

BEIJING REVIEW

北京周报

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

- A Good Start at the Olympics
- Education Reform: Changes in a University

Steel Industry Forges Ahead





Zhu Jiushi (second from left), President of the Central China Engineering College, with teachers and students of journalism.



Yan Xuequn, a professor of phonology, has a discussion on linguistics with his postgraduates.

SPOTLIGHT

Journalism teachers and students give their views about a newspaper.



Students attending a technical English class.

Liu Zhongrong (right), head of the technical economics teaching and research section, gives guidance to the postgraduates in the use of the computer.



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COVER: A new electric furnace at work. Photo by Xie Linghe	

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

China's Success at the Olympics

The 23rd Olympic Games, unprecedented in scope and size, have seen Chinese athletes surprising the world with their marvellous achievements. As well, they have impressed everyone by their ethical performance, respect for friendship and unity and graceful modesty (p. 4). China eventually finished in fourth place in the medal standings after the United States, Romania and Federal Germany (p. 16).

Iron and Steel Industry Keeps Pushing Ahead

The iron and steel industry has developed by leaps and bounds in the past 35 years. Steel producers now have a total annual capacity of more than 40 million tons, and the industry, which was formerly concentrated in the northeast, has now expanded into the hinterland (p. 7).

Korean Premier's Visit a Success

Premier Kang Song San of DPRK, who paid a six-day official good-will visit to China, said his visit had fully lived up to his expectations. Leaders of both countries reaffirmed that Sino-Korean friendship will develop from generation to generation (p. 6).

Poorest Countries, Largest Debts

African countries have incurred a large amount of foreign debt. The debt crisis can be solved by efforts on part of the debtor countries and by aid and favourable trade terms from the developed countries (p. 10).

Changes at Jiaotong University

The 88-year-old Jiaotong University in Shanghai has undergone a large-scale reform in its educational system, which includes promoting talented initiators to important posts, delegating power to the lower authorities, smashing the "big public pot," and gearing its scientific research to the needs of society (p. 19).

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Olympic Torch to Burn For Ever

by **XIN XIANGRONG**
(Cultural Editor)

As summer burns on, the Olympic Games, a grand occasion for the people of the world, have come to a triumphant end. The 23rd Olympiad, unprecedented in scope and size, has proceeded in an atmosphere of peace, friendship, unity and competition.

Inspired by the motto of "*Citius, Altius, Fortius* (Faster, Higher, Stronger)," athletes from the world over have set 11 world records and broken 54 Olympic records. Even in those events where records weren't broken, there were great improvements in skills; with new techniques and tactics seen. The athletes fostered friendship and exchanged their experiences while competing with each other.

China's athletes, who took part for the first time in three decades, have surprised the world with their marvellous achievements. On the opening day, Xu Haifeng, the "magic marksman," captured the first gold medal of the Games by winning the men's free pistol shooting. His unerring skill marked the end of an era during which Chinese athletes were regarded as losers and underdogs. They eventually finished in fourth spot in the medal standings after the United States, Romania and Federal Germany.

Achievements aside, the Chinese athletes helped to brighten the image of the Chinese people in the world by their ethical performance, respect for friendship and unity and graceful modesty.

Gone for ever are the days when the Chinese were stigmatized as the "sick men of Asia" or "bound feet plus pigtailed." The "Oriental dragon" is taking off, as some foreign friends have said. Not only can the Chinese make their country a sports power in Asia and the world; they can also fulfil the ambitious plan for modernizing their country by the end of this century.

The modern Games have played a positive role in promoting the internationalization and standardization of world sports and the development of sports in various countries, world peace and friendship between peoples.

The Chinese athletes' performance at Los Angeles mirrors their country's achievements in the past 35 years. Their performance also shows that China has reached a new milestone on the way to becoming a world power.

The Los Angeles Games also showed China's weakness in a number of events. In swimming and track and field, which make up one-third of the events, China, with a few exceptions, was left far behind. It achieved nothing in cycling even though it is said to be a country of bicycles. The soccer team failed to qualify for the Games. Often it was not

skill and physique but psychological factors that led to a poor showing.

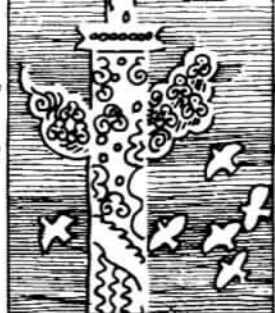
More Chinese athletes, despite casting away the "underdog" title, must push on ahead like the women's volleyball team has.

The Olympic torch, lit in 779 B.C., was put out when Roman Emperor Theodosius I (346-395) ordered the cancellation of the ancient games. Europeans regained knowledge of the Olympics during the Renaissance and in 1897 Pierre de Coubertin relit the flame, creating the Olympic Games as they are today.

The modern Games have since played a positive role in promoting the internationalization and standardization of world sports and the development of sports in various countries, world peace and friendship between peoples.

The Olympic Games are not only a grand festival but an important part of world culture. The Chinese people want to contribute their share to the development of the Olympics, together with the people of other countries.

May the Olympic torch burn for ever!



Developing Nuclear Energy

In his article "Developing China's Nuclear Power Industry," the author answered the question: with all its rich natural energy resources, why does China want to develop nuclear power? After reading the article, I appreciate his clear and convincing argument and agree with China's principles of safety, economy, practicality and self-reliance in developing its nuclear power industry.

Of course, a large sum of funds is needed to build nuclear power stations. And to speed up the development of its nuclear power industry, China will need to import foreign funds and advanced technology and equipment from other countries. There is no doubt that the development of nuclear power will lead to an earlier realization of China's modernization goal.

Some industrially advanced countries including Japan are racking their brains over such problems as the safe operation of nuclear power stations and the disposal of nuclear wastes. Just as your article mentioned, in China there are many areas where the geographic conditions are stable and the density of population is low, and which are suitable for disposing of these wastes. But this new solution is still at the theoretical stage and has not yet been translated into reality. In spite of this, I am convinced that your long-lasting and persistent efforts will enable you to find a way to dispose of nuclear wastes.

Tsuyoshi Seki
Chiba, Japan

China-Africa

As a reader of *Beijing Review*, I love the beautiful pictures in the article "Notes From a Trip Through Africa" in issue No. 28, 1984. These charming photos should have been printed in your earlier issues. It is my hope that your magazine carries more pictures, otherwise it will become colourless and dull.

Also, these pictures made a deep impression on me, helping me to understand better the whole African continent.

Aime Samson
N'KAYI, Congo

Beijing Review issue No. 28 (July 9, 1984) is excellent. The reports on China and Africa are important and I suggest you send copies to all the black newspapers in the US.

Richard Pendleton
Cambridge MA, USA

Objective Analysis

I appreciate most your classical analyses of African affairs in your July 16 issue, 1984.

It was one of the best objective analyses from a pan-African perspective. You dwelt on the pros and cons of African development. While the Western news media is always pessimistic about development in the third world countries, you are of the view that in spite of this fact, there is room for improvement. Such a balanced viewpoint and clear analysis from the Chinese press is commendable and should be continued. Please keep up this good work.

Stephen Isabirye
Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Concern for Children

Your article "Special Concern for Children" in "Notes From the Editors" of issue No. 23 touched upon a very important issue. All countries in the world have devoted much attention to the education of children.

I appreciate your educational policy, which enables students to develop morally, intellectually and physically. Your methods to let the children keep abreast with the trend in science and technology in the world will enable them to become useful people for China's construction in the future.

It is quite right for your country to attach great importance to moral education. Based on this, I hope that a rich variety of activities of scientific learning will be carried out to let the children fully display their initiative and their individual abilities.

Morimasa Watanabe
Aichi, Japan

Open Policy

I particularly enjoy your coverage of China's progress and problems. Your candid reports of the problems facing China help to perpetuate your open policy.

It is also very helpful to read your analysis of our country's political, military and social issues, because your observations have given us food for thought.

Ever being ready for scrutiny and criticism is essential to any open society.

Patricia A. Zariello
California, USA

Korean Premier's Visit a Success

Premier Kang Song San of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) paid a six-day, official goodwill visit to China. He and Chinese top leaders have reaffirmed that Sino-Korean friendship will develop from generation to generation.

The Korean Premier arrived in Beijing on August 5. During his meeting with President Li Xian-nian, Kang, 53, said that when he took up his present post in January this year, Korean President Kim Il Sung told him to first pay an official visit to China and meet its leaders to promote the growth of friendly relations between the two countries, which established diplomatic relations in October 1949.

Kang also met separately with Premier Zhao Ziyang and General

Secretary Hu Yaobang to discuss international issues of common interest.

At a banquet in honour of Kang, Zhao said the Chinese Government considers the recent Korean proposal on reunifying the divided peninsula "realistic and practical" in light of the present circumstances.

In January the Korean Workers' Party and the Korean Government proposed reunification in the form of a confederation and called for tripartite talks between the DPRK, south Korea and the United States.

The DPRK Government has consistently stood for the peaceful reunification of the peninsula and has since 1971 frequently made proposals to south Korean authori-

ties in this regard. Korea was divided shortly after shrugging off colonial domination by Japan in August 1945.

Hu Yaobang, meeting with Kang, said, "You in Korea stand for a peaceful and independent reunification of your country. We in China put forward the 'one country, two systems' formula for reunifying our country. Our two countries share the same views on the question of national unification."

The Korean and Chinese leaders exchanged experience in developing socialist construction in their own countries. Kang paid special attention to the development of China's light industry, which Korea is also considering for the improvement of its people's livelihood.

The two sides also exchanged views on economic and technical co-operation with which both felt satisfied. The two countries have so far signed agreements on several co-operative projects and new ones are being discussed.

Premier Zhao greets DPRK Premier Kang Song San.



Wu Continues His L. American Tour

Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian continued his tour of Latin American countries after his three-day visit to Mexico.

