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BEIJING REVIEW

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A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

Revamping China's Education System

Rural Industries Shooting Up

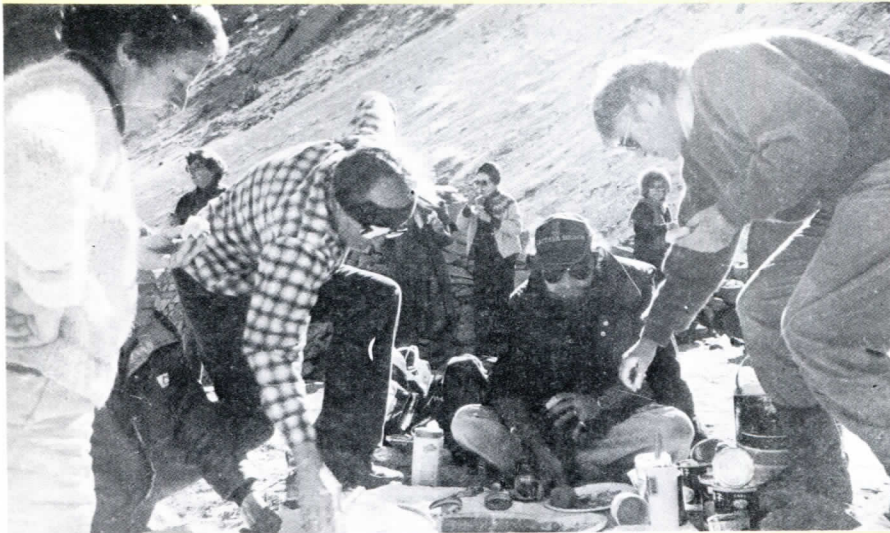


*Police Work Among
the People*

SPOTLIGHT

Travel to Tibet

Along with the improvements in people's lives, tourism in Tibet has developed rapidly over the past few years. Tibet, on a high plateau surrounded by mountains and dotted with lakes, has many scenic spots and historical sites. Each year, a continuous stream of visitors flock to Tibet, known as the "Roof of the World."



A distant view of Potala Palace.

Preparing instant food for tourists.

Choosing souvenirs at a shop on the Pakor Street.

A Tibetan style hotel.



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COVER: Sun Fengwu, the police chief of Erlong station, is chatting with the local residents.	

Photo by Chen Zonglie

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Reforming the Education System

Beginning with this issue, *Beijing Review* will publish three articles in a series on the background, tasks and prospects of China's ongoing education reform. This first one describes how remoulding the educational system is indispensable to the rapid development of China's economy, science and culture (p. 15).

Rural Factories Moving in on National Economy

Rural factories, which started up in China towards the end of the 1970s, have developed rapidly during the Sixth Five-Year Plan period (1981-85). Becoming an integral part of the national economy, these rural enterprises have altered employment and industry in the countryside to a point of no return (p. 8). More detailed analysis seen in a noted economist's article (p. 18).

Success in Preventing Crime

Since 1983, China has instituted a series of preventive measures aimed at lowering the nation's crime rate. Officials say they owe the recent drop in the number of crimes committed in China at least in part to these measures (p. 21).

China, Nicaragua Foster Diplomatic Ties

China established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level with the Central American country of Nicaragua on December 7. In a communique signed in Beijing, both sides pledged to work together for continued growth of co-operation (p. 7).

South Asia in Search of Consolidation

The recently established South Asian Association of Regional Co-operation (SAARC) bodes well for peace and stability among the region's seven nations, as well as for their social and economic development. The December summit at which SAARC was conceived, therefore, marks a milestone in the history of regional co-operation and progress (p. 11).

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Freedom of Creation vs Writers' Responsibility

by **XIN XIANGRONG**
Cultural Editor

There has recently been much discussion in the Chinese press as well as among China's writers about the social responsibilities attached to their professions. Much of the comment has expressed a hope that writers in China produce more works that reflect what is great about contemporary Chinese life. Having heard of this desire for more socially responsible literature, some foreign publications assert that China is now reneging on its promise of literary and artistic freedom and that it plans once again to straitjacket its writers.

To these people, freedom of creation is incompatible with social responsibilities. I, and many Chinese writers, however, think the two can work in tandem and that they are not mutually exclusive; both are intended to further socialist literature and art.

In his greetings to the fourth conference of the Chinese Writers' Association held last December, Hu Qili, member of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee, stressed the importance of freedom of creation and, at the same time, called on our writers to acknowledge their obligations to society. During a working session held a few weeks ago, association delegates also stressed writers' social responsibilities and the need to uphold freedom of creation. Promoting creativity and accountability simultaneously is possible. It is also reasonable that one be stressed over the other during certain periods according to the conditions of that time.

Literary and artistic creation in-

herently requires freedom. Creativity, as mental labour, embodies distinct personal characteristics of the writers and can only be completed by bringing forth the writers' creative power. No writer can produce works with artistic appeal unless he or she is given the freedom to select subjects, themes and presentations, as well as the freedom to express his or her feelings and thoughts. China's socialist system has provided such conditions. Today, under the socialist system, the labouring people enjoy full freedom, something which they did not have in the old society—a society characterized by class oppression. Similarly, socialist literature, which serves the people, enjoys a degree of creative freedom inconceivable under the former system.

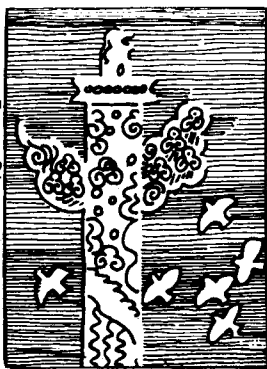
For a while in the past, creative freedom was not guaranteed in earnest, particularly during the chaotic decade from 1966 to 1976 when many writers were unfairly treated and China's literary creation was on the wane. That turbulence, however, was not the fault of the socialist system, but can be attributed to the disastrous effects of the "left" guidelines and policies. Today, the Party Central Committee's reiteration of the freedom of creation shows its respect for the objective law governing literary creation and also serves as the logical conclusion of its experiences in leading our literature and art work. This correct policy will not be withdrawn.

Currently, China's literary creation is alive and prosperous as never before. A large number of young writers have emerged. Both young and veteran writers have recently produced novels, films, plays and other works full of

vitality. This is closely linked with our respect for freedom of creation.

Literature and art should reflect life and expose its contradictions. During the time when the "left" thinking held sway, if anyone wrote anything critical of socialist society, he or she would be considered as taking the wrong class stand on exposing the seamy side of socialism. Because of such restrictions, exposure of problems almost became the "forbidden zone" in literary creation, which is unfortunate, for, without contradiction nothing would exist. Socialist society is bright, but it still carries over the vestiges of the old society and is not without its dark corners. Socialism will only advance by trying constantly to solve these problems.

Now, this "forbidden zone" of literary and artistic creation has been breached. A good example of the zone's penetration is the film *Wreaths at the Foot of the Mountain*. Adapted from a novellette of the same title, the movie features the counterattack in self defence fought on the Sino-Vietnamese border and depicts a group of heroes among the People's Liberation Army officers and soldiers. The film also exposes contradictions and struggles in the army, one of which involves a department leader of a military command area, who through pull and influence, tries to have her son transferred away from the battlefield to spare him the danger of war. Instead of giving in to the anxious mother's demands, her son's army commander, who is also an old friend of hers, tells the army that he is putting the son of this "distinguished lady" on



the frontline. He declares that he will appoint the young man to be the first soldier to storm the enemy's bastion with a handmine. This film has been acclaimed by audiences and critics.

Currently, our literature and art circles also have some tendencies and problems that merit our attention. Works that have touched the pulse of the times and that have sparked the people's enthusiasm, and particularly those that have reflected our modernization drive, are still limited. At the same time, however, a number of lowbrow and even unhealthy works are prevalent. Such a situation leaves the public feeling disappointed and unsatisfied with its authors and artists. Therefore, while following the policy of freedom of creation, it is necessary also to stress the importance of writers' social responsibilities. Writers in our country are honoured as the engineers of the human soul. The people hope for literature and art that reflect the spirit of socialism, and portray people with noble character and ideals, and that lash out against base tendencies, so as to promote social progress and inspire our people to advance. Works that poison minds with vulgarity and bad taste are neither needed nor wanted.

Today, the conditions for Chinese writers to create freely have improved significantly. As long as writers go deep into real life, keep their enthusiasm in step with the trend of the times and allow their hearts to beat in harmony with those of the masses, they will display their talent and write more works loved by the people.

LETTERS

S. African President P.W. Botha Condemned

I cried when I read your article "Reform Call Brings No Progress" in *Beijing Review* No. 34. I do not condemn South African policemen, but Botha — Prince of the Devils — who has two bloody hands. He has no presidential virtues, and has killed innocent people. In the 20th Century, he is an authority figure who has become a barbarous murderer. If the 600 innocent blacks were alive, they would have contributed to mankind someday. I stand firmly by the side of the South African blacks who are fighting for freedom, and especially for Nelson Mandela's liberation. May the oppressed brothers in South Africa be free!

Dramone Traore dit Badra
Segou, Mali

Comments and Suggestions

The article "Open Policy Essential to Socialism" in *Beijing Review*, No. 13 helped me understand China's switch from a policy of "self-reliance" to the new one of "opening to the outside world." I have two suggestions. First, *Beijing Review* should make its articles easier to understand and should include some brief, informal essays. Second, it should include reports of typical enterprises.

Masaru Watanabe
Kanagawa, Japan

I found your article "Observations on the Korean Situation" (Vol. 28, No. 38) very interesting. I appreciated how the article presented China's views and policies on America. I believe these views are realistic.

Another article "Visit to Tibet (III): Science Changes Highland Life" in the same issue also intrigued me.

I have two suggestions for your magazine. First, it would be better if the pictures on the inner front cover were accompanied by full-length articles. Their captions are too brief to be useful. Second, please let me know if I can buy the commodities advertised in your back cover in Japan.

Masakichi Sato
Fukushima, Japan

Your "Culture" column is very informative and colourful, though limited. The layout and format are also fine, simple and clear, and your historical articles are also absorbing.

Beijing Review would do well to publish deeper reports on China's culture and art.

H. Amado T
Cienaga, Colombia

About China's Hotels

During my recent tour in China, I too found it difficult to make hotel reservations and to find a place to spend one or two nights.

For many years tourists in England and North Europe have stayed in people's homes. A practice that is both inexpensive and interesting. Such a method should also be developed in China.

Guy Moquet
Jalles, France

More on Chinese Writers

Though I appreciate the new layout and contents of *Beijing Review*, I am deeply grieved by your neglect of news on China's writers. Though I do not protest when sports usurp the art and cultural sections, I think more coverage should be given to the work of writers and their meetings. I would also like to see more details of China's annual short story contests.

Muibi Ayo Bankole
Calabar, Nigeria

Modernization Calls on Youth Devotion

He had not been a movie star at the height of popularity, nor an athlete with numerous victories under his belt. Xin Fuqiang was just another young, self-employed glass fitter in Dalian. Yet the memory of the 20-year-old man is now dearly cherished by so many and his spirit coincides with the theme of the Chinese Communist Youth League conference on November 28 and 29 in Beijing.

When Xin became critically ill with stomach cancer, more than 1,000 well-wishers called on him at the hospital. Upon his death earlier this year, thousands more turned out for his memorial service, believed to be one of the largest in the history of the northeastern port city.

The turnout stemmed from sympathy and admiration for the youngster who had done so much for the public, yet enjoyed so little comfort himself. Riding a bicycle loaded down with glass plates, Xin had for four years brought his faithful service, rain or shine, to more than 4,000 families, no matter how far away they lived. And if the customer was too poor to pay, Xin never hesitated to lower his prices or simply give his service free. If the customer happened to be elderly or disabled, Xin would help him or her with household chores after fixing the windows. And he frequently donated money to friends, welfare institutions and whoever needed his help.

It was not that Xin was rich. At a time when private enterprise is fast becoming a lucrative industry in China, he deliberately kept his service charge so low that he was earning one of the lowest in-

comes in Dalian's self-employed business world. When he first started out, he was making only 60 yuan (about US\$20) a month.

As a Communist Youth League member, Xin was selfless and dedicated to the wellbeing of others. It was this type of exemplary spirit that was lauded at the League's conference.

"All young people aspiring to serve their country should start right with their own jobs," said Hao Jianxiu, a former League member who today is a member of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee, while addressing the conference. "No job, however ordinary or trivial, should be looked down upon. As young men and women, you should take hardship in stride and use your own deeds, instead of words, to support the policies for economic reform and opening to the outside world, and

do your share for the four modernizations."

