway line links the mine to the seaside in the west, where the mineral is automatically loaded and shipped to steel plants elsewhere.

Verified reserves of the diamond-shaped ore are 300 million tons. The annual output will be raised from 4 million tons this year to 4.6 million tons by 1985. At that rate, it will take more than two decades to reduce the mine to the sea level, and even then there will still be about 100 million tons remaining.

Shilu's iron is laced with rich

Of the 50-odd minerals discovered in Hainan, the reserves of 30, which include tin, crystal, gold, manganese, chromium, titanium, uranium, zinc, phosphorus and limestone, are large enough to be tapped. For example, there are 700 million tons of titanium under the island's eastern coast. A new type of sapphire ore was also discovered in Hainan.

It is no exaggeration to say Hainan is a veritable treasure house, according to a deputy county head on the island. In Changjiang County, for example, there are iron, copper and cobalt mines, limestone and dolomite quarries, zinc ores and rich gold mines. The county attracted the attention of business people from Japan and other countries after it mapped out a plan to develop a special kind of granite, with hues

American 'Young Envoys' in Beijing

by JIN JIANZHONG
Our Correspondent

THE Chinese premier sowed seeds of friendship in our hearts," a student of the Sidwell Friends School of America said excitedly after attending a reception held by Premier Zhao Ziyang in Beijing June 27

The 27 members of a delegation from the school, led by principal Earl Harrison, are the special guests of Zhao, invited when he visited the United States last January.

A friendly and light atmosphere pervaded the reception hall in Zhongnanhai, which has been the seat of the Chinese Government since liberation in 1949. Zhao cordially called these students "young envoys" from America.

In his speech, Zhao said he truly appreciated what Philip F. Zeidman told him in Washington D.C.: "The relations between China and the United States in the future depend on the ordinary people of the two countries, especially on the young people."

Philip Zeidman, a prominent Washington lawyer, lost his only son, John, after the boy contracted viral encephalitis while studying Chinese at Beijing Normal Uni-

versity in 1981. Picking himself up from immense sorrow, the father became a staunch champion for US-China friendship. He established a foundation named after his son at the Sidwell school to begin a Chinese studies programme, including classes of Chinese language and history.

Zhao also said he hopes these young guests will know more about China and make more friends during their three-week summer vacation in China. The best way to remember John Zeidman is to promote the friendship between the peoples of the two countries, Zhao added. The happy get-together ended with a tour of the former imperial Forbidden City, with the premier himself serving as the guide — an unusual gesture which shed light on Zhao's high hopes on the younger generation of both nations.

The students have not failed to live up to the expectations of the Chinese premier. "I have made new friends, and we have lots to talk about," said Jennifer Zeidman, 16, younger sister of John.

Summer in Beijing is hot. The campus of the Second Middle School Attached to Beijing Normal University was seething with excitement when the American "young envoys" visited it on June 28.

When idea of forming friendly ties between the two schools spread to the students and teachers, they were overjoyed.

Liu Xiaoli, a student at the Chinese school said, "It's really an encouraging thing. I will do what I can for the friendship between the two countries."

Dawn Sun, who teaches Chinese at the Sidwell Friends School, said, "The moment I heard the news, a joyous feeling welled up inside me. Now the seeds have been sown and I, as a gardener, should let them grow up healthily."

Beijing mayor Chen Xitong also came to the school to attend a tree planting ceremony. He expressed his warm congratulations on the establishment of friendly relations between the two schools, and said he hoped that the friendship of the two countries would, like the cedars that had just been planted, last forever.

In a crowd of students, Chen and the American students and teachers planted two cedars. Harrison said, "This symbolizes the friendship between our two schools, and between the young Chinese students and young American students, which will last forever."

Friendship and peace brought youth of these two countries together. Both groups gathered in the school's playground for sports. Americans and Chinese joined in for American football and lacrosse. Some formed little groups, talking and laughing; others exchanged gifts or walked around the campus.

In the afternoon, singing by students of two schools brought the atmosphere of friendship to a climax.

Without a doubt, the seeds of friendship sown in the hearts of these students will take root, blossom and bear fruit. □



Earl Harrison (right), Principal of the Sidwell Friends School, fingering through a copy of "Beijing Review," with our correspondent looking on.