Venezuela. Wu's next port of call was Venezuela (August 4-7), where he had two rounds of working talks with his Venezuelan counterpart Isidro Morales Paul and met with President Jaime Lusinchi and other Venezuelan leaders.

China Concerned Over Ship Blasts

China has expressed its concern over the explosions in the Red Sea that have destroyed or damaged 14 vessels, including two Chinese.

According to Shen Daoqi, spokesman of the Ministry of Communications, the Chinese freighter, *Huiyang*, of the Guangzhou Ocean Shipping Company, was disabled by the shock from an underwater explosion in the Gulf of Aden on July 31.

The other vessel, a container ship of the Shanghai Ocean Shipping Company, was damaged by a blast on August 3.

"The Red Sea is an important international line of communications," the spokesman said. "China is very concerned about these incidents."

During his visit, which took place on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Venezuela, Wu expressed his appreciation of the proposals and views of the Contadora group, saying that they constitute the most effective solution to Central American problems.

Venezuela is a member of the Contadora group, which also includes Panama, Mexico and Colombia. The group's proposal includes an adherence to the principles of non-interference and self-determination and a peaceful solution to the existing problems through negotiations.

Wu said that the key issue is not to permit any foreign intervention, especially intervention from the two superpowers. "Only with the precondition of no intervention by the superpowers can the Central American nations and other Latin American countries concerned work together to resolve the Central American problems through peaceful negotiations in accordance with the principles put forward by the Contadora group," he added.

Argentina. On August 8, Wu proceeded to Argentina, China's largest trade partner in Latin America. During his three-day visit, he held talks with Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and met with President Raul Alfonsin.

Both the Chinese and Argentine Foreign Ministers emphasized the need to promote South-South co-operation in an effort to establish a new international economic order.

China and Argentina both belong to the third world. They established diplomatic relations in 1972. Wu told Caputo that China appreciates his country's independent and non-aligned foreign policy, and has always supported its claim for sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands and hoped that the issue would be solved through peaceful negotiations.

Developing friendly co-operation with the third world countries is the key to China's foreign policy. Wu said, adding that this is because the emergence of the third world is of historic significance in our time.

China attaches great importance to relations with Latin American countries, Wu said. It has diplomatic relations with 15 countries there and trade relations with another 40 or so countries or regions.

Hijackers Released, China Protests

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman issued a statement on August 14, sternly protesting against the release of Zhuo Changren and five other criminals who hijacked a CAAC airliner in May last year.

The full text of the statement reads:

On August 13 the south Korean authorities announced the

"suspension of the sentences" and "expulsion" of Zhuo Changren and five other criminals who hijacked CAAC airliner No. 296 last year. On the same day, they were sent to Taiwan.

As is known to all, the hijacking of aircraft is a serious criminal act jeopardizing the safety of international civil aviation and should be punished severely under the provisions of the relevant international conventions. However, the south Korean authorities, instead of doing so, have yielded further to pressure from the Taiwan authorities and released the six criminals before their sentences expired, thus enabling them to escape the law. Resentful and indignant at the south Korean authorities' connivance at jeopardizing the safety of international civil aviation in violation of the provisions of the relevant international conventions, the Chinese Government and people voice their stern protest against it.

Iron, Steel Output Keeps on Growing

Increase in iron and steel production in the first half of this year have kept up the remarkable growth in this primary industry since the founding of New China in 1949.

Output of pig iron rose 8.1 per cent to 19.8 million tons from a year earlier, steel 8.5 per cent to 21.5 million tons and rolled steel 9.6 per cent to 16.7 million tons.

In 1983, China, the world's fourth largest steel producer, turned out more than 40 million tons — over five times the total produced in China during the 50 years up to 1949. In 1949, China ranked 26th in world steel production.

Immediately after nationwide liberation, capital construction in the iron and steel industry began on a large scale. Since 1955, many

plants have been built or expanded, including the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, the Wuhan Iron and Steel Company, the Baotou Iron and Steel Company, the Panzhihua Iron and Steel Company and the Taiyuan Iron and Steel Company.

A top-priority project — the Baoshan Iron and Steel Complex outside Shanghai, on which construction began in the late 1970s — will have an annual capacity of 3 million tons of steel after completion of the first-stage construction. The project is going on smoothly. The No. 1 blast furnace is scheduled to go into production in September 1985.

Growing from 30 small enterprises in 1949, China's steel producers now have a total annual capacity of more than 40 million tons, one-fourth of which was achieved through renovating the old enterprises. The 1,200 state-owned and collective iron and steel plants and iron mines are capable of turning out more than 1,000 varieties of steel, including carbon steel, alloy steel, high-temperature alloy and precision alloy, and of processing over 20,000 specifications of rolled steel. In the early days of liberation there were only 100 varieties of steel and 400 specifications of rolled steel.

The iron and steel industry, which was formerly concentrated in the coastal areas and in the northeast, has gradually expanded into the hinterland. In 1983, the northeast's share of steel output dropped to 25.5 per cent and the coastal areas' share dropped to 57.5 per cent. Meanwhile, hinterland output rose 9.7 times that of 1952, the year before the First Five-Year Plan began.

Tibet's 'New Deal' For Rejuvenation

In a drive to speed up its economic development, Tibet has

adopted a new policy which will eventually shift the autonomous region's emphasis of work from agriculture to animal husbandry. In the meantime, agriculture and forestry will also be boosted to pave the way for a diversified economy and expanded commodity production.

The new policy is based on the conclusion — reached after an extensive survey among the peasants and herdsmen — that Tibet's possible economic takeoff hinges on livestock breeding, which accounts for one half of the region's total industrial and agricultural output value and thereby constitutes the mainstay of the local economy. It is also believed that the integration of animal husbandry with farming, with the former playing the leading role, is in keeping with the tradition of the Tibetan economy.

For well over two decades, however, animal husbandry in Tibet had to yield its traditional dominant position to farming, as the guideline then was to "take grain as the key link." In northern Tibet, only four technicians worked on the 27 million hectares of pastureland, and the annual investment in livestock breeding averaged a low 0.1 yuan for each animal raised. The result was a protracted decline in animal husbandry.

As the first step in the implementation of the new policy for the development of Tibet, the government will increase its investment in animal husbandry, and a network of organizations will be set up offering expert instructions on scientific breeding and the treatment and prevention of animal diseases. Over one million hectares of low-production farmland will be converted into pastureland while meticulous farming methods will be used to raise the per-unit grain yield of fertile farm plots, so that more balance can be achieved between agriculture and animal husbandry.

Other measures will be taken to stimulate Tibet's economy. For instance, hydroelectric power generation will be developed alongside geothermal, wind and solar energy resources. Non-government transportation services will be developed, and Tibet will set up its own air company. Tax exemption and loans will be granted to encourage the development of local handicraft industry and collective and individual commerce. Economic co-operation with other provinces and countries as well as tourism will be developed. In the educational field, 10,000 intellectuals of Tibetan nationality will be trained in the 1980s.

The "new deal" has fired the herdsmen with enthusiasm for production. In northern Tibet, popular ardour is soaring for the purchase of various means of transportation, the establishment of fenced-in pastures and the utilization of wind for power generation. For example, in Nagqu Prefecture, 1,000 of the 4,500 peasants' and herdsmen's households have planned to buy trucks and cars, and placed orders for one million metres of fences which will be used to separate 40,000 hectares of grassland. In some villages, every family has installed its own wind-driven power generator.

Exam to Evaluate Leadership Skills

Nearly 10,000 managers and directors have written a nationwide examination to determine their ability to analyse and solve problems. It is hoped that managerial talent will be discovered through the test.

The examination, planned at the end of last year and held in early August in 64 large and medium-sized cities, focused on professional knowledge of enterprise management and the Party's principles and policies on socialist economic con-

struction since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in 1978.

The examinees, who have had three and a half months special training, came from the industrial, commercial, trade, construction, post and communications and transportation sectors. More than 50 per cent of them are young cadres. Of the 300 from Beijing, 60 per cent are younger than 45; 48.7 per cent are college graduates.

The state examination directorate for economic administrators has invited more than 100 professors and scholars to evaluate the results.

Nanjiang Railway Opened to Traffic

A section of railway linking Turpan and Korla in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region passed the inspection of a state department concerned and was opened to traffic on August 7.

The Nanjiang Railway, 476 kilometres long, runs through the Turpan Basin, China's lowest basin, 154 metres below sea level, and Toksun, one of the three biggest wind gaps in the world. The construction of the railway met

with many difficulties such as frozen ground and drift sand.

Providing another important link in northwest China's traffic and

transportation network, the railway will serve to quicken economic and cultural development and strengthen frontier defence.



Li Zanhua (right) using skills he learnt in the army to breed fish in Guangdong Province.

Soldiers Urged to Learn Skills

Members of the People's Liberation Army are being encouraged to learn one or two skills in addition to military training during their years of service.

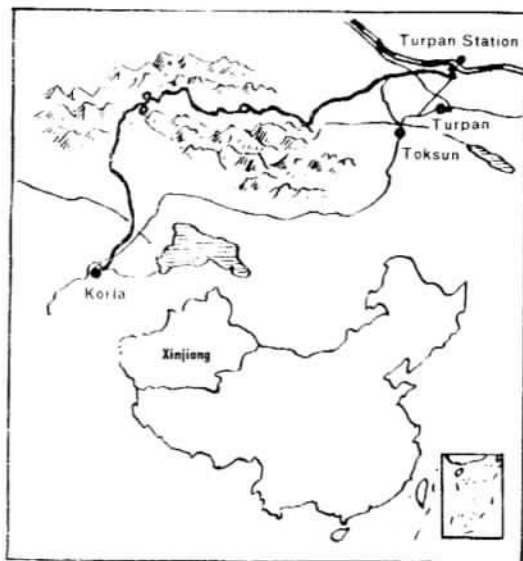
This transformation of far-reaching significance is being carried out under a directive by Deng Xiaoping, Chairman of the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee.

In 1983, the armed forces conducted 121,000 vocational training classes for 1.7 million soldiers to study economic management, agriculture, forestry, animal breeding, transportation, food processing and mechanics.