The conference, attended by 621 delegates from around the country, was set to readjust the Youth League's central committee, after first secretary, Wang Zhaoguo, left to become a Secretariat member of the Party Central Committee and his successor, Hu Jintao became secretary of the Guizhou provincial Party Committee. In the meantime, 130 members and alternates filled in Party and government posts. Training and supplying the Party and government with officials is a task for the Youth League, which serves as the auxiliary force for the Party. General Secretary Hu Yaobang and Hu Qili, a Party Political Bureau member, and many others all served as League leaders at some points.

At the conference, Song Defu,

Song Defu (second right), the newly elected first secretary of the Secretariat of the Chinese Communist Youth League Central Committee, chatting with conference delegates.





China, Nicaragua Foster Ties

China and Nicaragua established diplomatic relations on December 7, according to a joint communique in Beijing.

The communique was signed by Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, and his Nicaraguan counterpart, Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, on behalf of their respective governments.

The communique read: "In accordance with the interests and wishes of their peoples, the government of the People's Republic of China and the government of the Republic of Nicaragua, have established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level on December 7, 1985."

"The two governments," the communique continued, "agree to develop bilateral friendship and co-operative relations according to the purpose of the United Nations Charter and the basic norms of international relations, and on the basis of

the principles of mutual respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and reciprocity, and peaceful coexistence."

The government of the Republic of Nicaragua recognizes that the government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government of China, and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of China.

The two governments have agreed to provide each other's diplomatic representatives with all necessary assistance for the performance of their functions, on the basis of equality and reciprocity and in accordance with international practice.

At a banquet to celebrate the new-found Sino-Nicaraguan relations, Minister Wu said China and Nicaragua were both de-

veloping countries, and the Chinese have always sympathized with the Nicaraguans and have supported their struggle for independence, sovereignty and the development of their national economy.

Wu noted that the joint communique marks a new epoch in Sino-Nicaraguan relations. "China is willing to work together with the Nicaraguan government for continued growth of bilateral friendship and co-operation," he said.

Wu said disputes among Central American nations and between the United States and Nicaragua should be solved through negotiations on the basis of equality instead of resorting to force or threats of force.

The foreign minister expressed the hope that all parties involved in the Central American conflict would take practical steps to end the prolonged turmoil in the region and bring peace as soon as possible.



a 39-year-old who entered the League's central committee secretariat in 1983, was elected first secretary, and 130 new members and alternate members were put on the central committee. This has reduced the committee's average age to 31 years old.

A resolution adopted by the conference has drawn nationwide attention, for it sets the course of China's younger generation: Perform meritorious service to the fulfilment of the Seventh Five-Year Plan, strive to become highly educated and well-disciplined citizens filled with high moral values and aspirations.

The resolution stated that the current economic reform was an experimental endeavour that must

go through a process of trial and error before related policies and measures can be gradually improved to a turn. The resolution called on all youngsters to take a load of the difficulties from the Party and people and to work doggedly for a brighter future.

Such emphasis on the younger generation is well justified in a country where a quarter of its 1 billion people are young. And it should be said that many already are contributing their share to society — as was Xin Fuqiang, before his death. The 20-year-olds of today will reach their prime by the turn of the century to become the pillars of the country.

"The attitude our young people adopt towards labour and study,

or, to put it short, life, will decide what our motherland will look like by the end of the century and in the years to come," said Hu Qili.

Yet fostering such an admirable attitude towards life among the young is no simple task. First of all, the decade-long turmoil of the "cultural revolution" has left ugly scars upon the people's aspirations, morality and discipline. The country, still recovering from the economic wounds, is not in a position to solve the younger generation's difficulties in education, employment and housing.

Then there are the unwanted side effects from China's new policy to enliven the domestic

News in Brief

Massive imports of integrated circuits are hurting sales of China's own domestically made models. According to statistics from the Ministry of Electronics Industry, China will need about 170 million circuits this year. However, 155 million had already been imported in the first nine months of this year, and another 45 million are expected by the year's end. Meanwhile, about 52 million circuits will roll off domestic production lines. This will create excess supplies of nearly 85 million.

A 5-year programme to spread knowledge of China's legal system among the people should enable Chinese not only to know and abide by the law, but also oppose all illegal activities, according to a circular just issued by the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and the State Council. The programme, "a major event in the political life of the Chinese people," the circular said, is to be launched on a nationwide scale beginning next year.

With the approval of the State Council, the Chinese customs department is planning to recruit 3,000 workers next year. The current 18,000 will be expanded to 21,000 to meet the booming tourism and trade. The customs department has been experiencing a dramatic increase in complex custom work, such as cases of smuggling, and collecting taxes from legitimate customers.

economy by opening up to the world. While the economy is booming, capitalist ideas and trends have also crept in through that open door. Quite a few youngsters have taken to idolizing money and pursuing personal comforts at the expense of others and many other unsavory tendencies. Others have taken the dead-end road to crime.

But, after all is said, the spirit of Xin Fuqiang lives on. His attitude towards work and community truly represents today's main-stream philosophy among Chinese youth. While some are still puzzled by his choice to carry on with his back-

breaking job when the chances for making money were good, many more young people understand him and are moved by his deeds. In the three years before his death, Xin had collected an army of admirers from around the country. Letters poured into his dark, damp house seeking his advice and pledging to emulate his lifestyle. Xin has achieved immortality through a seemingly uneventful life. So long as his spirit is carried forward, there is hope for China, and the goals set for the younger generation at the Communist Youth League Conference will be fulfilled.

Rural Enterprises Take on Economy

China's peasant-run enterprises, which began to flourish in the countryside in the late 1970s, have boomed ahead during the Sixth Five-Year Plan period (1980-85), playing an ever expanding role in the national economy and bringing about grass-roots changes in the structure of rural production and employment.

According to statistics, the total output value of rural enterprises jumped from 72 billion yuan in 1980 to 170.9 billion yuan by 1984, an annual growth rate of 26 percent. Of the total, the industrial output value increased from 57.3 billion yuan in 1980 to 162 billion yuan in 1984, equal to China's total industrial output value of 1966.

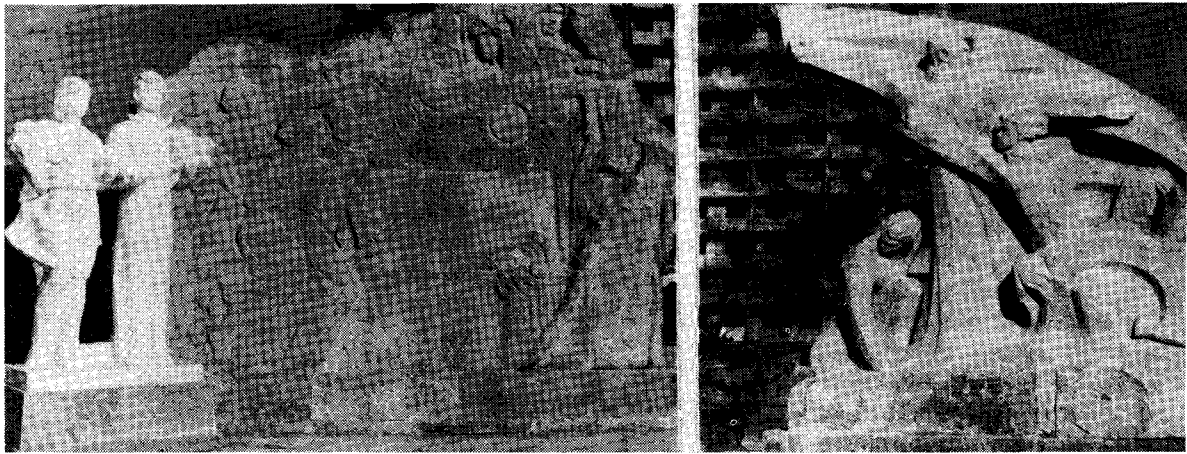
Now an integral part of the nation's industry at large, rural industry has changed the overall distribution of China's industry. In 1984 its output value made up 17.8 percent of the national industrial output value. Some trades and products of township industry already account for considerable proportions in the national figure. The gross output of clothing produced at the township level accounts for

half of the national output this year, and that of building materials, for 53 percent.

Another advantage of the development of peasant-run enterprises is that they have substantially augmented state revenue. Between 1979 and 1984 township enterprises handed over 27.7 billion yuan in state taxes, at an annual growth rate of 23.7 percent.

These enterprises have played an especially important role in invigorating rural economies and speeding up agricultural modernization. And since 60 million workers are currently employed in these enterprises, the employment structure of the countryside has been profoundly altered.

Rural enterprises also have provided funds for agriculture. Between 1980 and 1984 they provided 5.1 billion yuan for agriculture, three times as much as the state investment in the agricultural infrastructure construction during the same period. About 20 percent to 30 percent of the after-tax profits of these enterprises is used to develop various undertakings such as culture, education, health and sports



New Monuments Salute Student Heroism

As the nation commemorated the 50th anniversary of the December 9 Movement, two sculptures were unveiled just east of the Andingmen Overpass in Beijing. To the right is a statue titled "Great Wall of Life and Blood," eulogizing the patriotic students' heroism in the 1935 movement against the Japanese invasion of China. The one to the left is titled "A Salute to the Pioneers." They are among the major monuments built during a recent campaign to cherish the memory of the revolution launched by the Beijing students recently.

in the countryside each year. Many sociologists believe this new rural employment network will eventually alter life-styles and attitudes of the entire rural population.

Yao's Gulf Nation Tour Cements Ties

China's Vice-Premier Yao Yilin recently completed a 12-day tour of three Gulf nations, during which he signed a number of co-operative agreements, and participated in the first meeting between Chinese and Saudi Arabian officials while in Oman.

Yao's Gulf tour, which lasted from November 12 to 24, brought him to the Sultanate of Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait.

The Chinese vice-premier's meeting with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz on November 19, showed that it was possible for China to develop co-operative ties with those Gulf

countries with which China has no diplomatic relations. China and Saudi Arabia had no contact before the talks between Yao and Abdullah. China established diplomatic relations with Kuwait in 1971, Oman in 1978 and UAE in 1984.

During the tour, Yao and UAE officials initialled an agreement for economic and technological co-operation between their two countries.

According to the agreement, the two countries will step up their co-operation in the fields of industry, energy, trade, agriculture, investment and personnel exchanges.

A joint committee comprising representatives from both governments will be set up to implement the agreement.

"We welcome investment not only by your government, but also by your private companies," Yao said at a forum with UAE business people in Abu Dhabi. "We can offer you labour and technology, while you provide us with funds," he said.

Another agreement on investment protection aimed at promoting bilateral economic co-operation between China and Kuwait was signed during Yao's visit. China exported US\$100 million worth of goods to Kuwait in 1984 and has sent several thousand workers to take part in Kuwait's construction projects. The two countries are also co-operating in oil exploration projects along China's seashore.

Qualified Teachers Urgently Needed

A number of junior middle schools are considering a recommendation by the State Education Commission to delete foreign language classes from their teaching syllabi because of serious shortage of qualified teachers.

Bao Tongzeng, a staff member of the State Education Commission's Middle School Education Department, said quite often teachers begin to teach English after only three months of training. As a result, many students must be retaught the ABCs of

English when entering senior middle schools.

"The situation is typical, as half of our 8 million faculty in primary and middle schools are unqualified teachers who have not gone through strict professional schooling," Bao said during a recent interview with the *Beijing Review*.

He also revealed that some local primary and middle schools had not been able to begin courses in biology, geography, music and fine arts. "It is not unusual that a middle school graduate doesn't know an iota of music, and more startling, some can never imagine what a basketball looks like," Bao declared.

At a national conference on the training of primary and middle school teachers which opened last month, He Dongchang, vice-minister of the State Education Commission, said the scarcity of teachers, compounded by poor teaching ability in primary and middle schools, have seriously stunted the development of education in China. He said whether China could implement a recently called-for 9-year compulsory education system in the coming decade hinges on the effective training of sufficient number of primary and middle school teachers.

"No unqualified people should be allowed to teach in primary schools," he stressed.

Estimates suggest China needs 1 million new teachers for primary schools in order to improve the current uneven teacher-student ratio in primary schools of one teacher to 40 students — often one to 50 in big cities. Moreover, at least 750,000 teachers are needed for junior middle schools and 300,000 for senior middle schools during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1986-1990).

Although China today has 240 teachers' colleges and 1,000 normal schools with a total

enrollment of about 300,000, this still falls short of today's pressing needs.

One of the main problems, according to Bao, is that while a considerable number of students have graduated as qualified teachers, only some have been engaged in educational work. Recent statistics from six large teachers' colleges show that only 10 percent to 15 percent of the graduates become teachers.

Another problem, he said, was the prevailing prejudice against teachers. Many teachers want to get out of the teaching profession, hoping to find better, perhaps more respectable, jobs.

To remedy that situation, the State Education Commission has stipulated that middle school teachers should be university graduates, and primary school teachers should be secondary school graduates.