Remembering Taiwan Composer

A Taiwan composer, teacher and music historian who moved to the mainland in 1938 was honoured at a recent Beijing concert. Friends, students and admirers played the works of Jiang Wenye, who died last October at the age of 73.

Jiang was born in Taipei in 1910. At 13 he went to study in Japan, enjoying music only as an amateur. He was admitted to study vocal music in his sparetime at the Ueno Music Professional School in Tokyo.

In 1932, after graduating from his university, he changed his speciality to composition, studying with the celebrated Japanese composer Kosaku Yamada. Later he won various competitions in Japan for his fine singing and excellent compositions.

Jiang established his reputation for orchestral music with *Taiwan Dance Music*, composed in 1934. He was awarded a silver medal in the 1936 Olympics music competition. His works were often based on Taiwan's folk melodies, using Western composition techniques. His strong feelings for his home are expressed in his music by imaginative scenes representing age-old customs.

Jiang became a teacher at the Beijing Art School soon after he came to the mainland. During 50 years in musical education, he also composed 12 large orchestral works, a piano concerto, five dance drama compositions, eight chamber music compositions, 12 collections of piano pieces, 12 collections of songs, four religious works and several choral pieces. In addition, Jiang collected and adapted more than 100 folk songs from Taiwan.



Taiwan composer Jiang Wenye.

Songs of Compatriots in the Taiwan Highland, a representative of his vocal music, uses Latin letters as song words. Although they give no actual meaning, their sounds convey a depth of mood and feeling.

The first piece in this group is *Song of the Banquet*. It begins with a slow tune, calling in an unstructured way, then follows to a warm, happy atmosphere. Listeners can feel the joy of celebrating a good hunt at a banquet, offering sacrifices to their ancestors. The second piece is *Love Song*, a slow rhythm which describes a pensive young man who is disappointed in a love affair. *In the Field*, the third, represents a lover full of warm, sincere feelings, waiting for his partner. The last is *Cradle Song*. Its calm gentle rhythm is accompanied by the piano.

The composer uses piano counterpoint to imitate the sounds of a bamboo flute, a string instrument

and percussion instruments, vividly recreating the absorbing life of mountain villagers.

Teaching was an important part of Jiang's musical activities. He taught composition, harmony, counterpoint, musical structure and music appreciation at the Beiping Teachers' University and the Beiping Art School. He also gave recitals, studied musical theories and collected and adapted Chinese folk songs, local operas, ballads and stories. In 1942, the Tokyo Sansendo Publishing House published his book *A Study of Authentic Ancient Chinese Music*, the result of his studies on ancient Chinese music.

In 1950 the Beiping Art School merged with the Central Conservatory of Music where Jiang continued to teach and compose for 30 years. Although he was attacked in 1957 in the anti-Rightist campaign, and again during the "cultural revolution," he took up his pen after he was vindicated to express his joy in music.

Jiang was a talented and prolific composer. He wrote several hundred pieces covering a wide range of themes, all filled with rich national and local feelings. Jiang's music is very appealing to the Chinese public, and has won high praise from musicians at home and abroad.

The chorus, *An Old Fisherman's Pleasure*, which Jiang set to an ancient Chinese poem, was performed at the memorial concert. Other pieces included Taiwan folk songs *Dragon Lamps Coming Out*, *Song of Reunion at Mid-Autumn Festival* and *Taiwan Dance Music*, performed by an orchestra.

The concert was sponsored by the Chinese Musicians' Association, the Central Conservatory of Music, the Central Philharmonic Society, the Chorus of the Central Broadcasting Art Troupe, the Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League and the All-China Federation of Taiwan Compatriots.

Retinal Horizontal Cell Identified

A Chinese scientist has identified a type of horizontal cell in the retina that is able to receive and process blue and green signals.

This is the first report in the world, and the cell has been named G/B-type horizontal cell. The discoverer is 42-year-old Yang Xiong-li, of the Shanghai physiology Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Yang explained that there are three kinds of photo-sensitive cells on the retinas of vertebrates, including human beings; one for receiving red signals, one for green and one for blue. However, only after processing by horizontal cells can the basic colour signals be transmitted to the brain, and the various colours distinguished.