In the past, all soldiers except for those engaged in skilled tasks took part only in political studies and military training. Special skills had to be learnt after they were demobilized. This created extra difficulties for the soldiers themselves and the units employed them.

In the last few years, about one million soldiers with some additional skills have been demobilized and have taken part in economic construction. Local units have welcomed them and praised them for their useful talents.

In Yichun County, Jiangxi Province, 2,400 demobilized soldiers have become the productive backbone of the area with the skills learnt in the army. Some, who were ordinary peasants before joining the army, have used their skills to prosper in just a few years.



Africa

Poorest Countries, Largest Debts

by OU YUCHENG

EXTERNAL debt accumulated by the African countries reached US\$150,000 million by the end of 1983, countries south of the Sahara accounting for US\$72,000 million.

Annual interest payments ate up 22 per cent of the total export earnings of the African countries.

These alarming figures were given by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa recently.

Statistics from other sources show that by the end of 1982, foreign debts incurred by the African countries averaged 35 per cent of their gross national product, as against 32 per cent for the Latin American countries and 25 per cent for Asian countries.

In 1982, loans due for repayment by the African countries plus interest totalled US\$17,000 million, 6 per cent of their GNP, as compared with 4 per cent in the case of the Latin American countries and 2 per cent for Asian nations.

Among the 50 independent African countries, 22 had external debts surpassing their GNP by 50 per cent.

The growth rate of foreign debt incurred by African countries is very worrying. At present, the total amount of foreign debt due, including capital and interest, far exceeds the payment capacity of the African countries.

The existence of an unfair and

unreasonable international economic order, the shifting of the economic crisis on to African countries by developed countries, and especially the US adoption of a high interest rate policy, are the main reasons why African countries are up to their ears in debt.

Long-standing colonial rule and the old international economic order have resulted in lopsided, weak and single-product economies for nearly all African countries. The single-product economy has kept industry in those countries in an utterly backward state. The industrial output value of these countries accounts for only 2.5 per cent of that of the capitalist world, while that of their manufacturing industry makes up a mere 0.8 per cent. African-made finished products in 1980 made up less than 5 per cent of total third world products. Since industry in Africa is not developed, the majority of local raw materials from agriculture and mining have to be exported to developed Western countries at cheap prices and in return, the African countries are forced to import manufactured goods at high prices. And such imports rose from 30 per cent in the 60s to 70 per cent in the 70s. The single-product economy has hindered agricultural development on the African continent with grain shortage becoming increasingly acute. Many African countries have no choice but to import large amounts of grain.

Since the mid-70s, the developed countries have shifted their economic crisis on to others, and trade

conditions have steadily deteriorated. As a result, exports from African countries have been subjected to increasing limitations. Their proportion in world trade during the last decade amounted to only 4 per cent, lower than the 5 per cent of the 50s. The total export volume of African countries dropped from US\$96,300 million in 1980 to US\$76,000 million in 1981; and that of 1982 came down a further 15.4 per cent as against that of 1981. At the same time, while the prices of primary agricultural and mining products were in steady decline, prices of finished industrial products rose rapidly.

The debt problem, which has sharpened contradictions between the North and the South, has become not merely a simple economic issue, but a major concern in international political life. It has greatly damaged the economic growth of debtor nations, and also had a harmful effect on the stability of the Western financial system, the upturn of the economy, as well as world peace and stability.

To reduce debts, the African countries are working out a new system of policies, such as incentives for exports, restrictions on imports, reduced expenditure, reduction of capital construction, increase in tariffs, adjustment of state-owned enterprises and attention to the appropriate use of domestic private capital.

The debt crisis cannot be solved by the efforts of the African countries alone. Only when the developed countries fulfil the governmental development and aid targets set by the UN, increase economic and financial aid to third world countries and provide them with favourable trade terms, will some relief in the critical situation be found.

Developing Countries

Improvement in Population Situation

by WEI JINSHENG

THE developing countries have achieved remarkable progress in pursuing population policies amenable to their social and economic development in the 10 years culminating in the recent UN population conference, which was held in Mexico City.

From August 6-14 representatives from more than 150 countries met to review the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at the Bucharest conference in 1974, to study remaining problems and work out acceptable formulas to solve them.

In the past few years, a great number of developing nations have adopted policies and measures to lower the population growth rate, improve the quality of population and reasonably redistribute population. These measures have brought about positive changes in the world population situation and markedly contributed to the smooth implementation of the plan.

Firstly, the growth of the world population has steadily declined. In the developing countries with three fourths of the world population, nationwide movements to curb the population growth have been well under way, pushing down the birth rate from 5.8 per cent in 1974 to 5.5 per cent in 1985 and the growth rate of population from 2.5 per cent to 2.1 per cent. At the same time, the growth rate of the world population fell from 2 per cent to 1.8 per cent, very close to the goal of 1.7 per cent for 1985 defined in the plan.

Correspondingly, during the period of 1975-82, the gross national product growth rate rose steadily, respectively 6 per cent in the first

three years and 7.6 per cent in the last four years.

Secondly, the quality of population in the third world countries has improved to some extent. The death rate has edged down from 1.5 per cent in 1974 to 1.2 per cent in 1985, and the average life expectancy has risen to 58.9 years up to now, fairly close to the 62 years in 1985 as laid down in the plan. Moreover, the educational level of the population has also risen somewhat. The illiteracy rate dropped from 45.6 per cent at the beginning of the 1970s to 38.4 per cent at the start of the 1980s in Asia, from 70.6 per cent to 60.6 per cent in Africa, and from 28.1 per cent to 20.5 per cent in Latin America.

Thirdly, some developing countries have achieved successes in altering the distribution and flow of population, so as to effectively check over-urbanization. For instance, the Indonesian Government has adopted a variety of measures to encourage and help 2.5 million inhabitants to move from densely populated areas to sparsely inhabited ones. This figure is over 12 times as large as that of the 40 years before independence.

However, there are many problems yet to be solved.

First, as the basic population figure is immense and the average age young, the annual population growth in developing countries is still enormous, although the pace

has slackened. This is a serious obstacle in the way of these countries' social and economic development. Because of this problem, their per-capita GNP growth rate is lower than that of developed nations, although their economies have been developing more rapidly than the latter's. And the gap between them and the developed is seemingly widening.

Therefore, only if these countries work hard and long to further slow down the population growth rate while paying attention to promoting economic development, can they narrow the gap with developed countries, so as to improve the livelihood of their people.

Second, the quality of population in these countries needs to be improved further. Although their death rate has declined more swiftly than that of the developed countries, it is still quite high, especially for babies. In 1985, the infant death rate in developing countries was 9.5 per cent, compared with 1.9 per cent in the developed nations.

In addition, the developing countries are lagging far behind the developed nations in the educational and cultural levels of the population as a whole. In 1980, Asia, Africa and Latin America accounted for over 98 per cent of the more than 800 million illiterate people throughout the world. This problem must be resolved for these countries to develop socially and economically.

Finally, most developing nations still have a long way to go in effectively controlling over-urbanization and improving the distribution of population.

United States

Economic Situation Before Election

by ZHANG ZHENYA

THROUGHOUT the recent recovery period, now in its 18th

months, the US economy has grown at an average rate of 7 per cent, which is the most rapid economic growth rate since the

1950s. Within the span of a year and half, more than 7 million people have been employed. Unemployment is the lowest for four years. Profit and investment have increased. Boosts in personal income have outstripped price increases. All of these facts indicate that the United States will remain prosperous for some time.

A while ago, Wall Street financial experts and some authorities on international economics were afraid that the giant deficit and rapid economic growth would touch off a price hike. But the inflation rate was lower in the April-June period than in the first quarter of this year. Unemployment also fell during this time.

Besides the high interest rates that curbed inflation, there are also other reasons for the current price stability:

1. The bargaining power of labour was weakened after the 1981-82 crisis, the most severe economic crisis since the 1930s. Wage increase was restrained, and thus both costs and prices were kept at a low level.

2. The cost of production has remained low because much of the equipment which stood idle during the crisis could be put back into use without more equipment being added.

3. Third world countries, being short of capital and burdened with foreign debt, had to increase their exports of raw materials to earn more foreign currency. But the West European countries, the biggest purchasers, were still in economic trouble, and could not afford to buy as much as they used to. Therefore, a worldwide surplus occurred in raw materials, and the price of raw materials plummeted. Meanwhile, the exchange rate of the US dollar had risen to a new high. The price of raw materials and other goods became cheaper and cheaper for the United States.

The rapid economic growth of the United States is also associated with the Reagan administration's economic policy. An act of 1981 cut personal and corporate taxes by about US\$350,000 million in 1983-85. This tax cut increased the purchasing power and provided a forceful stimulus to economic recovery. This is why high interest rates have not hindered economic growth to any large degree.

The tax cut, however, also disturbed the US finance and foreign trade balance by pushing up the government deficit. Deficit, together with economic growth, creates a great need for money. In addition, the US financial authorities were afraid of inflation and tightened the money supply. Money was scarce on the financial market. Interest rates rose.

High interest rates pushed up the exchange rate of the US dollar. This in turn raised the price of US exports, which became less competitive on the international market. The foreign trade deficit of the United States will climb to US\$130,000 million this year. In principle, this huge deficit should have caused the US dollar to flood the international market and become devalued. But high US interest rates attracted dollars back to the United States, with the result that the US dollar retained its value against other currencies. This high exchange rate of the US dollar made it difficult for the United States to reduce its foreign trade deficit. The United States is now more and more dependent on foreign mobile capital to make up for the money shortage. This situation is dangerous. If some day its economic growth slowed down or the dollar underwent a sharp devaluation, a lot of foreign capital would be withdrawn from the United States and its financial stability and economic growth would be threatened. Besides, the high interest rates are aggravating the third world debt crisis and in-

directly threatening the big banks of the United States.