To achieve this, Vice-Minister He said that teachers colleges and universities must shoulder the responsibility, by training more teachers. Institutions of higher learning should offer night courses and training classes for middle school and vocational school teachers.

He urged institutions of higher learning, especially teachers' universities, colleges and schools to concentrate their financial and manpower resources on on-the-spot teacher-training programmes, mostly through part-time correspondence courses.

He Dongchang said that teacher colleges should provide more psychology courses in their curricula and provide students with more field work.

Meanwhile, Li Peng, minister of the State Education Commission, said at a separate education symposium in Beijing, that the main task of China's education reform was to improve existing schools and higher institutions rather than building new ones.

China & the World

Kampuchean Delegation Visits China

Chinese President Li Xiannian recently reiterated China's firm support of the Kampuchean people in their struggle against Vietnamese aggression. Li made this gesture during a talk in Beijing with a delegation from Kampuchea, which visited China on December 7-10 at the invitation of the Chinese government. The delegation was headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea, with Prime Minister Son Sann and Vice-President Kieu Samphan, of the Coalition Government as deputy heads.

Mongolia by Air

The air service between Beijing and Ulan Bator, capital of the Mongolian People's Republic, will be restored next year. Mongolia will begin regular flights between the two capitals from May to October next year, according to an official of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, which also will resume flights at an "appropriate time."

Foreign Press Reports False

A Foreign Ministry spokesman described as "groundless" foreign press reports that more than 100 students were arrested in Beijing's Tiananmen Square and in other cities on September 18. The spokesman also denied foreign media allegations that at least 14 students who took part had been expelled by the Beijing University authorities. "Nothing of the kind happened, that was a made-up story," the spokesman said.

Dhaka

South Asia Takes Stab at Unity

The South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) was established on December 8 in Bangladesh through the efforts of the region's seven nations, all hoping to cement both regional ties and prosperity.

by MA GUANG and
AO YUANXING

IN a display of unity and good intentions, heads of state or government from the seven nations that comprise South Asia met in Bangladesh recently for a two-day summit, the outcome of which was the creation of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).

As a result of the two-day meeting held in Dhaka on December 7-8, the seven South Asian countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — have entered a new stage of regional and South-South co-operation.

At the meeting representatives approved SAARC's charter, which focuses on the following three principles:

— Co-operation shall be based on respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in internal affairs of other states and mutual benefit;

— Such co-operation shall complement bilateral and multilateral co-operation;

— Such co-operation shall not be inconsistent with bilateral and multilateral obligation.

The charter also calls for the establishment of a council of ministers that will consist of the

foreign ministers of the member states. The council is required to meet in regular sessions twice a year for discussions on new areas of co-operation and other matters of general interest to the association. The charter also proposes that SAARC heads of government meet once a year.

According to a declaration made at the meeting, SAARC is intended as a vehicle for the region's economic and social development. Delegates said they expect SAARC's contributions to bring closer economic, social and cultural ties in the region, and also to further political understanding and co-operation among its members.

South Asia has traditionally been a region rife with distrust and conflicts stemming from a

variety of regional contradictions and problems. To date, most of the South Asian countries are involved in disputes over territories, immigration and armaments, and over differences in political and economic interests. Against such a backdrop, the importance of SAARC is made increasingly clear, and indeed, its formation may be considered a breakthrough.

Having suffered serious economic exploitation at the hands of imperialists, the region, inhabited by a population of approximately 1 billion, is among the world's least developed, contributing only some two percent to world production. The South Asian peoples are pressing for peace and development in order to improve their livelihood. Regional co-operation is one of the routes through which they may attain that goal.

Regional co-operation in Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia have been catalysts for development in those regions. And the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), founded in 1967 as a regional organization for the promotion of social, economic and cultural development, has strengthened political unity

Heads of state or government who participated in the Dhaka summit, (from left to right): Pakistan President Zia-ul Haq, Nepal's King Birendra, Bangladesh President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, Sri Lanka's President J.R. Jayawardene, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Bhutan's King Jigme Singye Wangchuk and Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.



among its members in recent years.

In order to catch up with this trend, the South Asian countries have now accepted the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence as a guideline for regional co-operation — a course originally advocated by the late Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman. The seven also agreed that decisions at all levels in the SAARC community shall be taken on the basis of unanimity and that bilateral and contentious issues shall be excluded from its deliberations. By setting aside their political differences, the South Asian countries have embarked on a new road to economic,

social and cultural co-operation.

In its infancy, SAARC, however, is vulnerable. Some existing political problems between member countries might hamper the association's progress and even cause future setbacks. Without SAARC, however, some of those disputes may have become even more destructive and might possibly have evolved into severe conflicts. Unstable elements generated from external intervention still exist in the South Asian political arena. Yet the common desire of the South Asian peoples and the trend towards regional co-operation may generate needed momentum to battle the crosscurrents and prompt brighter prospects for the region.

South Africa. The headquarters of the exiled organization now directs its guerrilla wars against South Africa from Zambia. Its unyielding efforts are winning growing support from many African nations and people all over the world.

Mandela has become a symbol of anti-racism not only in South Africa, but around the world. An American criminology researcher, the only one allowed to visit the politician in years, has published articles detailing the international admiration for the indomitable spirit of the 66-year-old black leader. Mandela's imprisonment has brought out strong opposition against the South African authorities and a worldwide call for his release has been mounting over the last years.

South Africa

Nelson Mandela Leads Behind Bars

Although he has been behind bars for the last 23 years, Nelson Mandela continues to lead and inspire black South Africans in their struggle against racism.

by LIANG LIJUAN

DESPITE Nelson Mandela's 23 years in prison, the black activist remains the guiding figure for South African blacks fighting against the government's racially segregated system of apartheid.

Mandela was born in 1918, the first son of a tribal chief of Transkei, one of the so-called independent "homelands" in the Republic of South Africa. He was trained in law and in 1944 he joined and later became president of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), which was banned in 1960. The organization initially advocated non-violent struggle. But after the Sharpeville Incident of 1960, in which 69 unarmed black demonstrators were killed by the

South African police, the ANC leaders came to believe that peaceful struggle would only result in a stagnant, dead-end situation. They therefore established the Spear of the Nation in 1961 as the military wing of the ANC.

In August 1962, Mandela, who remains ANC president-for-life, was sentenced to five years in prison for "demagogy and illegally going abroad." In 1964 he was sentenced to life in prison. During his trial, he declared his ideal for a free democratic society in which all people shared equal rights and lived in harmony, and announced he would die for that goal, if necessary.

Without Mandela's leadership, the ANC continues its armed struggle against apartheid and for equal rights for all blacks in

During the 70s, the South African government proposed giving Mandela his freedom in exchange for an agreement that he become a Transkei citizen. Mandela turned it down. In January 1984 and February this year, Mandela again rebuffed an offer for his release on condition that he proclaim an end to armed struggle. At a mass rally, Mandela's daughter pointed out the true reason for her father's refusal: When he and his own people were not free, he was unwilling to make any promises; the freedom of the two were inseparable.

For the past 23 years, even while behind bars, Mandela has stood by his people, never ceasing to fight. His name is written on the walls of the black residential areas — a symbol of resistance encouraging his people to strive for the end of apartheid. At every funeral for blacks killed by the South African police, the song "Mandela" can be heard, a ballad of grief and rage.

Africa

Power Peacefully Changes Hands

The increasing frequency of peaceful transfers of power in certain parts of Africa is evidence of a progressing dynamic in the continent's political life.

by XIN FEI

IN November, when Sierra Leone's head of state, Siaka Stevens, 80, handed over the reins of power in that West African nation to Joseph Saidu Momoh, 48, Sierra Leone became the fourth African nation since 1980 to witness a peaceful transfer of power.

In the November elections held following the announcement of Stevens's resignation, Momoh received 99 percent of the votes cast in a single-candidate election and was sworn into office on November 28. In addition to becoming Sierra Leone's president, Momoh was also chosen as general secretary of the ruling All People's Congress. Stevens remains chairman of the Party.

Until recently, military coups have been the most common means of changing leaderships for many African countries. Of

the 50 independent countries in Africa, more than 40 are estimated to have experienced a total of approximately 230 coups.

The transfer of state power through more democratic means is a new phenomenon of the 1980s, and was initiated by Senegal's former President Leopold Senghor, who resigned to make way for his successor, Abdou Diouf, at the end of 1980. In 1984, Cameroon's Ahmadou Ahidjo stepped down. And, just last November, President Julius Kambarage Nyerere resigned from his post as head of Tanzania. Sierra Leone's Stevens and the above three men made outstanding contributions to their countries' independence and economic development. Each of them resigned at the height of their political careers and handed the power of their office to younger successors, making way for further progress.

EEC

Keeping Up With the Times

As the recent Luxembourg summit of the EEC began probing for institutional reforms, the toughest twists on policy in three decades were revealed and remedied.

by XIN PING

MEMBER nations of the European Economic Community (EEC) finally agreed in principle on limited reforms of its 1957 founding Treaty of Rome, at the conclusion of a two-day summit in Luxembourg in early December.

The most significant adjustments to the Rome Treaty, officials said, would restrict member governments' ability to veto decisions, a right that has often been blamed for the slowness in the community's decision-making process.

The EEC leaders reached a

"clear position and a decisive one" on how to reform the EEC institutions, said British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. But she cautioned that the process towards unity and efficiency would only be "modest."

But Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who said the reform package was insufficient, refused to give Italy's final approval before the European Parliament had expressed its opinion.

The government of Denmark, which opposes expanding the Rome Treaty, will consult its parliament before giving its final approval.

The treaty amendments will not take effect until it is ratified by the parliaments of all the EEC nations, including Spain and Portugal, which will join the EEC on January 1, 1986.

Other changes included an extension of EEC jurisdiction over monetary policy, technological co-operation and environmental protection, an increase of financial solidarity between the member nations, and an increase of powers for the European Parliament.

Twelve leaders of the 10 EEC nations and its future members, Spain and Portugal, also agreed to sign a separate treaty on foreign policy co-operation as a further step towards developing a common foreign policy for the community.

This trend towards greater co-operation within the EEC began last year, when the agricultural ministers of 10 EEC nations in March 1984 readjusted agricultural policies that mended a long-standing gap on farm production. In June 1984, the EEC settled their fray over British budget contributions. And earlier this year, the EEC agreed to admit Spain and Portugal into the organization. Before long the

financial ministers met and reached an agreement on strengthening the European monetary system. The member nations have since turned their attention to the French-proposed Eureka

project and are currently making joint efforts to carry out the scientific and technological plan, which was signed in an effort to catch up with the American Strategic Defense Initiative.

gaged in developing the manufacturing industries, especially the processing industry, such as the textiles and electronics, based on local materials and production.

Malaysia

Economy Stands, Despite Downswing

Malaysia's growth rate remains stable, despite recent concerns over lagging investment and export.

by ZHANG TIEGEN

THE economic growth rate of Malaysia in 1984 was 7.6 percent and it is expected to reach 5.2 percent this year, according to Malaysia's finance minister. Although the growth rate is slightly lower this year, it is still higher than the average growth rate of the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which is about 2.7 percent. Malaysia's growth rate also tops that of the developing countries, which average 3.6 percent. Nevertheless, emergency measures have been taken in the last few months to curb spending and encourage export and foreign trade.

Malaysia's economy has maintained a stable growth rate for many years now. In the 1970s, the annual growth rate averaged 7.9 percent. Because it depends heavily on foreign trade, its economic growth did slow down somewhat during the early 1980s, when the developed countries were in a recession.

But Malaysia is rich in natural resources and has managed to keep a steady flow of its resources exported out of the country. It produces more rubber, tin, palm oil, pepper and hardwood than any other country,

and is also rich in natural gas and petroleum.

When considering those achievements, the economic policies adopted by the Malaysian government have been a great success. In the 1950s, Malaysia produced mostly rubber and tin. It began to plant palm trees in the 1960s. Today, its output of palm oil is expected to reach 3.85 million tons, accounting for 59 percent of the world's total. Palm oil has replaced rubber as a main export.

Meanwhile, the government is making an effort to utilize and profit from its abundance of petroleum and natural gas. Currently petroleum has become the number one export in Malaysia.

As there is a great demand for cocoa on the world market, the Malaysian government has paid close attention to its cocoa bean crop, and today its cocoa output has jumped to the sixth largest in the world.

The variety of exported goods has helped to stabilize Malaysia's economy. In the past few years, the price of rubber, tin and timber fell on the world market, but because of its large output of palm oil and cocoa, Malaysia has not suffered greatly.

The government is also en-

gaged in developing the manufacturing industries, especially the processing industry, such as the textiles and electronics, based on local materials and production. Malaysia Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad recently stated that his country would become the largest producing country of finished rubber products in the 1990s. Now the percentage of primary products in the general income of Malaysia's exports has decreased from 70.2 percent in 1975 to 60 percent in 1984.