The horizontal cells which receive and process red and green signals were identified in a marine fish in 1958 by a Danish scientist working in Sweden. But the horizontal cell for processing blue signals had not yet been discovered.

Yang has been doing visual physiology research since he came to the institute after graduation from university in 1963. He was observing the physiological characteristics of horizontal cells on a whale retina in May last year when he found some different cells. These unknown cells produced a stronger bioelectric current in blue or green light, in the same way the identified cells did under red or

green light. The unidentified cells were only 10 microns in diameter, while the identified cells were 30 to 50 microns wide. In addition, the unidentified cells had a shorter and smaller synapse.

"Since experiments cannot be done on the eyes of living human beings. It cannot be confirmed whether human retinal horizontal cells are the same," Yang said. "However, the structure of the hu-

man eye is similar to those in other vertebrates."

Yang announced his discovery at the 1983 annual meeting of the biophysical society of China last September. Further results were presented at a physiology symposium in Shanghai in January, sponsored by the Chinese Society of Physiological Sciences. He is now writing a paper on the newly discovered cell.

Progress in Detecting Hereditary Disease

Chinese medical scientists have found an effective method to detect alpha-Mediterranean anemia, a hereditary disease, in a fetus using a special gene probe.

This method, using an alpha-zeta gene probe, is more accurate than the conventional probe, the alpha gene probe, now in worldwide use. A gene probe is an isotope gene injected into a fetus, and then traced in its blood.

This contribution to applied genetic research is of great value in marriage consultation and prenatal diagnosis and may help reduce the disease rate in high incidence areas, ensuring sound births and health for babies, and enhancing the quality of China's population.

Alpha-Mediterranean anemia, also known as thalassemia, is so called because it was first discovered in countries on the Mediterranean Sea. The disease, characterized by a deficiency of hemoglobin in the blood, may result in death, usually from heart failure or infection.

A carrier of alpha-Mediterranean anemia may not have obvious symptoms, and yet may give birth to children who suffer from jaundice, an enlarged liver, a swollen spleen and anemia when just a few days old, or may have a still birth.

The scientists have used the new gene probe in prenatal diagnoses of 11 pregnant women, and the results have all been accurate. Thanks to the method, a carrier in Guangxi's Wuxuan County who had had three afflicted pregnancies could be assured her fetus was normal.

The method was developed jointly by the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, the Guangxi Medical College and the No. 303 Army Hospital after intensive research on 54 patients' genes over three years.

This hereditary disease is common in many parts of the world. In China, the average incidence rate is 2.93 per cent, with the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region reaching 14.9 per cent, the highest in the nation.

Specialists have suggested further study on the Mediterranean anemia gene, and want to set up preventive centres in the high incidence areas.



Selected Cartoons of Hua Junwu

Chinese Satire and Humour
(Bilingual Edition)

Translated into English by: W.J.F. Jenner who teaches at the Department of the Chinese Studies in Leeds University, Britain

Published by: New World Press, Beijing

Cartoons: 310

Distributed by: China International Book Trading Corporation (Guoji Shudian), Beijing, China
Price: RMB 5.50 yuan

The new collection, some of the best of Hua Junwu, is, I think, a first. No English-language book has been devoted to a single Chinese satirical cartoonist — as opposed to a comic-strip cartoonist — before. Hua, China's best-known master of the art, deserves the honour. Although he now holds the important position of a deputy chairman of the Chinese Artists' Association, he has not lost the ability to see what is ridiculous in the ways of officialdom and society.

A few deft brush strokes, a few words of caption or explanation — at first sight a Hua Junwu cartoon is harmless and amiable. It raises a gentle smile, not a guffaw. He is not one of those cartoonists who slam with devastating satire. But his apparent simplicity and gentleness is deceptive. The charm of his drawing lowers your guard, and the point of his rapier is driven home before you realize what has happened.