Although fast economic growth has reduced the deficit a little this year, it is still impossible to reduce the deficit by a big margin without a tax increase. This problem cannot be tackled until the end of this year, for both the Republican and Democratic Parties do not want to talk about a tax increase in an election year.

Both the Reagan administration and the US enterprises hope the economic growth will slacken a little to weaken the strong demand for money on the financial market, and thus stabilize interest rates. In view of recent economic developments, this hope has become more realistic. The Department of Commerce reported that the 10 indicators predicting future economic development have been slowed down in June for the first time within the past two years. This is a sign of economic slackening. Unemployment, according to the Department of Labour, increased by 0.4 per cent from June to July. The amount of money issued by the Federal Reserve Board was less than expected, according to report released on August 2. This indicates that the demand for money on the financial market has been moderated and that interest rates will not rise again in the near future. The New York stock market has once again prospered after some worries about the possible rise in interest rates were proved insubstantial. The exchange rate of the US dollar on the international market has also fallen a little.

These signs of the slackening of US economic growth and the reduction of inflation, deficits and unemployment are favourable to President Reagan. However, US economic development will not be free from as long as budget deficits, interest rates and foreign trade deficits remain high.

Attempts at Mid-East Comeback

by GONG ZHENXI

THE renewal of the Soviet proposal for an international Middle East conference indicates that the Soviet Union is seeking a comeback to the Middle East when the United States and Israel are preoccupied with election issues.

The proposal, made on July 29, was immediately followed by visits of a senior Soviet official to Jordan and Lebanon. Vladimir Poliakov, head of the Middle East Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, sought the support of Amman and Beirut for the Soviet proposal. He will reportedly tour other Arab countries to explain the Soviet idea.

Earlier, the Soviet Union resumed its diplomatic relations with Egypt and agreed to supply arms to Kuwait and Lebanon. These Soviet moves show that the Russians are launching a fresh diplomatic offensive against US influence in the region.

Since the early 1970s, the Soviet Union has suffered repeated setbacks in its rivalry with the United States for domination in the Middle East. In 1972, Egypt declared an end to the Soviet experts' mission. In 1978, Egypt signed the Camp David accords with Israel and the United States, making Washington the sole sponsor of the Middle East negotiations. In 1981, Cairo expelled the Soviet ambassador.

Israel, in its massive invasion of Lebanon in 1982, drove PLO forces out of West Beirut and southern Lebanon while inflicting heavy losses on Syrian troops stationed in this Mediterranean state.

Seeing that the balance of power had tipped in favour of the United

States, President Ronald Reagan seized the occasion to announce his Middle East "peace plan" on September 1, 1982 and took steps to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

The ineffectiveness of the Soviet Union in the face of Israeli aggression and the US offensive aroused widespread discontent in the Arab world and resulted in a drastic decline of Soviet prestige in the region.

But the Soviet Union did not resign itself to exclusion from Middle East affairs. Since the end of 1982, the Russians have equipped Syrian forces with a large amount of advanced weapons, which include T-72 tanks, SAM-5 and SS-21 missiles.

While assisting the Syrian army to become stronger than it was in pre-Lebanese war days, the Soviet Union also supported Syrian and left Muslim forces in Lebanon in their opposition to the US sponsored Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal agreement. As a result, the Lebanese Government last March abolished the accord of May 17, 1982. This disrupted the US administration's first step to implement the Reagan plan and greatly lowered US prestige in the Arab world.

The main target of the Soviet diplomatic offensive is the "moderate" Arab countries, particularly the frontline states bordering Israel. The Soviet Union has agreed to cancel most of Cairo's debt to Moscow and promised to send back Soviet experts to resume aid projects.

A few days after Cairo and Moscow resumed their diplomatic ties on July 7, the Russians agreed to sell Kuwait ground-to-ground and ground-to-air missiles worth US\$520 million. The arms sale was

made after Washington refused to sell Stinger missiles to Kuwait.

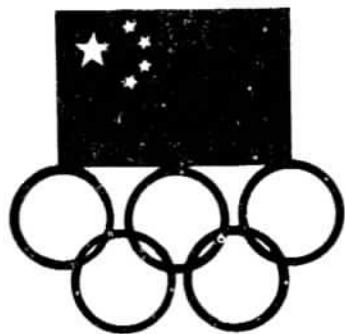
The Soviet Union has also expressed its willingness to "arm Lebanese government troops" and "import Lebanese products to help sustain Lebanon's national economy."

This time, the balance of power seems to tip in favour of the Russians. Taking advantage of US setbacks, the Soviet Union renewed its proposal for an international Middle East conference of the two superpowers, Egypt, Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The proposal calls for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

After Poliakov's visit to Jordan, the Soviet Union declared its support for the proposed establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation.

The United States and Israel rejected the Soviet proposal as soon as it was made. The US administration is reportedly revising the Reagan plan in an attempt to defeat the Soviet proposal. The revised Reagan Middle East plan is expected to be announced after the formation of a new Israeli government or before the next summit of Arab countries. A new round of rivalry between the two superpowers has begun in the Middle East.





Chinese Athletes At the Olympics

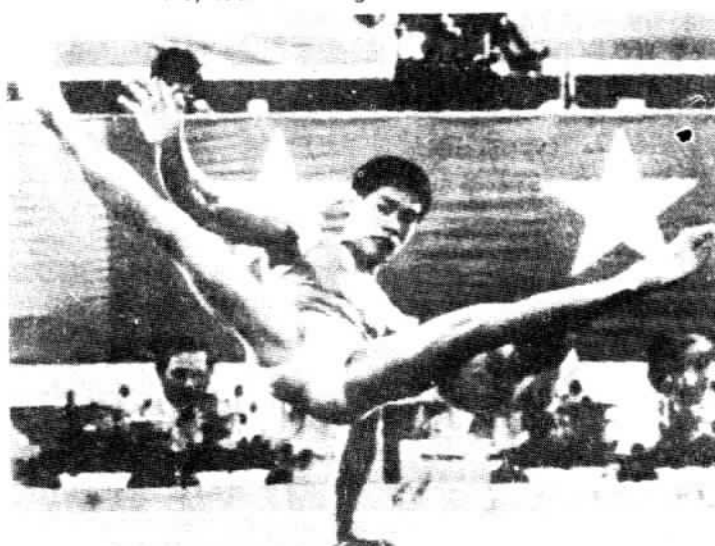
Marksman Xu Haifeng with the first Olympic gold medal ever won by China.



Gymnast Ma Yanhong, who tied for top place in the uneven bars event, receiving her gold medal.



The victorious women's volleyball team wave to spectators as they receive their gold medals.



Gymnast Li Ning during his gold-medal performance in the floor exercises.

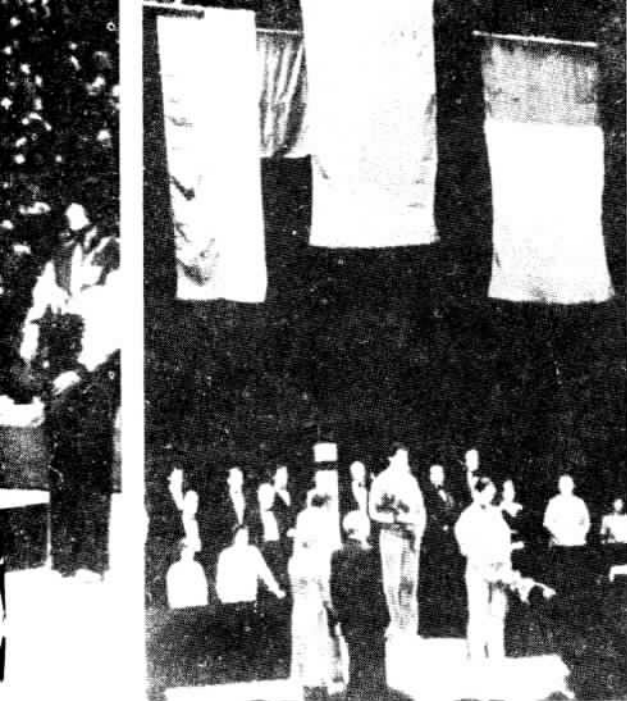
Zeng Guoqiang about to win top honours in the 52-kg division.



A tapestry sent by the Chinese Olympic Committee. It depicts a p...



PRESENTED BY THE CHINESE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



Weightlifter Wu Shude (centre), bantam-weight gold-medalist, on the victors' podium.



Song Xiaobo, women's basketball team leader, accepts flowers on behalf of the Olympic delegation at a Los Angeles welcoming reception held by overseas Chinese.

China's flag rises again as Luan Jujie receives the gold for the foil event in women's fencing.



Olympic Committee to the International game during the Tang Dynasty.



Sharpshooter Li Yuwei peering down the scope at a target.

Song Xiaobo jumps to shoot as the women's basketball team goes on to win the bronze.



Wu Xiaoxuan, bronze medalist in the women's small-bore standard rifle shooting, signs her autograph for a US spectator.