All is not necessarily clear on the horizon, however. The slumped economies of the developed nations have put great pressure on Malaysia's economy. The rising protectionism of the United States and other Western countries has caused many difficulties for Malaysia's electronics and textile industries.

Some unfavourable conditions have cropped up during the first half of this year, such as money shortage, less investment, dwindling exports and growing debts. In order to deal with the worsening situation the government has drawn up a series of new economic policies. The foreign investment codes were adjusted in July, simplifying the investment procedures and relaxing restrictions on foreign investment shares.

Last September the government founded an investment fund of 1 billion M\$ (about US\$410 million), in order to encourage fresh investment in agriculture and the manufacturing and tourist industries.

In October the Malaysian cabinet adopted emergency measures, asking the state governmental organs to tighten up on spending. The Ministry of Finance in its recently published economic report of 1985-86 declared it would help subsidize the agricultural, tourist and manufacturing industries.

Updating China's Education System

This is the first of three articles "Beijing Review" will publish on the background, tasks and prospects of China's ongoing education reform. The following examines the current problems concerning China's education system — Ed.

by **WANG YIBING**

THE publication of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee's "Decision on Reforming the Education System" last May marked the beginning of a new stage in the transformation of China's education system. The educational reform is indispensable to the building of China's material wealth and socialist ethics and culture.

New Demands

China, a developing country with a population of more than 1 billion, has decided to quadruple its 1980 total industrial and agricultural output value by the end of this century, and approach the level of the developed countries by the end of the 2040s. According to some experts, achievement of the "quadruple" goals depends largely on the development of science and technology. Therefore, the key to the success of China's socialist modernization lies in developing intellectual resources and rapidly raising the entire nation's cultural, scientific and technological levels. Judging from the actual needs of China's economic construction, the educational departments are faced with extremely arduous and urgent tasks.

Industry occupies the dominant position in China's economy as its proportion in the national economy increased from 30 percent in 1949 to 60 percent in 1984. Moderniz-

The author is a research fellow of the Policy Research Office of the State Education Commission of the People's Republic of China.

ing the technology and management of enterprises and improving their economic efficiency are the basic conditions for a vigorous economy.

According to a 10 percent sample survey in the third national census in 1982, workers and staff members with junior middle school education, or lower, account for 78 percent of the total labour force in the industrial sector. Those with little or no education make up 7.9 percent. Senior middle school graduates make up only 20.4 percent, and college graduates only 1.6 percent.

When looking at an eight-graded technical scale, with the first grade being the lowest and the eighth the highest, workers of the first three grades make up 71 percent, 23 percent in the fourth to sixth grades and only 2 percent in the seventh and eighth grades. In the state-owned enterprises, there are only 1.21 million engineers and technicians, accounting for only 3.45 percent of the total labour force. In coal, textile and building materials enterprises, technicians represent less than 2 percent of the labour force, and the figure is even smaller in collectively owned enterprises.

In this respect, China is lagging far behind some developed countries, and even behind some other developing countries. In a world

Chen Hong (standing), a college graduate who has taught in a vocational middle school in rural Sichuan Province for two years, was recently cited for her excellent performance.

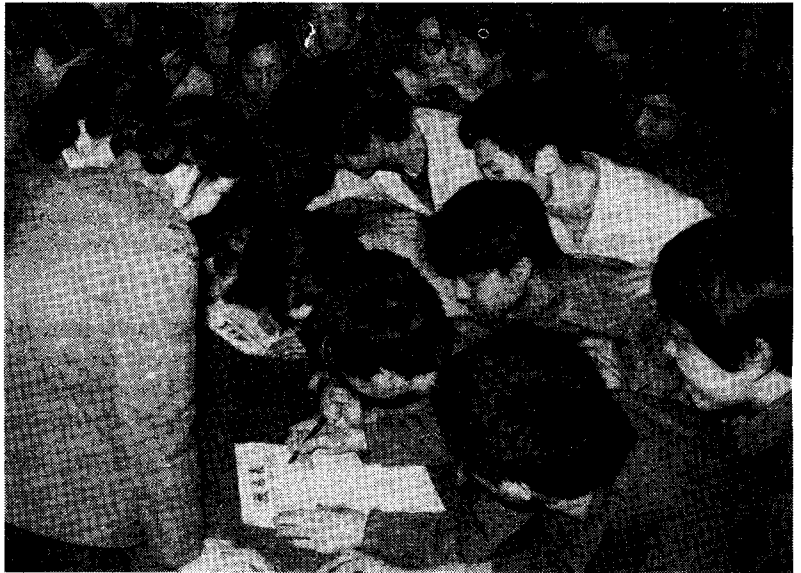


where the technical revolution is on the upswing, unless we develop education, it would be impossible to invigorate the economy.

Feeding the 1 billion Chinese people has been and will remain a problem of paramount importance for a long time to come. "No food — no political stability" has always been the political reality in China. As agricultural production has picked up in recent years, the annual per-capita amount of food grain is now about 400 kilogrammes. Although China now produces enough food for its population, it still has a long way to go before it can provide its people with 1,000 kilogrammes of grain per capita a year, as can some developed countries at present. China's disadvantage is that its enormous population is living on limited farmland. An average Chinese has only 0.11 hectare of land, accounting for about 40 percent of the world average. China's population is nearly five times that of the United States, but it has less than one-seventh of the United States' farmland. What is more, China has only 100 million hectares of reclaimable land. Because of requisition of land for construction in the cities and countryside, farmland has shrunk by 25 percent since the founding of New China in 1949.

China cannot count on any other country to feed its 1 billion mouths. Such being the case, the only way out for China is to rely on itself and on science and technology to raise the per-hectare yield of grain. But for every 10,000 rural residents, there are no more than four agro-technicians. The peasants' educational and technical levels are quite low, and at least 80 million young and middle-aged farmers have received little or no education at all.

The reform of China's economic structure and the emergence of many economic forms have also placed new demands on education.



Students, who will soon graduate from the Beijing Aeronautical Engineering Institute, sign up for aircrew positions.

Last year China had about 6 million rural enterprises staffed with 60 million people that turned out about 143.3 billion yuan in output value. More and more surplus rural labourers will be leaving their farmland to work in factories in their hometown. In recent years, collective and private economies in the cities also have been forging ahead. They need new technology, information and advanced management expertise, which can be obtained only through the development of various forms of education.

The development of culture and ethics is an important characteristic of socialism, which finds expression in advanced education, science, and the people's political consciousness and moral character. All the above aspects are related to education. The 1982 national census showed that China has 235 million illiterate or semi-literate people, a serious handicap to the development of socialist culture and ethics. In some rural areas, the illiteracy rate is even higher and some superstitious activities that had disappeared after the founding of New China in 1949 have resurfaced.

Education as It Stands

Throughout the past 36 years, China's education has progressed rapidly and with great success. The country has trained almost 400 million primary school graduates, and more than 250 million junior middle school graduates, thus reducing the illiteracy rate from 80 percent in the early post-liberation years to 23.5 percent of the total population. During this period institutes of higher learning and secondary technical schools turned out more than 16 million junior and senior professionals, many of whom have become the backbone of China's socialist construction today. However, with the interference of "leftist" thinking that held sway for years, especially the damage brought on by the "cultural revolution" from 1966 to 1976, China's education did not develop as well as it should have, and education today falls far short of the needs of China's economy, science and technology and socialist construction as demonstrated in the following respects:

1. A recent national investigation indicated that trained talent does not meet the needs of society.

Take Shanghai for example. It is a nationally famous industrial city and economic centre and its higher education is well developed. However, two talent surveys in the city showed that in the coming few years universities and colleges will only be able to provide employers with half the required numbers of employees. In some provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities with less developed education, the gap is even wider.

2. China's education system is so irrationally structured that it cannot satisfy the needs of the economic and technology boom.

Because of the interference of "leftist" thinking, which overlooked the role of financial and management professionals in economic development, and ignored the establishment of a legal system, our country's institutes of higher education have also for quite some time overlooked the training of personnel in these fields. The two-to-three-year system of colleges for professional training was also neglected. As a result, higher education is plagued by an imbalance in the composition of disciplines. Take political science and law colleges, for example. In 1960 China had nine such colleges. The number dropped to six in 1965 and they were all suspended or closed during the "cultural revolution." According to a preliminary estimate, however, in the coming seven years China will need at least 34,000 law graduates every year. But so far China has been able to provide only 3,000 law graduates each year, less than 10 percent considered necessary. According to a prediction by the Ministry of Education and 71 government ministries and commissions, which was based on an investigation into the nation's 83 specialized departments, the ratio of regular college graduates to the polytechnical graduates that China will need in the remaining 15 years of this century is 1:1. For

the last few decades, however, China's polytechnical graduates have represented only 20 percent of its regular college graduates, and more than half of the polytechnical graduates were trained as teachers. Also, China's secondary technical education has not been developed as it should. This lopsided development has resulted in the disproportionate ration of engineers with college degrees to technicians educated in secondary technical schools. The ratio is about 4:1 in Beijing's textile industry, about 10:1 in the Shoudu Iron and Steel Company and about 7:1 in Shanghai's metallurgical industry. This is a grave waste of talent, with many university graduates doing work that could be done by secondary technical school graduates.

Vocational training in China's secondary schools is weak. Before 1966 the late Chairman Liu Shaoqi had proposed a two-tiered education system that included full-time schools and schools that divided their instruction between teaching and factory or farm production. At that time China established a comparatively stable ratio between regular secondary education and vocational secondary education. But during the "cultural revolution," this particular education system, which fitted in with the country's conditions at the time, was repudiated as "capitalist double-track system," and almost all of the vocational secondary schools were either closed or suspended. This brought about an inevitable monotony to the structure of regular secondary schools throughout the country. Though vocational and technical training has been restored and improved in recent years, the number of students in these schools represents less than 10 percent of the total number of secondary school students. The ratio is still so low that every year more than 1 million senior middle school graduates and about 6 million junior middle

school graduates get neither the chance for further training, nor the needed skills when they enter society.

3. Because of the traditional spoon-fed method of teaching in China, students lack the ability to think and study independently. The rote teaching method and lack of field work compel the students to only listen to what they are told, leaving them no leeway to think, let alone to doubt what are taught. Their examinations require the same content and the same answers, encouraging students to seek high marks, rather than to make creative or enterprising efforts. All these fail, to varying extents, to keep pace with the economic, social, scientific and cultural developments taking place in China today.

4. In education administration, generally speaking, the government departments concerned have exercised too much rigid control over schools, especially universities and colleges, in the areas of personnel affairs, funding, student enrolment and job assignment, capital construction and academic exchanges with foreign schools, leaving school administration no say in all these matters. In the meantime, the government education authorities have failed to examine closely overall arrangements, with the result that the scale, speed and structure of China's education, as well as content and teaching methodology could not keep in line with the development of its economy, science and technology. Furthermore, tight controls dampened the enthusiasm of local governments to run their own schools.

We can conclude that education reform in China is indispensable and inevitable. Without reform, our education would fail to keep pace with the rapid development of our country's economy, science and technology. □

Rural Industry Advances Amidst Problems

by XUE MUQIAO

RECENTLY I visited Wuxi in East China's Jiangsu Province, and was very much impressed by the fast development of its rural industry. In the past, the growth of the urban collectively-owned factories was faster than that of the state-owned enterprises. But now it is the growth of the rural collective industry that has outstripped that of both the state- and collectively-owned urban industries. This is a gratifying phenomenon.

Rural Flight Stemmed

In almost all the capitalist countries, during their periods of growth, industry was concentrated in the cities. Rural people, attracted by high wages and better living conditions, were drawn there as if by a magnet. For a while this influx left the cities overpopulated and the countryside severely undermanned. Although efforts were made later to set up small industries in the rural areas, urban overpopulation remained an irreversible problem for many years.