Look at the two dancing bureaucrats: not terrifying figures, but men who in their stupid way probably don't want to offend anyone. You smile at such venerable ancients doing the kind of dance normally performed on stage by

graceful young women, see with delight the mocking of the official's trick of marking a document with a totally non-committal circle, then think of all the time-servers who refuse to take real decisions. By showing them as ridiculous rather than frightening, Hua cuts the bureaucrats down to size. He does it even more strikingly with the timid little man wrapped in swaddling clothes, who peers anxiously out at the world, terrified of being forced to stand on his own feet.

Behind the smile on the face of the drawing, like the smile that Hua himself nearly always wears, lies a profoundly serious (but not solemn) approach to China's problems, as well as a drawing technique painstakingly developed during over half a century devoted to the art. Hua Junwu first learnt to draw cartoons by copying the style of the Russian émigré cartoonist Sapajou, whose work he saw in Shanghai's English-language press in the 1930s. Hua's style became more sinified during the Anti-Japanese War of 1937-1945, when he went to Yanan. During the renewed civil war that followed the Japanese surrender he was in the liberated areas of the north-east, where his cartoons were fierce attacks on the corrupt old order in China and the Americans who were arming and supporting Chiang Kai-shek.

After the founding of the People's Republic Hua began to move towards a freer, more Chinese way of drawing that owed a lot to some of the informal painting of late Ming and Qing times, which dealt with humble, everyday objects, and also to such 20th century masters as Qi Baishi and Feng Zi-

kai. It was not only his brush drawing that was adapting the methods of the past to deal with present ills; the method of combining handwritten comment with the picture itself is also one that Chinese artists have used for many centuries.

It was not only Hua's style that was changing, he was also switching his main target from the big issues of national and international politics to the problems of the new society. The dates on his cartoons are significant — around 1957, the early 1960s, and since 1978 periods when criticism of China's ills has been encouraged.

The great Tang poet Du Fu sadly writing his self-criticism is not so much a comment on Du Fu as a reference to the endless self-criticism that many people in the arts had to write during the anti-Rightist campaigns of the late 1950s. Some captions seem to suggest interpretations only to deny them loudly, as in the case of the two flutists.

This tendency to imply more than he actually states may owe something to tradition. Chinese painters and poets have always preferred suggestions to outright statement — and something to wisdom. Another reason is a temperamental unwillingness to push his own personality forward. This comes out in a revealingly reticent self-portrait he drew a year or so back: a man sitting at a table with his face completely hidden by his hands held up in front of him.

I hope that this book will be followed by others on the work of some of his colleagues. The Chinese cartoon deserves to be better known around the world.

— W.J.F. Jenner

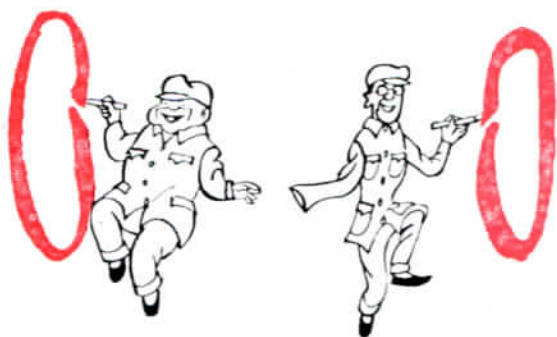
It was a dig at some of our comrades who are so afraid of making mistakes and getting themselves into trouble that they do as little work as possible or even none at all. They don't seem to realize that not working means eating the people's millet and doing nothing in return, which is in itself the worst possible mistake.

If a child is of falling over walks that never to and to rest of swaddling live to eighty but regarded as a freak.



nothing in itself the mistake. so scared when he he swears walk again spend the his life in clothes, he may be seventy or he'll certainly be

If you never walk you'll never fall over.



April 1981

The New-Style Red Ribbon Dance.

It is a bureaucratic practice to draw non-committal red circles on documents in order to put off making decisions.



Du Fu's Self-Criticism.

The great poet Du Fu (712-770) wrote "Army Carts" about the misery of war.



Scientific Division of Labour?

The scientific division of labour means that two people are not needed to do one person's work. Some people have said that this is a jibe at lack of freedom in the arts. They are wrong.

Portrait of the Man Whose Word is Law.

There is a Chinese saying: "You can't touch a tiger's backside." We believe in democracy, not in one man's word being law.



Aug. 1979

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