Chinese Athletics Entering a New Era

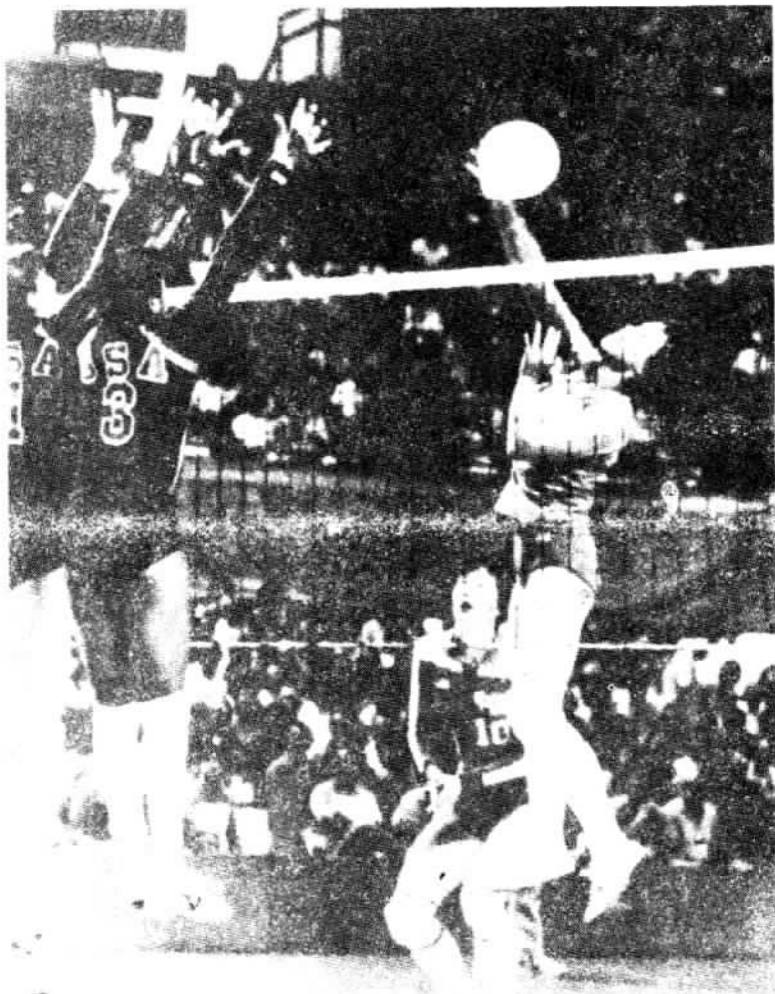
China's five-star red flag was hoisted 15 times over Olympic victors' podiums to the sound of the "March of the Volunteers." For the hundreds of millions back at home, it was a dream come true.

IN its first ever, full-fledged Olympic appearance, China has garnered 15 golds, eight silvers and nine bronzes, coming behind the United States, Romania and the Federal Republic of Germany in the medal standings at the Los Angeles Summer Games. This remarkable achievement has ended China's disappointing showing in modern Olympic history and ushered in a new chapter in the annals of Chinese athletics.

Shortly after the 23rd Olympics

got under way on July 29, Xu Haifeng, a shop assistant-turned marksman, made Chinese sports history when he clinched the country's first Olympic gold medal — which happened to be also the Games' first — in the men's free pistol event with a score of 566 out of a possible 600. "Today is a great day for China's sports," said Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee, as he presented the gold medal to Xu.

Zhang Rongfang, reputed as China's "uncanny spiker," catches her US opponents off guard with a shot.



Xu's golden shooting heralded a winning streak for China. In the next few days, Chinese weightlifters swept four golds in a row in the 52 kg, 56kg, 60 kg and 67.5 kg categories. The appearance on the victory podium of Chen Weiqiang, gold medalist in the 60-kg division, along with bronze medalist Tsai Wen Yee from Taiwan was the talk of the day among Chinese on both sides of the Taiwan Straits and those living overseas.

Then two more gold medals fell into the hands of Xu's teammates — Li Yuwei, winner of the running game target shooting, and Wu Xiaoxuan, China's first female Olympic gold medalist who won the small-bore standard rifle shooting.

But it was the Chinese gymnasts who, out of the 225-athlete Olympic squad, brought home the most gold medals. As expected, they put on a dazzling display of fluid motion, expert skills and superb strength in the team events, scoring six perfect 10s in the compulsory exercises and three in the optional exercises. However, due to an unbridgeable gap with the United States in the compulsories, the Chinese team finished second. In what looked like a chain reaction, Li Ning, the team's best, was edged into third place in the individual all-round event.

Unruffled by these disappointments, the pre-Olympic favourite proved his world-class calibre in the individual events. He spun flawlessly through the floor exercises and somersaulted gracefully on the rings and over the pommel horse to become China's first tri-

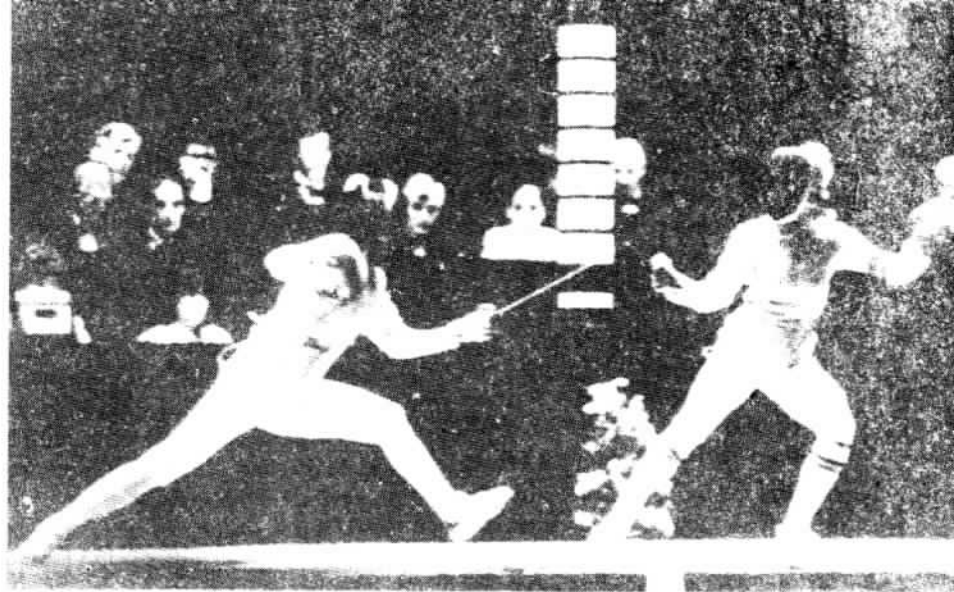
ple-gold medalist, in addition to a silver medal on the vault. His teammates did well, too. Lou Yun grabbed an additional gold for China on the vault and a silver in the floor exercises, and Tong Fei came second on the horizontal bar.

At the Sixth World Cup Gymnastics Tournament in 1982, Li gathered six golds, and a year later, at the 22nd World Gymnastics Championships in Budapest the Chinese men's team overwhelmed the Soviets to win the team events.

Yet China's Olympic gold rush did not stop at men's gymnastics. Ma Yanlong, who steered China towards a bronze medal in the women's team event, bagged a gold on the uneven bars. She was followed by fencer Luan Jujie, the 26-year-old physical education student from Nanjing, who outscored Cornelia Hanisch, the Federal Republic of Germany's two-time world champion in the women's individual foil event, to become Asia's first woman champion in a sport traditionally dominated by Europeans.

The chase for gold in diving took place between China and the United States. The superlative US diver Greg Louganis carried off the gold medal in the three-metre springboard. China's 19-year-old Tan Liangde received the silver by dint of graceful acrobatic stunts and smooth entry into the water,

Chen Weiqiang lifts a total of 282.5 kilos to win the gold in the 60-kg class.



Fencer Luan Jujie (left) lunges at Federal Germany's Cornelia Hanisch.

and his compatriot Li Hongping finished fourth. On the last day of the Games, Li Kongzheng added a bronze in the men's platform diving to China's medal tally.

China's missing the gold medal in men's diving was balanced by the victory of Zhou Jihong in the women's 10-metre platform diving. Her gold was China's only one in aquatic sports as well as its last in the Summer Games. Chen Xiaoxia, a well-known diver, placed fourth in this event.

In archery, 18-year-old Li Lingjuan won a silver in the women's individual all-round competition with 2,559 points. Li had led the competition in the previous two days, but the lack of experience

finally left her in second place. Nonetheless, she established a new Olympic record of 694 points in the women's 30-metre double-round event, and chalked up Olympic records in the women's double-round all-round and 70-, 60-, and 50-metre double-round events.

The showdown between China and the United States in women's volleyball propelled the 23rd Olympics to a climax. After 87 action-packed minutes, the Chinese team struck gold, thereby achieving its third consecutive major international victory after winning the 1981 World Cup and the 1982 World Championships.

That victory was hard won, though. The Chinese team was considerably weakened in 1985, when five veteran players — including the world-class setter Sun Jinfang — retired. By systematic and tenacious training through last winter, however, the new line-up regained its former strength. This was amply borne out during a pre-Olympic warm-up tour of the United States last April, when the Chinese team won all but one of the six matches against the host team.

However, the Chinese spikers' chances were suddenly cast in doubt when they lost to the United

States three sets to one in the preliminary heat. In that game, China sought to gain the upper hand, but a lack of confidence slowed it down and caused unsought-for errors and disarrayed teamwork.

Not letting themselves be discouraged by the loss, the Chinese players eased their jitters, picked up their confidence and stormed back to overcome Japan and pave the way for a duel with the United States.

The Japanese were a hard nut to crack. In fact, they were ready to recapture the golden crown in a sport they had ruled for many years, and their ambition was whetted by a 3-0 win over China at the Asian Volleyball Championships last November, the first defeat suffered by the Chinese since they became the Asian champions at the 1978 Asian Games. But Japan's hopes were dashed, when China, using quick-witted, rapid attacks and formidable blocking, carried off the semi-finals with three straight sets.

The rematch between China and the United States, no doubt, had numerous hearts pounding in Los Angeles' Long Beach Arena and around TV sets elsewhere in the world. After a neck-and-neck fight, which exhibited the players' wisdom, determination and teamwork, the Chinese team edged its

US opponent 16-14. In the ensuing sets, the Americans seemed to lose a bit of their usual form and appeared panic-stricken, despite the cheering, whistling and flag-waving of a capacity hometown crowd. By contrast, the Chinese played a confident, tactical game. They combined high-power smashes and rapid-fire punches with a dogged, impregnable defence, sometimes making spectacular diving returns, and finished the game three sets to none. That victory made China the third country — after the Soviet Union and Japan — to consecutively win women's volleyball World Cup, World Championships and Olympic gold medal.