China, in the 1950s and 1960s, also experienced a siphoning off its peasants from the countryside to its industrial cities. The government, however, stemmed the tide by placing strict restrictions on the growth of the urban population. Rural people, however, continued to try to squeeze themselves into the cities. This situation remained unchanged until the early 1970s when some factories moved to the countryside and beyond. Rural flight has been further stemmed in the 1980s

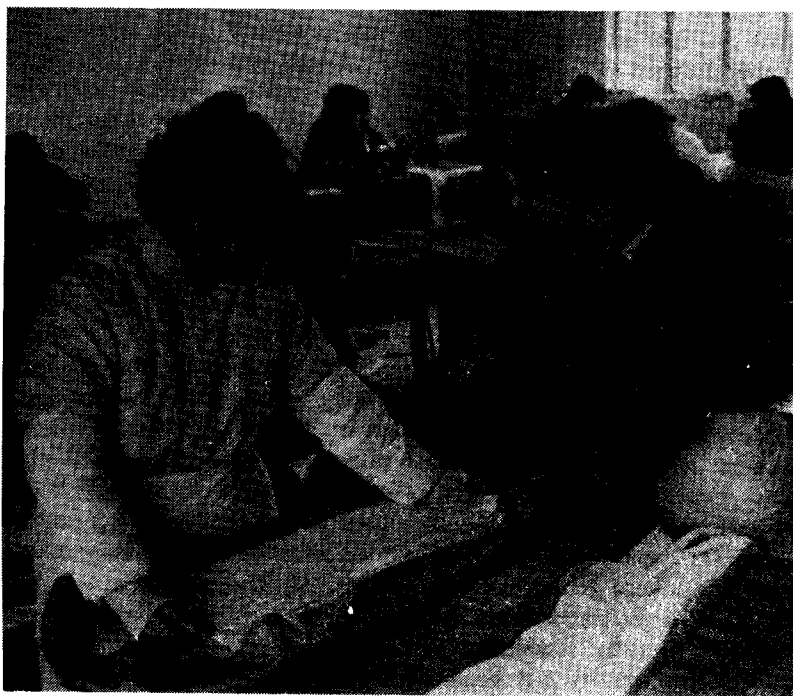
with the introduction and implementation of a new economic policy, which in part, encourages rural growth. As a result of these measures, rural industry has grown significantly. The output value of the rural industry in the Wuxi area for example, makes up about 40 percent of the area's total. About 40 percent of Wuxi's rural labour power is engaged in industrial production, with almost every family in the area having at least one member working in a factory. Although the average per-capita income for rural areas is similar to that of the cities, the wages of rural factory workers are much higher than those of their counterparts in the state-owned urban factories. Today, rural people no longer dream of moving to the cities to better their lives, or to get what cannot be had in the countryside. On the con-

trary, many urban factory workers are now asking to be transferred to rural factories. The tide of rural flight, therefore, is not only being stemmed, but is on its way to being reversed.

Aiding Agriculture

Rural industrial development in Wuxi did not cripple the area's farm production, but rather has helped it. In the past, Wuxi peasants were asked to grow double-harvest rice. However, because each hectare only yielded 12 tons a year, the peasants were required to solicit subsidies from the local industries. The peasants have since given up growing double-harvest rice, and grow alternate crops of rice and wheat. Although the acreage planted with rice and wheat is lower than the amount for double-harvest rice, the per-unit output and the total output

Workers employed at a township seat cushion factory in Shazhou County, which netted half a million yuan in two years.

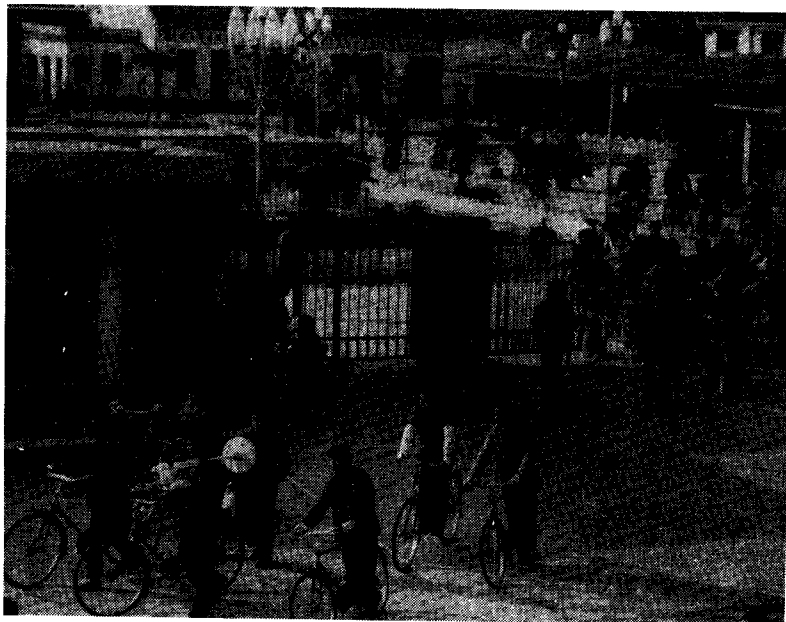


The author is a noted economist.

have been the same.

In rural Wuxi, almost every household still grows some crops for its own consumption. There are only a few number of households that specialize in growing crops. Each specialized household, however, only contracts to farm a little more than one hectare of land, and would still have someone working in either industry or commerce. For lack of spare labour power, some factory-tied households have transferred their grain plots to specialized grain-planting households. The factory-tied households, however, have to pay the specialized households several hundred yuan for them to work each hectare of land a year. Also in order to encourage agricultural production, when the peasants, particularly those engaged in grain-planting, sell their crops to the state, some township governments provide them with subsidies — 20 cents for every kilogramme. The payments for working spare land and the subsidies are aimed at balancing out the higher incomes of the factory workers with those of the farmers. Without subsidies, few, if any peasants would, specialize in growing grains, while others would only grow enough to feed themselves. Therefore, rural industry still plays an important role in sustaining the high output of grain.

Because of the development of the collective economy (rural enterprises), everyone in Wuxi has the opportunity to work. There are, therefore, only very few households involved in private business (individual households). The number of affluent individual households is also very limited. In other areas, however, where the collective economy is less developed, and there are more individual households, many have achieved a degree of affluence. The development of rural collective economy on the basis of the previous com-



Peasants employed by this and other Bixi township factories in the suburbs of Changshu find they have enough time at the end of the day to do farm and other sideline work.

mune- and production brigade-run enterprises is an ideal way to achieve common prosperity and solve some of the public welfare problems that could not be solved by individual households alone.

Encouraging Development

Last year, because of the speedy development of industry all over the country, Wuxi's rural industry also grew rapidly. Wuxi's rural industry used to grow at a rate of 20 percent to 30 percent a year. In 1984, however, rural industry there rose more than 50 percent. In the first quarter of this year, it rose 70 percent to 80 percent further than the same period last year. Such accelerated growth is abnormal and proved to be a strain on the limited supply of raw materials. The 1985 market price for rolled steel, for instance, went up from its 1984 price of 1,200 yuan per ton to 1,700 yuan or even 2,000 yuan per ton. But in Wuxi, instead of curbing rural industry, this situation has stimulated its development. The rural factories use diesel-engine generators to generate their electricity. Despite the cost however, the factories still make high profits by

turning out marketable rolled steel. In the nationwide campaign to develop rural industry, Wuxi's rural machine-building factories benefited by supplying other rural factories with machinery and equipment. Until capital construction is scaled down nationwide, Wuxi's rural industry will probably continue to grow at a rate of 50 percent to 60 percent a year.

As for Wuxi itself, the rapid growth of its rural industry is a product of the large-scale capital construction the area began a year ago. Many factories have been completed this year and the supply of their products has not been able to keep up with the demand. Some clients already even have placed their orders for 1986. In the meantime, it seems that getting these industries to lower, or stem their production rates may be difficult. This year, however, banks did begin to cut down on credits and loans, making many rural factories feel pinched for funds. This tactic, though abrupt, may be one way of curbing the run-away development of these rural enterprises.

In general, the equipment and

technical capacities of the rural factories are inferior to those of the urban state-owned factories. The rural factories' raw material consumption (particularly energy) is higher than that of the state factories, while their labour productivity is lower. In the past, the rural factories relied on low wages to compete with the state-owned factories. But now, their workers' wages are much higher than those of the state-owned factory workers because the rural factories have introduced flexible management methods, and the state-owned enterprises are still controlled by state plans. For instance, despite its strong technical forces and better printing and dyeing equipment, the No. 1 State Textile Mill is designated by the state to produce grey cloth for export, because grey cloth has a better foreign market than do printed and dyed fabrics. When, on the other hand, to process and turn out a variety of high-quality cloth products in small batches might help the mill quickly increase its output value and its foreign currency income. Currently, however, the mill is locked into the perhaps less efficient mode of production stipulated by the present planning and foreign trade administrative systems.

Many small rural factories, however, are able to adjust and readjust their production according to market demands. Some small village-run factories in Wuxi now not only produce printed and dyed fabrics and do finishing but also make printing, dyeing and finishing equipment needed by other small factories. Although the quality of their products is generally lower than that of the state-run factories, their products still sell well since the products are no longer made by the state-run factories.

Flexible management also helps boost collective and private businesses. Many state-run shops in Wuxi can hardly meet the needs of the customers because of their limited variety of products. But many collective and private businesses can often replenish their stocks directly from Shanghai. And, although their prices are 20 percent to 30 percent higher than the buying prices, their businesses remain brisk. Hence, one might conclude that the best way to develop industry and expand our market is to enliven the state-owned enterprises and let them compete with collective and private businesses.

Another important reason for

Shuttlecocks made by a township factory in Xinghua County are slated for sale on both domestic and foreign markets.



the fast development of rural enterprises is that there are no restriction, other than the market, on the prices of their products. Although their cost of production is high since these factories pay a negotiated price (which is above the state fixed price) for coal, electricity and steel, the prices of their products are also higher than those turned out by state-run factories.

The rapid development of industrial production increased the strain on electricity supply. Because coal can be sold at negotiated prices, large quantities of coal can be shipped to Zhangjiagang port, ensuring the coal supply of Wuxi's rural factories. Because of lack of electricity, the No. 2 State Textile Mill, however, had power cut for more than 900 hours last year. But, about 70 percent of the rural factories have their own diesel-engine generators, which can be put into use when their power supply has been cut. Although the cost of supplying one's own power is high, these factories still make profits since they can sell their products at a negotiated price and compensate for the expense of using the generator.

The state now encourages localities to collect funds to build small power plants. Formerly, electricity generated by small power plants was required to be incorporated into big power networks. Recently, however, because many found the regulation unfair, the rule was rectified. Now, electricity generated by small power plants may be incorporated into big power networks and sold at negotiated prices. It is hoped that the change may spur the development of local small power plants. Although the coal consumption of small power plants has far exceeded that of the big power plants, the development of small power plants is one way to increase the electricity supply, particularly since the newly-built state-financed power plants generally cannot

produce electricity for three to five years after construction is completed, and because the shortage of electricity is not expected to be eased in the next 10 years. This problem can only be solved by encouraging the localities to build their own power plants, and to sell their electricity at negotiated prices. The state factories, however, could not maintain their consumption levels of coal, oil and electricity if they were required to pay negotiated prices, because they cannot raise the prices of their products to offset the energy price hikes. Moreover, the quantity of coal, oil and electricity allocated to them at state fixed prices is unlikely to rise, but, on the contrary, is dropping. Simultaneously, the state-run factories also face the same problem with the supply of rolled steel, cement, timber and other raw materials. This is another factor hindering the progress of the state factories, while the rural factories continue to develop so quickly.

While it is important that rural

factories continue to rely on market forces to guide their production, it is also important that the market not be flooded with products simply because they have proven to be popular, as happened only a few years ago. Then, producers all over the country jumped on the electric fan bandwagon and inundated the market with fans. As a result of the speedy production, many of the fans were substandard. Recently, the process has been repeated, with small metallurgical enterprises sprouting up seemingly overnight, to the detriment, not only of the market, but also to the quality of area water and air, which has been seriously polluted by the metal production.

To solve these problems the city and county authorities should draw up a plan for the balanced development of rural industry and immediately close the unsuccessful factories if they are unable to make other products. The plan should involve both urban and

rural industries, while the state-owned enterprises should help rural factories raise their technical level and improve the quality of their products. Currently, rural industry's technical level is quite low. They don't have engineers and only a very few technicians. The co-operation between the city and county industries and the rural industry will eventually help upgrade rural industry.

Wuxi's rural industrial boom is a real success story. Areas just north of Wuxi, however, are still very backward and underdeveloped. If Wuxi were to expand its operation to begin incorporating some of this land, the area's amount of farmland could be sharply reduced. In order to avoid this, local authorities should impose restrictions on the use of farmland by factories, while also trying to extend rural industry to other places, which would simultaneously help break down the barriers between different regions, while expanding rural industry's horizontal ties. □

China's Crime Prevention Meets Success

by CHEN ZHUCHENG

CHINA'S crime rate has dropped significantly in the last three years, according to government statistics. Officials say that in 1982, seven criminal acts among 10,000 people was the average; today that figure has fallen to five crimes among the same number of people. Government officials owe their success, in part, to precautionary measures, such as the nationwide campaign to popularize the Chinese legal system. These measures, which were implemented at almost every level of society, have been referred to as the "compre-

hensive legal treatment" in China.

China has come a long way since 1979 to beef up its legal system. In the last six years the country has enacted more than 300 laws and decrees. Simultaneously, efforts have been made to spread legal information among the population, especially the young, through mass communications, seminars and consultations, exhibitions and even through theatrical performances.