The achievement of the Chinese women's basketball team was a mixture of tears and joy. Six years of hard training had turned the team into champions at last year's Asian Games. At the Olympic preliminary heats, it finished first with six wins and one loss. This time, the Chinese team could have won a silver medal, had it not been for wrong tactics which led to a defeat to south Korea in the semi-finals. The team soon found its range, fielded a new line-up, and outmanoeuvred the strong, taller Canadian competitors to win the bronze.

Most frustrated of all Chinese athletes at the Summer Games

was perhaps diver Li Yihua, winner at the Ninth Asian Games of the women's springboard events. Outscoring all her competitors in the Olympic preliminary heats, she was well on her way towards a gold medal. But her nervousness got the better of her in the finals, and she came fourth.

The Chinese were out of the running in most swimming and track and field events. But competing in the Olympics proved a rewarding experience. And truly, China's progress in some of these events was impressive. Mulati, a Uygur, clocked China's new 100-metre freestyle swimming record at 52.21 seconds when competing in the men's 4×100 metre freestyle relay. Ding Jilian, 21, became China's first to break the one minute barrier in the women's 100-metre freestyle event with a time of 59.11 seconds. And Shen Jianqiang from Shanghai rewrote the national record for men's 200-metre freestyle.

China's major upset came when Zhu Jianhua, the holder of the world high jump record, finished third with a jump of 2.31 metres. It was his jitters that sank him, underlining the importance for all China's athletes to overcome the psychological burden if good results are to be achieved in major international competitions. However, his bronze was China's only medal in the track and field events.

Making their debut in a major international event, the women's handball team pocketed a bronze medal with two wins, one draw and two losses. The team had a 15-15 draw in the first half of the game against gold-winning Yugoslavia but lost the second half because of exhaustion. The bronze is still worth celebrating, however, as the team is still young. The experience gained at the Olympics will, no doubt, provide impetus not only for China's handball team but for the nation's entire sporting world. □

Wu Xiaozuan is a study of concentration as she outshoots her opponents to become China's first woman Olympic gold medalist.



Reform Revitalizes Jiaotong University

by LI YONGZENG
Our Correspondent

A LARGE-SCALE educational reform, which began in 1979, has rejuvenated the 88-year-old Shanghai Jiaotong University.

In the reform, Jiaotong University has promoted many talented people to important leading positions. Associate Professor Du Yiren of the university's computer research institute is one example. He was the head of a laboratory staffed by 11 teachers and four workers. Since its establishment in 1978, the laboratory has completed 18 scientific research projects and published more than 100 academic reports. It had earned 1.55 million yuan for the university by selling its research results to production units.

Du paid great attention to work efficiency. He told his colleagues that time is of vital importance to people studying computer science, and that to waste time means to lose one's advantages. Under his leadership, everyone in the laboratory had a pressing timetable. Du not only demanded much from others, he set a good example himself. He never wasted a single minute.

Now, the laboratory leads the country in computer science. Du's outstanding contributions could not be neglected. The university authorities decided to promote him to deputy director of the computer research institute.

Another two examples are Chen Chu and He Yousheng. Both newly promoted, they are capable and willing to take on responsibilities. They changed somewhat the outlook of their respective departments soon after they were promoted.

In order to give more people a chance to fully use their talents, Jiaotong University conducted an opinion poll concerning 13 department or research institute directorships. The candidates most favoured by the people were then appointed by the university authorities.

In these departments and research institutes, all deputies were appointed by the directors. In the past, they had also been appointed by the university authorities. As a result, the directors and deputy directors have been co-operating well.

Decentralizing Power

People must have power commensurate with their posts in order to do a good job. Jiaotong University has restructured its teaching and research management by decentralizing power. In this way, enthusiasm throughout the university has been enhanced.

In the past, the responsibility for organizing teaching was held by the university authorities, and a department director had to report to them on every matter, however small it may be. The new management system allows the department director to take full responsibility for the teaching in his or her department. He or she has the right to draw up a teaching plan according to related regulations, the right to organize teachers to compile or select teaching materials, to hire teachers, to establish study groups in new disciplines within the department and to permit teachers to accept work outside the university as long as they continue to fulfil their duties at Jiaotong.

In the past, the names of instructors were first put forward by the

related teaching and research sections, and then appointed by the Dean's Office. The department directors had no right to select teachers and could not take the responsibility for ensuring teaching quality. But since 1985, a new hiring system has been used. At the beginning of every term the department directors hold a meeting where they put forward the names of the teachers they wish to hire to the related teaching and research sections. Having secured the agreement of the teachers themselves, the department directors may issue letters of appointment. If there are no suitable choices in the university, the department directors may engage teachers from outside. Some of the teachers who are not good at their jobs will be transferred. Some are working hard to improve so that they may be given teaching jobs later.

In the past, the funds for scientific research were controlled by the university. The various units in the university needed only to draw up plans for research projects and apply to the authorities for money to buy equipment. As a result, the fund ran a deficit every year, sometimes as much as 150 per cent.

In 1985, the university gave department and research directors the power to approve expenditures, and every unit was allocated a fixed budget. Consequently, there was favourable balance for the first time.

Breaking the "Public Pot"

The major aim of the reforms at Jiaotong University is to smash the "iron rice bowl," and eliminate the practice of "everyone eating from the same big public pot."

The "iron rice bowl" means that because all the teachers and staff in the university were assigned by the state, the university has no right to fire or transfer them, as long as they do not violate the law. Because there is no normal flow of personnel, the staff is too large and many contradictions arise. For instance, the university had only 5,000 students in 1980, but there were 4,300 teachers and staff members. The most serious problem was that there were very few young teachers.

The "big public pot" means egalitarianism in distribution, ignoring performance. Although the state has raised the teachers' salaries several times in recent years, the enthusiasm of the teachers has not been aroused because everyone gets pay hikes and the same amount of bonuses regardless of his or her contribution. Those who work harder and with better results get nothing extra.

The first step in the reform was to introduce a normal flow of personnel. According to the needs of the university, the leaders have allowed more than 500 people to be transferred to other units. At the same time, they have selected and recruited a large number of postgraduates and some specialists in various disciplines, and assigned them to teaching posts.

The second step was to reform the wage system. The university has drafted rules and promotion regulations for the teachers. Only those who follow them can get promoted and pay rises. In this way, the principle of "to each according to his work" has been better implemented. For instance, there were 54 associate professors, each earning 133 yuan a month. Now they have different salaries; the lowest is 160 yuan and the highest 208 yuan. A few people who have made excellent contributions had their salaries raised by three grades at one time.

Now, those who work more



Associate Professor Du Yiren (left) and three members of the computer research institute.

earnestly, are more competent and make greater contributions can earn more money. This reform has brought about a kind of competition and aroused the enthusiasm of the teachers and staff.

Work to Meet China's Needs

China's institutions of higher learning are centres both of teaching and scientific research. Jiaotong University has a large number of talented people among its students and staff. Some of the scientific research projects undertaken have approached the world's highest levels.

The university now leads the country in 37 disciplines. Since 1978, 152 research projects undertaken by the university have won state and municipal awards for major breakthroughs in science and technology. In 1985, the university was assigned 725 research items, 56 of which were completed within the year. That year 11.22 million yuan was allotted for scientific research, a three-fold increase over 1980.

Jiaotong University is careful in gearing its research work to the needs of society, using the scientific results to improve economic effects. The university even estab-

lished a department of technical service to do work entrusted by society.

Teachers who do not have enough to keep them busy at the university are encouraged to lecture outside. In the three years from 1979 to 1981, these teachers lectured a total of 55,000 hours in other universities, colleges and enterprises.

Many teachers have also been asked by other units to undertake research projects, work on applications of scientific research results, conduct experiments and tests and give technical guidance. From 1978 to 1985, the university undertook 12.24 million yuan worth of scientific research projects and 6.89 million yuan in technological service projects. The university's 54 laboratories performed about 10,000 experiments and tests for more than 2,000 units throughout the country. For instance, since a new technology developed by the university was applied in the Shanghai No. 3 Vacuum Flask Factory, production in the factory has gone up considerably. Now it is able to produce 150,000 stainless steel vacuum flasks a year for export.

More than 1,000 hydraulic couplers, which were developed by

the university, have been produced and used throughout the country. As a result, 100 million kwh of electricity can be saved a year.

The university has entered into co-operation with a glass fibre reinforced plastic factory set up by a production brigade in Shangyu County, Zhejiang Province, and sent a teacher to be the factory director in charge of technology. As a result, several products from the factory have led the country in quality, and the factory itself has been designated to produce goods for export.

Gearing to the needs of society gives more work to the university and improves the quality of teaching. It can also promote the development of new areas in science. For instance, the research and design work for the large passenger catamarans used along the coast and the *Shengli* No. 2 drilling rig for shallow seas have brought together four departments and eight scientific branches, forming a strong contingent able to handle shipbuilding and marine engineering projects. On this basis, the university established a marine engineering department.

The research into power generation with biogas produced in a sewage treatment plant and the uses of remnant heat have brought together several disciplines in a department and a research institute and promoted the study of biological energy.

Now, eight new disciplines, seven trans-departmental committees and 11 research institutes have been established at Jiaotong University. Sixty per cent of the university's research equipment has been bought with income from providing services.

More Training

Jiaotong University has earnestly implemented the principle of teaching students according to their aptitude, and has tried out many

reforms for training students who have good grasp of a wide-range of subjects and can adapt to the needs of their future work. These reforms have achieved satisfactory results.

The credit and tutorial systems have been introduced. Jiaotong University formerly used an academic-year teaching system and taught students according to a unified plan, ignoring the students' differences in basic knowledge and ability. By drawing on the experiences of other countries, Jiaotong tried out the credit system in 1979.

A student must earn a set number of credits, of which 80 per cent must be in his or her major. In this way, the student is left with 20 per cent of his or her time to take selective courses and expand his or her horizons. Those who are more competent can graduate ahead of time.

In the third and fourth years, every 10 or 15 students are assigned a tutor. The students proceed with their studies under tutors' guidance, thus having more chances to fully develop their strong points.