Legal System Publicity

Not long ago, the Chinese government decided to spend five years, beginning July 1985, on meticulous education about the socialist legal system so that everyone in China would have a

thorough understanding of the law. (See *Beijing Review*, issue No. 31, 1985: Making Law a Household Word in China.)

As a beginning, legal education has been included in the curricula of universities and middle and primary schools. So far, the results have been quite positive and the crime rate among the students has dropped sharply. Some students even helped their parents in this regard. In Pinglu County in Shanxi Province, a man was recently in a fight with his neighbour, and had picked up a club, but his daughter stopped him, warning him about the law.

"Before, if something like this happened, I would have plunged into the fight, on my father's side,

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of course," said the middle school student. "But legal education made me realize that such violence could end up as a serious crime. I managed to stop my father from beating up my next-door neighbour."

Mediation

Mediation through people's mediation committees, composed of local figures enjoying popular trust, is unique to the Chinese legal system. As an integral part of the Chinese judicial tradition for many years, they have grown in numbers and importance since the massive legalization push in the last few years. These committees play a significant role in the reduction of the crime rate, as well as the promotion of unity among family members and the neighbourhood.

There are about 930,000 such committees in China, with about 4.6 million members. They operate under the guidance of local governments and courts to mediate civil issues — family or community disputes, but sometimes they investigate less serious crimes. In the five years from 1980 to 1984, these committees have successfully mediated 35.7 million civil disputes,

or 10 times the civil cases handled by the local courts.

Civil disturbances are often touched off by quarrels or conflicts in the neighbourhood or among family members, over marriage, inheritance, debts and other problems. These squabbles can develop into criminal acts if not taken care of immediately. In Beijing, for example, more than 50 percent of the murders are provoked by problems over love, marriage and family problems. They could have possibly been prevented if they had been handled by mediation committees.

Through the work of the committees, many potential crimes have been prevented. According to a national survey, in 1983 alone, more than 88,000 suicide or murder cases were prevented through mediation.

Take the case of a young couple in Xian. Feng and Zheng, who both worked at the Xinhua Instrument Factory, had been dating for three years when Zheng decided suddenly she wanted to end the relationship. Feng was so angry he actually threatened to kill her with a knife if she did not marry him.

The local mediation committee immediately stepped in, trying to talk things over with Feng. Still, the infuriated man wouldn't listen, so the committee asked his mother and his factory to help put an end to the disruption. After much effort, Feng finally calmed down and changed his mind, and a tragedy that could have cost the lives of two people was avoided.

Moral Drive: "Civilized"

Another important measure to prevent crimes is the establishment of urban residents' committees and villagers' committees, and the appraisal and selection of "civilized" families, neighbourhoods and villages. The aim of such appraisal is to improve social unity and morals.

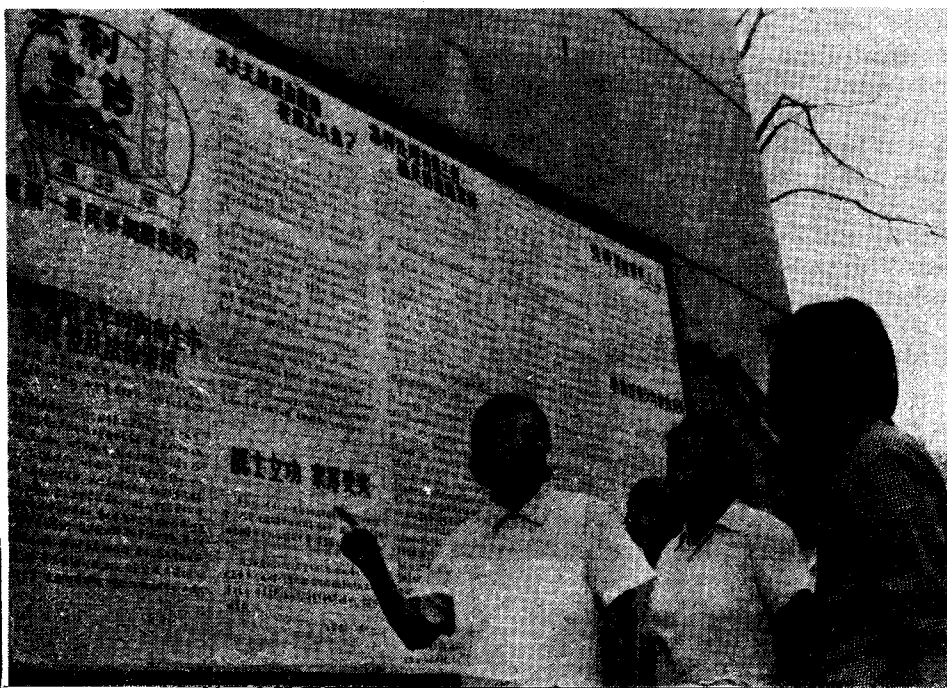
According to the Constitution, the urban residents' and villagers' committees are governed by the local people. Within the committees are sections for mediation and security. These grassroot committees have contributed greatly to the reduced crime rate. For instance, both committees work out pacts that must be abided by the local residents. The pacts include such values as family harmony, neighbourliness, respect for the elderly, and adherence to the law. A recent survey indicated that the crime rate has dropped drastically in those areas.

At present there are 20 million "civilized" neighbourhoods and families in China.

Plugging Up Loopholes

In trying cases, the judicial organs often find loopholes with regard to the management system of enterprises that criminals take advantage of. To prevent crime, they are quick to warn these organizations about loopholes. This too has proven effective in checking the crime rate. For instance, the Tangshan people's procuratorate issued written suggestions to enterprises haunted by crime,

Zhao Shude (left), a Wuhan housewife, personally started this public bulletin board, on which she publishes various bits of legal information. Her board has helped reduce the number of civil disputes and crimes in the area.



asking these organizations to inform them of the remedial measures they plan to take. Needless to say, crime has fallen among businesses in Tangshan.

Remoulding Inmates

Remoulding prison inmates to give them a new lease on life is an important aspect of China's criminal justice system, that is fundamental in preventing them from going to the dogs again.

An exemplary case is that of Li Wanming, who was sentenced to 15 years of prison in the 1950s after having been convicted of forgery. During the many years behind bars, Li completely turned himself around, and since his release from jail, has been working in the Xian Automobile plant. His honesty and hard work have made him a well-known worker at the factory and he and his family are leading a comfortable life.

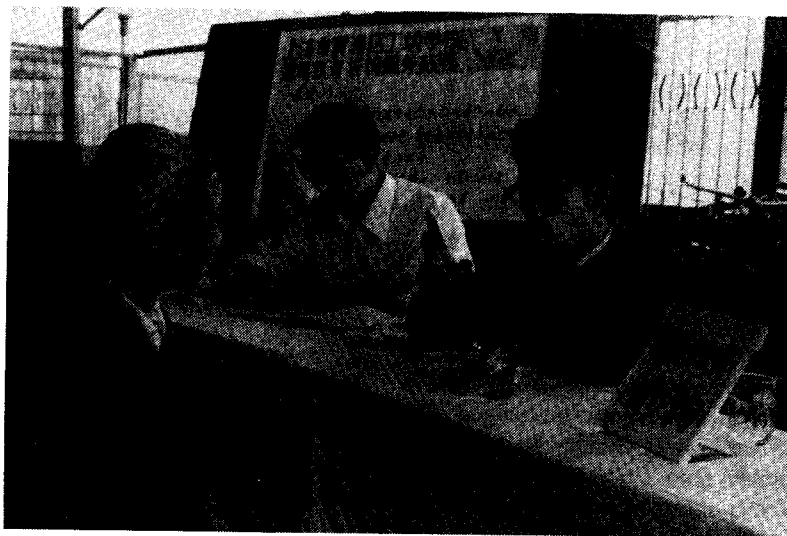
Some of the measures taken to remould inmates include:

- Following the policy of "education first, labour second." Various prisons and reformatories combine political, cultural and technical education with forced labour. It is Chinese philosophy that imprisonment should be more than punishment; efforts should be made to help these people live on their own. Currently, China is striving to turn jails and reformatories into special kinds of schools.

- Organizing inmates to master production skills so that upon their release, they will be able to find work and not be tempted back into a life of crime.

- Treating inmates in a humanitarian way. State law prohibits cursing or beating the inmates. Efforts are made to ensure they eat and sleep well, and receive medical treatment when necessary.

Hong Husheng, a convicted murderer sentenced to 18 years in a Shanghai jail, suffered from very



A teacher at a Shanghai reformatory advises a mother on how to discipline her problem child.



Li Dongshan (front left), once a renown bully, is now an oil-extraction group leader in the Shengli Oilfield in Shandong. Under his leadership, daily output of oil jumped from 44 tons to 75 tons.

serious gastric ulcer, and the prison hospital performed successful surgery. With tears in his eyes, Hong said, "The doctors came to the ward where I stayed for a checkup, and I was given five meals a day. I never expected a patient like me would be offered such good treatment."

- Striving to seek support for the inmates from the community once they have been released, placing them in the right place and making sure they have no financial problems and are not discriminated against. The results have been positive. One example is a Beijing-

based construction company, set up in 1981, that provided jobs for more than 1,000 young former inmates. A recent survey shows that only 10 of them were involved in crime again. Even so, some enterprises are reluctant to take on such people.

Thanks to these measures, China has seen some satisfactory results. From 1949 to 1984, the Beijing Jail has educated more than 13,000 criminals who have become honest labourers. Today, only 6 percent to 7 percent of the former inmates have committed crimes again. □

A Day in the Life of the Police

by **LU YUN**
Our Correspondent

GUO Zhaohui, 28, never expected he would grow up to become a policeman as he had a strong aversion to the badged men when he was young. Nevertheless, today Guo finds himself wearing the policeman's uniform. He is stationed at the Erlong Road police station under the Beijing Public Security Bureau. Although he has served in the police force for less than two years, he has already become a member of the Communist Party of China, indicating his dedication to the communist cause.

When the shout for "overthrowing everything" was heard everywhere during the early stage of the "cultural revolution," Guo was only nine years old. His educated parents — a doctor and an engineer — were both criticized for walking "a capitalist road." Even his maternal grandmother could not escape misfortune and was tagged a "landlady." One day she was taken to a local police station by an officer and the next day she was sent far away, back to her rural village. From that day on, the idea that "cops were bad people" was etched deeply in Guo's mind. As he grew up and the grave mistakes of the "cultural revolution" were corrected, Guo realized the importance of a sound socialist legal system in China. He became a part-time law student and later joined the police force.

"Hard as the work is, it offers me the chance to improve myself," said Guo. "Yes, my salary is not fat. But money is not everything. I came to realize that the people's police could be respectable, when once I shared an old lady's joy

at the recovery of her savings that had been stolen by a swindler."

Daily Work

The Erlong Road police station is located on a narrow lane to the north of the Nationalities' Cultural Palace in downtown Beijing where several dozen one-storey houses are divided into five small courtyards. The police chief is in charge of the daily work at the station while the political instructor is responsible for ideological and political education. There are 52 policemen and six policewomen, whose ages are between 19 and 52, including 27 Party members. Apart from two deputy heads who are older than 50, about 70 percent of the crew are younger than 30.

Local police stations are the grassroots of China's public security. There are two types of local police stations: household registration stations and public

security stations. The former is located in an area administered by a sub-district office in an urban area or by a township government in a rural area; the latter is located in railway stations, airports, sea-ports, and downtown areas, as well as in forest and frontier areas.

The Erlong Road station is a household registration station in charge of 21,900 households and 75,000 residents. The term "household registration" means that the station's main purpose is to manage all the residence registration of the local population as well as that of the transient population, according to the relevant state regulations. In doing so the station is able to provide the state with accurate demographic data and sometimes discover clues to the activities of law-breakers.

Security officers have a different role, one that focuses on the public's safety. They are responsible for maintaining order in

Guo Zhaohui returns recovered-bicycles to the owners.





Policewoman Bai Yuhua.

public places, checking hotels, seal-engraving, commission and purchasing shops, and controlling firearms, toxins and explosives. The security officers also are charged with the prevention of counter-revolutionary and other criminal activities, and assist the security authorities and judicial organs at the higher level in solving cases. They also conduct publicity among the masses, educating them to abide by laws, respect the standards of social conduct and dare to struggle against any law-breaking activities.

Keeping the Peace

Due to stepped-up campaigns to crack down on major criminal activities launched by the judicial departments in recent years coupled with the joint efforts of local residents, China's crime rate has dropped to 0.05 percent at present. But Erlong Road area has achieved 0.03 percent in this field. The number of repeated offenders has decreased and the rate of solving cases has been raised.

China's police depend a lot on the masses to maintain public

order. There are more than 1 million local public security committees throughout China, usually each comprised of three to 11 members, with one police officer guiding its work. The Erlong Road area alone has 32. These committees, consisting of retired workers, cadres and housewives, play an important role in the prevention of neighbourhood crime and other accidents such as fire. The committees help residents install burglar-proof locks and place their gas storage tanks in safety locations. These committees have the support of the local community, and whenever a resident uncovers any clues to a crime, he will immediately report it to the committee.

Chinese police greatly value the work of their local communities. It is believed that about 60 percent of crime is resolved due to the aid of the average citizen.

When dealing with suspects, the police depend on evidence and act according to judicial procedure. For example, before summoning a suspect for interrogation at the Erlong station, the officials must

first provide the necessary evidence to their superiors in order to get permission for the interrogation. When the suspect is called in, there is no harsh or threatening treatment, nor is coercion used to secure confessions.

When considering the most important characteristics of the police force, bravery is the top requirement of all officers. Take Bai Yuhua, a policewoman from the Erlong station who is responsible for public order at the open market on Chengfang Street. One day a peddler was so angry at a customer that he pulled out a kitchen knife and threatened the customer. Bai, who just happened to be on the scene, rushed over and wrested the knife from the peddler. When asked why she was so brave, Bai called herself a "guard of the people" who was afraid of nothing when it came to defending the people. Not long ago when she came home in plain clothes, she saw two hoodlums threatening a person with knives. Without hesitation Bai went over to seize the knives and ordered them to accompany her to the station, where they were held in custody according to law.

Bai, 35, used to be an army soldier. She was sent to work in the police station during the "cultural revolution." At that time the police force was also subjected to criticism. Her superior assigned her to exercise "dictatorship" over the original officers. For this, Bai's relations with police officers and citizen were tense. Later, she found these police officers were hard-working people and in recent years, with the practice of the "cultural revolution" being totally negated, Bai's relations with others have improved. She said she once suspected anyone she met and was very hard on them. Now things are different. Police must act in accordance with the law and must not suspect anyone without evidence.

Educating Youngsters

Sun Fengwu, the 32-year-old police chief of the Erlong station, emphasized crime prevention. He praised one particular police officer Sun Yi for his outstanding performance in this area. Sun Yi, 23 years old, is a graduate from Beijing Police School. With the help of the public security committee of Wenjia Street, he has helped find jobs for 17 youths with previous criminal records, and for two years not one crime has taken place on his street.

"We should not keep watching those who are likely to make trouble," Sun Yi said. "Instead, we should ask ourselves what we can do to help them with their problems." He said it was not easy for a young man with a bad record to find a job, and that if the man is deserted by society he would most likely create problems for that society.

One such young man, Liu Changjiang, was detained because of his relentless street fighting. His parents gave him a hard time at home, forcing Liu to run away and live off gambling. Having heard about the young man, Sun and Ran Yuzhen, the head of the local public security committee, did their best to persuade a factory to take in Liu. Today the family lives a normal life and Liu has even found himself a girlfriend.

Another young man, Yang Zhiqiang, had been placed in a reformatory for two years because of gang fighting. After his release, Ran helped him get a job in a factory. When Yang changed his mind and decided to try his hand at sales, the station helped him get his business license. He was so grateful that he vowed never to break the law again. Today he is married and his business is running smoothly.

Not all repeat offenders get severe punishment. The Erlong



The deputy head of the station Fang Xueli.

station is always ready to offer a second or third chance to those who have shown an honest desire to mend their ways. A young man, who lives in the area for which police officer Ye Jingxin is responsible, was caught red-handed breaking into a house — not the first of his criminal activities. He was detained at the Fengtai public security sub-bureau. But when Ye examined the case he found that although the young man seemed to be an habitual criminal, he showed sincere desire to come clean and even revealed clues to other criminal activities. After the young pledged he would never break the law again and was willing to perform civic services to atone for his crimes, Ye sent a favourable recommendation on behalf of the young man to the Fengtai sub-bureau.

The Masses in Mind

The citizens of the Erlong Road area often turn to the officers there for consultation on family and neighbourhood problems. As a result, the officers of the station are extremely busy.

This summer Beijing suffered heavy rains. One evening as officer Zhang Jingliang was eating supper

at home, a downpour set in. He worried about the older residents who lived in the old houses that may not hold up under the heavy rains. So Zhang went from door to door and helped the elderly fight back any damage.

Every police officer of Erlong station has such a story. One day a woman's one-year-old baby had a sudden epileptic seizure. She came to the station for help and Bai Yuhua took the mother and baby to a nearby hospital, where the baby was hospitalized. Although the woman did not have enough money with her, Bai lent her the needed amount.

Life Styles of Officers

An officer was recently turned down for Party membership because he had beaten someone three years ago. When Fang Xueli, the deputy head of the station and veteran officer, tells the young officers to observe police discipline, he often uses himself as an example. Twenty-five years ago he had grabbed a petty thief by the ear when the young man had refused to go with him to a police station. As time went by Fang criticized himself for the harsh treatment and today he encourages his young officers to treat suspects as you would victims.

In the past 32 years, only three officers have been kicked off the police force at the Erlong Road station while 16 officers have been promoted to be station heads and directors of the police sub-bureau.

A police officer's working hours are long, but the officers at the Erlong station have managed to create a little home-away-from-home for themselves at the station.

The younger officers are also putting themselves through further study. Some have been sent to the police college for higher education, and 15 are studying at various part-time law schools. □

Peasants Lack Education, Culture

from "JINGJI RIBAO"
(Economic Daily)

DESPITE certain advances, cultural life and education in rural areas are in need of improvement.

Education. The number of school-age children attending school in the countryside has increased from 40 percent in the early post-liberation days to the present 80 percent. The number of pupils enrolled in China's primary schools between 1962 and 1984 went up from 53.44 million to 114.51 million while that of middle school students expanded from 2.4 million to 30.72 million during the same period. In 1984, about 910,000 students were attending agricultural secondary schools. By the end of 1984, altogether 25 million peasants were enrolled in part-time cultural classes and 15 million in vocational courses.

Peasants have begun to place increasing importance on furthering their educational and cultural backgrounds. For this reason many peasant communities have started their own schools with their own funds. A recent survey of 262 villages showed that about 50 percent of the total investment in education in these villages had been contributed by the peasants. From 1981 to 1984 the funds collected by the peasants and brigades in Anhui Province accounted for 70 percent of the province's total, equalling the combined amount allocated by the state to that area since 1949.

Despite such headway, rural education remains deficient. In China's remote areas and in the

areas inhabited by herdsmen, only half of the school-age children attend school. In some areas, though the rate is a little higher, about 40 percent of the students drop out before five years. Consequently, the number of primary school graduates entering middle school has dropped. About 1.6 million (5.2 percent) middle-school students and 10 million (9.2 percent) primary school pupils leave school before finishing their studies each year, contributing to China's population of illiterates and semi-literates.

The unfortunate state of education in the countryside can be mainly contributed to limited funds, poor teaching equipment and unqualified teachers. Laboratory equipment is also scarce. In some places, students either rotate class periods or attend classes with students of other grades, which also detracts from the quality of their education. In addition, 18 percent of middle-school teachers and 53 percent of primary school teachers are unqualified teachers. Because of such deficiencies, some parents are unwilling to put their children through school. Other parents ask their children to drop out in order to make money.

Science and Technology: Since liberation in 1949, about 1.13 million students have completed secondary or college-level courses in farming and forestry. Only 430,000 of these people, however, are now working in rural areas, averaging six for each 10,000 rural residents. Another 2.75 million farmer-turned-technicians trained in the rural areas are active there.

An additional drawback to

rural education is that the curriculum is often ill-suited to the students' lives and does not meet the demands of productive scientific and technical development. A recent survey of 36,700 households showed that only 8.7 percent of the rural labour force has some area of expertise. Specialists in the fields of livestock breeding, veterinary science, disease prevention, aquatic production, plant protection, business management, processing of farm and sideline products, farm machinery and information are in great demand in the rural areas. Most peasants believe that the area most in need of development is farm technology.

Cultural Life. Cultural and information facilities in rural areas have gone unimproved during the implementation of the present reforms. At the end of 1984, 300 counties did not have their own libraries. And, on the average there was only one theatrical troupe for every 570,000 peasants. About 40 percent and 33 percent of the rural population did not have access to regular television and radio services respectively, and phones were available to only 0.2 percent of the rural population. Half of the village throughout the country were connected with each other by telephone. Only 17 percent of the townships can see the provincial dailies on publishing days.

A sample survey of the peasant households showed that spending for cultural and literary activities accounted for 2.4 percent of their total expenditures. About 57 percent of young peasants said one of their main worries was the virtual dearth of cultural and literary activities in rural areas. The peasants on the economically

advanced outskirts of Shanghai said not a few of their villages were so called "four-nos" villages — no newspapers and magazines, no reading rooms, no sports teams and no cultural and literary activities. The deficiencies in the remoter areas are certainly more serious.

Reconsidering an Ambiguous Slogan

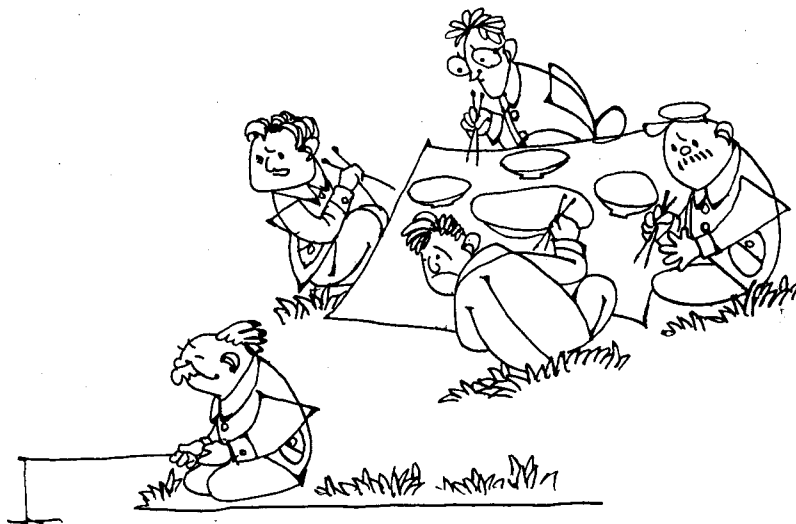
from "QUN YAN"
(Masses' Voice, monthly)

EVERYONE has food on the table" is a slogan that has long been regarded as a testament to socialism's superiority, providing equality for one and all. The concept of equality of distribution behind that saying, however, is less appropriate to the socialist situation than is the idea behind the saying, "to each according to his work."

Simply because everyone has enough to eat does not mean that everyone is eating well. What is there to be proud of if everyone's table is laden only with porridge and salty pickle? Certainly it would be better if peoples' meals consisted of both nutritious and delicious food. Such a case, however, is far from China's reality.

In China today, as in other socialist countries, some people eat better than others, which is understandable, since Marxism does not mandate equality before conditions are mature.

Under the socialist system, the principle of distribution is "to each according to his work." Those who work more, earn more. In contemporary society, such a principle is both reasonable and progressive.



Is it fish yet?

Cartoon by Fang Xiangzhong

The slogan, "Everyone has food on the table," runs counter to the above idea in that it proposes that even those who do not work can still eat, and that each person is afforded the same benefits re-

gardless of how much work he or she does.

"Everyone has food on the table" is an unscientific idea that should not be regarded as a manifestation of socialism's advantages.

Educating China's Only Children

from "RENMIN RIBAO"
(People's Daily, Overseas Edition)

CHINA'S current generation of children from single-child families is healthier and more intelligent than those from previous generations, according to a sample investigation of only children younger than 13 years, which was conducted by a concerned educational department.

Since 1979 when China first advocated that each family have only one child, the number of only children has reached 32 million, making up 3 percent of the nation's total population.

From the study, these children are characterized as healthy, lively, and self-confident. They tend to think things over independently and have strong desires to learn.

These children were also characterized, however, as indulgent, unconcerned and unable to care for themselves.

Because of these flaws, the education of only children has become a major concern to Chinese society. According to incomplete statistics provided by the All-China Women's Federation, more than 20 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions have set up societies for family education and established 12,000 one-child parents' schools.

In Sichuan Province, China's most populous province, 72 percent of its cities and counties have founded special organizations and guidance offices, employing 129,000 professional and part-time workers for the education of pre-school only children.

Foreign Funds Used in Wider Scope

From 1979, the year when China opened to the outside world, to the end of September 1985, China used foreign investment totalling US\$20 billion, accounting for 58.8 percent of the US\$34 billion of foreign capital agreements or contracts signed by China with other countries. Of this foreign capital, US\$14.7 billion was in loans granted by foreign governments and international financial organizations. A total of US\$5.4 billion in direct foreign investment has been used for the operation of various projects.