The university is also singling out outstanding students for special training. Selections take place in the first year. In the third year, those who were selected in the first round but could not keep up are eliminated, and those who were not selected but have done well ever since are recruited.

The university draws up a special teaching plan for these outstanding students, divides them into several groups according to the courses they take, assigns them tutors and provides them with special foreign language training. Since 1980, many outstanding students have been trained this way. Among those selected from

the specialty of applied physics, eight have passed examinations to become postgraduates under Samuel C. C. Ting and Tsung-dao Lee, both Nobel Prize winners.

To ensure students entering Jiaotong University have a good grasp of what they learnt in middle school, the university has established contacts with 54 key middle schools in nine provinces and cities throughout the country. Every year, principals of these middle schools are invited to the university for a meeting. The university has also trained teachers for these schools, and provided them with teaching aids, books and assistance in scientific and technological activities.

Jiaotong University requires all its students to study foreign languages, computers and experimental techniques throughout their four years.

In foreign language training, while primary attention is given to reading, listening and oral practice are not neglected. The university also has combined the teaching of foreign languages with the teaching of major courses.

Teaching materials for experiments are kept separate from the theoretical courses. Independent experimentation classes are offered, including those for electronics technology, engineering and calculation. This strengthens the students' practical abilities.

Computers (including micro-processors) are used in more than 100 courses for data processing, analysis and auxiliary designing. They have also been used in experiments and graduation projects.

The system of elimination is also carried out in earnest. In the 1982-83 academic year, 15 students were dismissed from the university because they did not pass examinations in four courses. Another 26 were asked to repeat the year's work.

Mental Change for Today's Peasants

from "GONGREN RIBAO"
(Workers' Daily)

IN Lixian County of Hebei Province, it is only a few years since the institution of small town enterprises, yet the changes brought about in people's mentality is astounding.

Firstly, the county has placed great emphasis on investment in education and improving school conditions, with the result that schools in many villages have taken on an altogether new look. A brigade of the Baichi Commune spent 8,000 yuan making desks and chairs; another brigade from Xinxing Commune poured 400,000 yuan into the construction of a

two-storey school building, with bright, spacious classrooms and offices, new desks and chairs, and a complete array of sports facilities. The teachers here enjoy a handsome monthly salary, as well as extra bonuses at the end of the year.

Secondly, in their bid for common prosperity, the people of Lixian County have not forgotten to help those in the community who are less well-off.

Li Xiaowa rose two years ago to become one of the richest persons in the village by running an asphalt felt factory with his two sons. However, in his village there were three peasants who had developed a bad habit of gambling in the 10

chaotic years. Soon afterwards, their families fell into severe economic straits. Li, as a Communist Party member, couldn't see their plight with folded arms, so he urged the three "gamblers" to join in his small factory.

With Li's help, they were soon able to mend their ways and work hard. Their concerted efforts contributed to the success of the factory, which experienced a boom in production. Since the joint enterprise was formed, each of them has earned 6,000 yuan, with which they paid off their heavy debts, built new houses and got married.

The 55-year-old peasant Ma Wenfang specializes in spinning woollen yarn. In 1985, the income he earned from agriculture and his sideline occupation shot up to over 50,000 yuan. When the people extended their regards to the army-men and martyrs' family members, he volunteered to contribute 1,000 yuan, saying, "We are rich now, but we mustn't forget the fighters safeguarding the motherland."

The third change in the county is that no longer do people keep for themselves any lost property that they find, but instead they try to find the owners as quickly as possible.

In the Xinxing brigade there isn't a single criminal. Secretary of the Party branch Yan Jianzhang once said in a humour, "The door of prison doesn't open to our Xinxing peasants."

A poverty-stricken woman used secretly to take home with her corn, millet, cotton or vegetables when she knocked off from the fields. And whenever she called on her neighbours, she would try to make off with something.

Today's prosperous life has en-

A peasant technical school built with the money pooled by the local peasants themselves in Hebei Province.



abled her to overcome her "hobby." One day last year on the road, she picked up a purse with 168 yuan in it. Handing it over to the brigade cadre, she said, "Gone for ever are the miserable days and I've also turned over a new leaf. I should return the money to its owner."

Banning Ill Manners in Sports Matches

from "RENMIN RIBAO"
(People's Daily)

IN the Great Wall Cup International Football Tournament concluded recently in Beijing, the SW Waldhof Mannheim team of the Federal Republic of Germany won the tournament trophy by a margin of one goal over the China national A team.

At the closing ceremony, the ebullient German team members rushed towards the spectator stand, warmly greeting the audience and tossing their vests over to them.

But the sad fact is that they were answered by soft-drink bottles and pieces of bread thrown by a few trouble-makers, whose acts not only caused alarm among the guest team members, but also wrecked the spirit of the tournament.

When announcing the best athletes list, the host teams were greeted with thunderous applause, whereas the guest teams were given only a sparse acknowledgement.

Although everybody desires to see the team of his own country to win in the international sports event, it is still common sense that when exchanging experience and discussing skills, all athletes are afforded a precious opportunity in the games to promote understanding and enhance friendship.

Those wrong-doers seemed to think their actions to be "heroic,"

In 1982, two peasants in the Wujiaying brigade found a 6,000-yuan cheque. Judging from the seal, they decided the cheque must belong to the county seed station, so they went immediately to the station and returned the cheque to the cashier.

or full of "patriotism." Actually they robbed China of its dignity

She Found Her Mother-in-Law at Last

from "ZHONGGUO FUNU"
(Women of China)

ONE day in October 1981, an old woman, with a dull look in her eyes, dishevelled hair and ragged clothes, staggered along an out-of-the-way street in Zhumadian, Henan Province. Suddenly a 30-year-old woman ran up to her and held her by the arm and said with tears of joy in her eyes, "Mother, I've found you at last. I am your daughter-in-law. Your son Hongtao asked me to bring you home."

The young woman was Chen Fengying, a worker at the No. 49 Engineering Company run by the Ministry of Coal Industry in the city of Handan, Hebei Province. She did not know that her husband Zhang Hongtao had an insane mother when they got married.

It happened like this. Hongtao was only a little boy when his mother suffered from psychosis and left home. He had not heard from her for more than 30 years. But in 1981, he received a letter from his maternal aunt, who told him that his mother was still alive and living somewhere in Henan. What could he do about it? Of course he wanted his mother back so that he could take good care of her; but on second thoughts, he was afraid that his

and brought disgrace on themselves.

As soccer fans, and more importantly, as representatives of the host country, they should extend their congratulations to all, champions and runners-up, winners and losers. Not only the spectators, but the whole of our mass media — the newspapers, radio stations and TV networks — should carry on the fine tradition of the Chinese nation, exhibiting friendship of the people of socialist China to all overseas athletes.

wife might not agree. To his surprise, Fengying went voluntarily to Henan to search for her mother-in-law when she learnt of the situation, for she thought of her husband's mother as her own.

From that time on, Fengying took good care of her mother-in-law. As the old woman could not control herself, she sometimes refused to eat, and sometimes poured water onto the stove. She even beat Fengying and her grandchildren for no reason. However, Fengying never lost patience. She lived frugally and put aside money each month to buy nutritious food for the old lady. For instance, she used the money her husband gave her for a wristwatch to buy medicine for her mother-in-law.

After her deeds were made known, she received many letters from workers, peasants, students and PLA men throughout the country. Some of them sent medicines, prescriptions and souvenirs. A young man, whose wife had a mental disorder just two years after the marriage, said in his letter, "Your example has taught me a lot. I have given up my wrong wish to divorce my wife. I have made up my mind to learn from you and to take good care of her so that she may recover earlier."

Artist Explores Ancient Highway

This spring a painter and his friend walked 400 kilometres through the Ziwu Hills on the border of Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces, exploring the remains of the long-lost "Straight Highway" built by the first emperor to unite China.

Jin Zhilin, 55, who has studied the history and geography of the Straight Highway for years, is surveying the remaining sections of the road, which fell into disrepair more than a century ago. It is a time-consuming task, since no records exist of the main route's exact location. Since 1978, he has also explored two ancient roads believed to have some connection with the Straight Highway.

The original Straight Highway, which was built between 212 B.C. and 210 B.C. by Qin Shi Huang (259-210 B.C.), first emperor of the Qin Dynasty, for moving a large army to attack enemies, stretched 700 kilometres from the emperor's military headquarters at Linguang Palace in Yunyang (Present Chunhua County) northwest of Xian to an ancient town west of Baotou in Inner Mongolia. Long after its completion, it was travelled heavily by armies and merchants and even up to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) played an important part in the defence of China's northern frontier and in linking various minority peoples.

The road got its name from its relative straightness. When approaching a mountain or river, the builders did not seek a detour but pushed right on ahead—a policy that required tremendous human efforts to accomplish. As a result, some people have called the Straight Highway another wonder

of the world and compare it to the Great Wall.

Jin not only painted and described his journey but took 800 photo-

graphs as well. His survey is expected to provide valuable material for students of the Qin Dynasty and to promote the ancient highway as a tourist site.

Prevention and Cure of Cervical Cancer

Chinese scientists have made great achievements in the prevention and cure of cervical cancer. This is evidenced by their invention of a method to cure this disease — by inserting a cone made of three medicinal herbs into the cervix.

After verification, this method, safe and simple, has proved to be one of the most effective so far to cure cervical cancer in the early stages. In the last 10 years, 200 patients suffering from cervical cancer have received clinical treatment by this method. All have been completely cured, and 144 have remained in good condition during the five to 10 years following the operation.

To prevent and cure this disease, so harmful to women's health, China has in recent years conducted general checkups and treatment in both urban and rural areas. This has not only effectively reduced the incidence of the disease and the mortality rate, but has also helped to bring under control the incidence of late stage cervical cancer.

Jingan County, located in Jiangxi's northwest mountainous areas, is one of several regions with a high incidence of cervical cancer. The Jiangxi Provincial Women's

Health Centre and the Jiangxi Institute for the Prevention and Cure of Cancer have listed it as a key county for general checkups and treatment. They have helped the county establish an institute for prevention and cure of cervical cancer, and have trained more than 30 doctors, physicians and laboratory assistants to check and treat gynecological ailments.

Since 1974, the county has been giving free checkups to married women over 30 every other year, and has offered free treatment, including both surgery and herbal medicine, to sufferers from cervical cancer.

Qi Chuanmei, who was diagnosed as suffering from the early stage of the disease in 1978, was successfully treated by inserting a cone of herbal medicine into her cervix. After complete recovery she gave birth to a boy in 1980.

According to the statistics released by Jingan County this June, compared with 1975, the incidence of the disease has dropped by 70.83 per cent, the mortality rate by 74.88 per cent and 108 out of 334 women sufferers have been cured. Meanwhile, the county has treated more than 20,000 cases of cervical polyp, cervicitis and other gynecological ailments.

Minority Peoples Series

by HU JUN

The *Minority Peoples Series* (in Chinese), a large group of books on the history and current politics, economics and culture of China's 55 minority groups, offers basic information on China's more than 100 minority autonomous areas and the great achievements of revolution and construction over the three decades and a half since liberation.

This series includes volumes on *China's Minority Peoples*, *A Collection of Concise Histories of China's Minorities*, *A Collection of Concise Records of China's Minority Languages*, *A General Survey of China's Minority Autonomous Areas* and *A Collection of Survey Materials of China's Minority Society and History*. The series, altogether more than 300 volumes, is expected to be completed before the end of 1985. *China's Minority Peoples* was published by the People's Publishing House in 1981. Fifty-eight volumes from the other four collections have also been published.

China has 56 ethnic groups, with the Hans accounting for 93.5 per cent of the one billion population. Although the other groups have a small population, they are distributed over approximately 50 to 60 per cent of China's territory, mostly in border areas.

Before liberation, there were great differences in the social and economic structures of China's

The author is a leading member of the editorial board of the *Minority Peoples Series*, the State Nationalities Affairs Commission.

ethnic groups. There were societies with the marks of a primitive commune system, slave societies, feudal serfdom and feudal societies. Together they formed a living history of social development. Historically, oppression created a wide gap between the Hans and the minority peoples. The majority had very little idea about the minorities.

Since the founding of New China, the Communist Party and the people's government have pursued a policy of equality and unity for all nationalities, implementing minority regional autonomy and helping minorities develop their economy and culture. But in order to do this well, it is essential to know and understand the various minority peoples' histories and their present lives.

Beginning from the early 1950s, the central people's government and local governments at various levels organized a series of investigations and studies in areas inhabited by minority peoples. Specialists in ethnology, linguistics, and history took part. In 1956 an investigation of the minority areas was sponsored by the relevant state organizations and scientific institutes. About 1,000 people took part, divided into 16 teams. Soon afterwards, the first drafts of *Concise Histories of Minorities*, *Concise Records of Minorities* and *A General Survey of the Autonomous Areas* were put together, based on the materials gathered. But before they had time to be formally published, the "cultural revolution" began and the work was stopped.

After the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC in 1978, under the aegis of the State Nationalities Affairs Commission and with new members added to the original editorial board, work on the series resumed. The volumes published so far have received a warm welcome from a broad spectrum of readers, especially the minority ones.

Main Points of the Series

China's Minority Peoples. The first comprehensive study of China's minority peoples since the founding of New China, it outlines the overall situation of various minorities in China, including the policy of the state and the Party towards them. It reviews the formation and development of a unified, multi-national China, and the great achievements made in this field since liberation. Special illustrations and more than 200 photos complement the 500,000 words of the text.

Using up-to-date information from minorities research and recent archaeological materials, the book reflects the current standards of Chinese scholarship. (*Beijing Review* published a brief introduction in issue No. 41, 1981).

A Collection of Concise Histories of China's Minorities. The first comprehensive work ever published on the history of China's minority people, each of its 55 volumes covers one ethnic group. Thirteen volumes have already been published, dealing with the Manchus, Huis, Zhuangs, Shes, Gaoshans, Lis, Salars, Tus, Yaos, Oroquens, Tajiks, Jingpos and Lisus.

Tracing history from remote antiquity to the founding of New China, the work recounts the origins and the formation of each group, then introduces its social and economic structure and its activities through time. Subjects such as the exploitation and development of local resources, and the contributions the group has made to Chinese history and culture are discussed. Special accounts are given of the revolutionary struggles of various ethnic groups in modern times to resist class oppression at home and aggression from abroad. Each volume is completed by a distribution map of the group in question, photos, chronological tables and an index of reference books.

This set of books will be distributed by the China Book Company, and the people's publishing houses of the autonomous regions and provinces where the minorities are located.

A Collection of Concise Records of China's Minority Languages.

Fifty-seven books will cover the language of each minority group, plus two for those with different dialects. Twenty volumes have been published so far. They record the languages of the Bouyis, Zhuangs, Dongs, Dais, Tus, Qiangs, Lis, Dours, Dongxiangs, Shuis, Maonans, Yaos, Yugurs, Gelaos, Tibets, Drungs, Mongolians, Baoans, Pumis and Mulaos. Each 100,000-word book is based mainly on experts' on-the-spot investigations and studies, with the opinions of the minority cadres and peoples taken into consideration.

Every book begins with a general introduction to the use of the language by an ethnic group, the branch and sub-branch of the language, its characteristics and its relations with similar languages. The book goes on to introduce the language's phonetics, vocabulary, grammar, dialects and writing,

through a series of charts. Some volumes shed light on how the languages developed and evolved with the help of the Party and the government after liberation.

This set of books will be published by the Beijing Minorities Publishing House.

A General Survey of China's Minority Autonomous Areas.

These 116 books will cover each of the five autonomous regions, 31 autonomous prefectures, and 80 autonomous counties. Four volumes have been published so far — *General Introduction to the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region*, *General Introduction to the Oroqen Banner* (Inner Mongolia), *General Introduction to the Co-operative Tu Autonomous County* (Qinghai), and *General Introduction to the Mengchun Hui Autonomous County* (Hebei).

This collection is a special reference set surveying China's minority autonomous areas, explaining the policies of the Party and the government towards minorities and recounting the achievements of revolution and construction of the autonomous areas since the founding of New China. It covers topics such as administrative divisions, natural resources, population distribution, historical development, governmental structures, social transformation, and cultural and economic achievements. Religious beliefs, social customs and local scenic spots and historical sites are also included. Every book contains illustrations, photos, and a map of the autonomous region in the front. Some also have chronological tables attached to the back.

This collection is being edited at institutions in various autonomous areas and published in these areas or by provincial people's publishing houses.

A Collection of Survey Materials of China's Minority Society and History. This collection is also divided according to the different minorities. Eighteen of its volumes, on the Lisus, Nus, Lahus, (two volumes), Bulangs (two volumes), Benglongs, Naxis, Bais, Xishuangbanna Dais (five volumes), Vas, Miaos and Yaos, Hanis and Achangs have been published together with *Rural Investigation of Southern Xinjiang* (Uygur) and *A Collection of Inscriptions on Stone Tablets of the Guangxi Minorities*.

Unfortunately, these materials are not completely accurate or comprehensive because of the limitations of conditions in the 50s and early 60s, when most of the information was collected. But they are useful research tools. Every book has a population distribution map and photos reflecting people's lives.

The actual writing and editing of these books is generally done by the scholars, specialists and minority researchers who personally took part in on-the-spot investigation and sorted through the materials. These books will be published and distributed by the publishing houses of the region or province where the minority group is located.



ART PAGE

Sculptures by Zhang Runkai



Edgar Snow in China.

Born in 1933 in Beijing, Zhang Runkai is now working as a professional sculptor at the sculpture studio of the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing.

Most of his works depict ordinary labourers, and he is constantly searching for Chinese styles of expression.



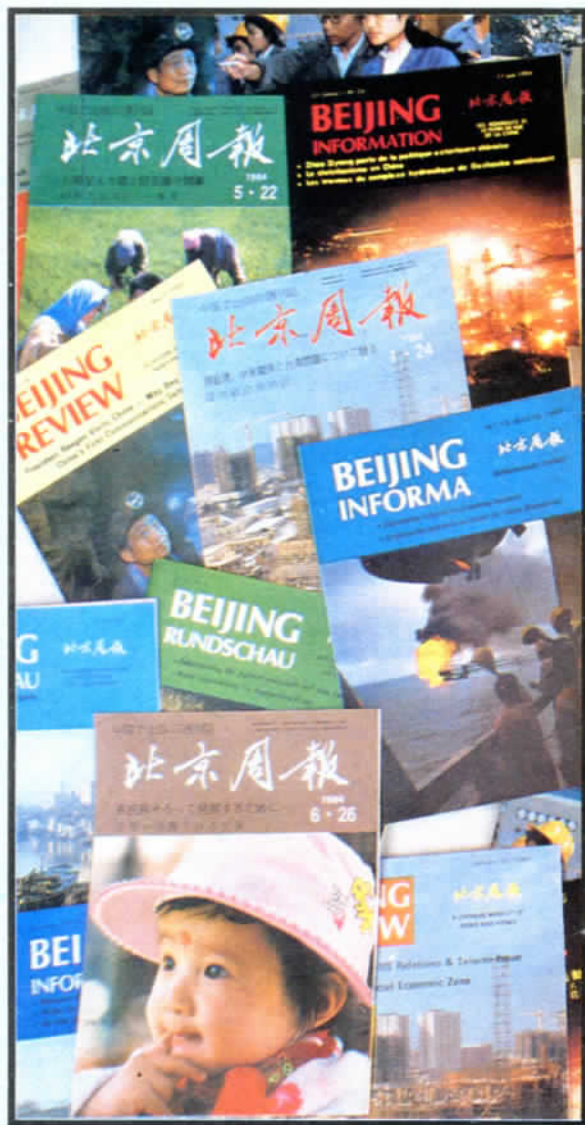
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A Lumberman.

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