Since 1979 China has approved 1,897 joint ventures, 3,408 co-operative enterprises, 109 ventures with solely foreign investment and 31 projects on the joint exploration and development of China's offshore oil.

The following are the main characteristics of foreign investment in China:

— The number of countries and regions investing in China is growing. Investors are no longer only from Hongkong and Macao or from among the overseas Chinese communities, but are now from 30 countries and regions. The United States, some West European countries and Japan have set up 150 joint ventures in China, and their investment volume makes up 35 percent of the total foreign investment in the country.

— Areas that have absorbed foreign investment are also expanding. With the exception of the Tibet Autonomous Region, joint ventures have been set up in all China's provinces and autonomous regions. About 70 percent of the joint ventures, however, are located in Guang-

dong and Fujian provinces. Investment volume in these two provinces makes up 50 percent of the total foreign investment in China. Foreign investment in the Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shantou and Xiamen Special Economic Zones amounts to 25 percent of the nation's total.

— The fields in which foreigners invest in China are also growing, and most of the joint ventures are productive projects. A number of energy and transport projects that take up a large amount of foreign investment are being built. Joint ventures involving energy, transport, metallurgy, machinery, electronics, chemicals, building materials and communications equipment covered 43 percent of the total projects and accounted for 36 percent of the total foreign investment in China. Projects involving light and textile industries, foodstuffs, medicine and forestry covered 25 percent of the total projects and represented 14 percent of the total foreign investment.

— Most of the joint ventures have performed well. A number of joint ventures equipped with advanced technologies and machinery have turned out quality products and have earned a great deal of foreign exchange through export. Some famous brand products produced by joint ventures have enjoyed brisk sales on the international market. Offshore oil co-operation has also obtained encouraging results. Most of the oil ventures have netted a certain amount of profit.

During the Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1986—1990), the focus of foreign investment in China will be as follows:

- Loans on favourable terms granted by foreign governments and international financial organizations will be utilized as much as possible for the infrastructure construction of energy, transport, communications and raw and semi-finished materials projects.

- Foreign commercial loans will be used for the economically developed areas and for projects that will yield fruitful economic results, earn more foreign exchange for the state and whose products will replace imported ones.

- Direct foreign investment, advanced technologies and equipment and managerial expertise will be absorbed for the technical transformation of a large number of small and medium-sized enterprises in China.

China's Aircraft Takes Off Abroad

China's Yun-12 planes, designed and manufactured according to the US Federal Aviation Association (FAA) regulations, passed a test flight and a series of technical evaluations at the end of November 1985. Hank Dees, chief test pilot from Lockheed Aircraft Corp. of the United States, said after the test run the Yun-12 is one of the best planes he had ever flown. Yun-12s are being appraised by the state and will soon be sold on the international market. The 17-seat Yun-12s were designed and made by the Harbin Aircraft Factory in 1980, and underwent some modifications in Hongkong earlier this year, bringing them up to the FAA standards. These passenger planes can also be used for geological surveys, marine



Some of China's latest model Yun-12s being assembled at an aircraft fitting shop.

prospecting and aerial photo expeditions.

The Yun-7 medium- and short-range planes, manufactured by the Xian Aircraft Factory, were also refitted in Hongkong recently. Now equipped with 30 advanced communications, navigation and electronic devices, the plane's reliability and comfort have been markedly improved. Test flights of the Yun-7s were also carried out at the end of November 1985.

China began manufacturing civil aircraft only recently. From 1981-1985, China's aviation industry turned out 135 Yun-7s, Yun-8 medium-range transporters, Yun-11 and Yun-12 multi-purpose aircraft, Zhi-9 helicopters and a number of ultra-light planes. These planes have performed well in industrial and agricultural production, oil prospecting and medium- and short-distance transportation. The Yun-7s have also been put into service on CAAC's regional flights.

While on display at an international fair in Singapore in July 1985, China's Yun-7, Yun-12 and Zhi-9 aircraft and ultra-light planes attracted the attention and interest of many overseas firms. Business people from 10 countries and regions including the United States, Britain and Hongkong initialled contracts for purchasing 100 of China's ultra-light planes.

During the Seventh Five-Year Plan period, China is expected to manufacture several hundred civil aircraft. Meanwhile, China's aircraft industry will develop four new state-of-the-art aircraft models, including 50-seat medium and short-range planes, 40-seat short-distance ones, special-purpose planes and helicopters.

International Railway Transport

With the development of China's foreign trade in recent years, the volume of its import and export freight on its international rails is also growing. According to this year's plan, China's rail network will handle 10.47 million tons of import and export goods, a 30.7 percent increase over 1984. The freight volume between China and the Soviet Union in 1984 increased 6.8 times from that of 1981, and the 1985 volume is expected to be 10 times more than that of 1981.

China's international railway system is one of the channels of pickup and delivery for China's foreign trade. Freight trains, goods and certificates of delivery handled by the Chinese railway departments and foreign trade units have been extended throughout the

countries participating in international railway transport. During the Seventh Five-Year Plan period, China's international rail freight volume is expected to increase markedly and to expand annually by an average of 10 percent to 15 percent. By 1990, that figure is expected to double.

News in Brief

- *Gaocheng*, China's first regular container ship to the Gulf area, arrived in Kuwait on November 26. Two 20,000-ton-class container ships, each with a 724-container capacity, have been put into service on this shipping line. One of the container ships will leave China's Xingang Harbour in Tianjin on the 24th of each month and arrive in Kuwait via Hongkong, Singapore and Karachi. The opening of the shipping line is intended to promote trade between China and the Gulf countries.

- A dumpling restaurant, the Yushan Dumpling Shop, set up recently in Los Angeles in the United States, will sell dumplings with traditional Chinese flavour, as well as imperial-style dishes.

With an investment of US\$230,000, the dumpling shop is a joint venture funded by Shijiazhuang, in China's Hebei Province, and Li Zhao-qi, general manager of the Chinese Cooking Co. of the United States. The Chinese side provided techniques, labour and some funds, and the US side offered the site, funds and other services.

- Bidding is under way for the supply and installation of imported technologies and equipment for the Jingxing County thermal power plant, Hebei Province.

The power plant is one of the state's key projects, and its total installed capacity is 2.4 million kw. The project is expected to start in April 1986 and will be completed in August 1988.

Recreating Strong's Stay in Yanan

Anna Louise Strong in Yanan, a television drama, was shown last November to mark the 100th birthday of Strong, an American journalist and an intimate friend of the Chinese people.

The play tells of Strong's 1946 stay in the town of Yanan, the base for the Chinese revolutionary forces, at a time when the third civil war broke out and the Chinese revolution was at an important juncture.

"Never have I felt so close to the human power that builds the world as in that isolated beleaguered Yanan," Strong wrote when she recalled her days in Yanan.

The drama, which begins with Strong, then 61, stepping off a plane at the Yanan airstrip and saying in Chinese to two young soldiers who came to welcome her, "I'm not a distinguished old woman. My name is Anna Louise Strong," recreates the feeling of respect the Chinese revolutionaries and Anna Louise Strong had for one another.

On the day of her arrival, Strong asked to interview Mao Zedong and other Party leaders, but was turned away by a young guard. The following day, however, she was told Mao would have an interview with her. During that interview, Mao uttered his famous and oft-repeated remark, "All reactionaries are paper tigers."

The programme also recounts some of the lighter moments during Strong's stay in Yanan, one of which was a celebration marking the 60th birthday of People's Army Commander-in-Chief Zhu De. At this war-time party Strong

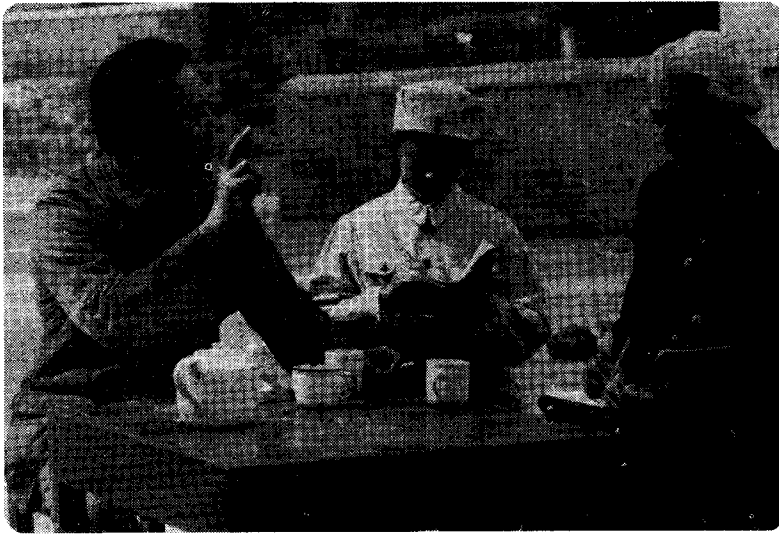
is shown having a happy evening with Party leaders Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Zhu De, as well as with the soldiers and local people.

In Yanan Strong also enjoyed traditional local song and dance performances. At a dance held just before the Communist Party decided to withdraw from Yanan when the civil war was intensifying, Strong listened as Zhou Enlai

recited Shelley's line "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" and, dressed in a Chinese-style coat, waltzed with Zhou Enlai and Zhu De. During this party, Mao is shown beating a drum and sometimes joining the crowd on the dance floor. The combination of frivolity and serious endeavour conferred on her the spirit and confidence of the revolutionary fighters.

American journalist Anna Louise Strong with Zhu De and his wife, Kang Keqing, in Yanan.





Two scenes from the TV programme "Anna Louise Strong in Yanan."

After her return, Strong wrote a book *Dawn out of China*, about her stay in Yanan and her experiences with the Eighth Route Army. This book, together with American journalist Edgar Snow's *Red Star Over China*, introduced the world to the realities of the revolutionary base areas in northwest China.

In 1958 Strong made her sixth visit to China, where she stayed until her death in 1970. During her lifetime Strong wrote six books and a number of articles on China's changes from 1925 to 1970.

The role of Anna Louise Strong

is played by Muba, 61, a British expert with the Xian Foreign Languages Institute. Although this is her first job as an actress, Muba succeeds in capturing Strong's deep feelings for China and the evolution of her understanding of the country and its people. In addition to a communication gap because of her limited Chinese, Muba met with more difficulties than expected. In one scene Chairman Mao is entertaining Strong in his Yanan living quarters. The dinner consists of home-grown vegetables and rice with dates, apricots and raisins, accompanied a small plate of cayenne

pepper. Mao asks Strong to taste the pepper. After doing so Muba was overcome with the heat and gasped for air, and did not recover until she doused her mouth with three glasses of cold water.

In reviewing her experience as Strong, Muba said, "This has been an extremely inspiring and moving experience. I feel that only a woman with such an indomitable spirit could have gone to China, lived in a cave in the empty loess hills, and sought and found the truths of China's situation at that time. If I have conveyed anything of that spirit of hers, I am more than satisfied with my part in the joint effort to commemorate Strong on the 100th anniversary of her birth."

A Late Artist's Show in Beijing

In deference to the late Chinese-Canadian artist, Stephen Lowe's last wishes, 100 of his water-colour paintings went on display in the China Art Gallery in Beijing this October.

Lowe, who died at 37 in Canada in 1975, was among the first Chinese to teach traditional Chinese painting at the Canadian Arts Academy. Lowe, born in Guangdong Province in south China, arrived in Canada in 1956 after having spent a number of years studying art in Hongkong. During his tenure in Canada, Lowe held 23 one-man shows in the United States, Great Britain and France.

Lowe, who specialized in painting landscapes and nature scenes, often created works depicting his native south China. Adhering to traditional Chinese painting techniques, Lowe dwelled on capturing the spirit of nature. He did, however, incorporate various Western elements into his works, which is most often characterized by elegant and sweeping strokes.

Basketball Strategy: Tall vs. Agile

Last month, during a discussion of possible strategies for developing China's strength on the basketball court, experts provided varying testimony on the merits of China's traditional tactic of trying to outdo the taller teams with speed and agility, rather than with height.

China's basketball players are generally shorter than those from Europe and America. However, they have won major world tournaments through their use of precision and mid-court shooting, fullcourt press and quick attack.

In 1959, China's men's team defeated youth teams from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. And that same year, with a similar approach, China's women's team tied Hungary twice and beat the Soviet Youth team once.

The speedy advancements in the level of skill found in contemporary basketball, however, have seen the slow and clumsy moves of tall and large players become passe. China's most staunch former advocates of winning through agility, Qian Chenhai and Yang Boyong, head coaches of China's national men's and national women's teams, say that of late this strategy has not been enough for dealing with the tall and quick-footed teams of today's basketball powerhouses. Because of their small size, it is hard for China's basketball players to penetrate the inner court. As a result, China's teams usually lose by about 30 points in each match with a powerful team and usually places between ninth and 12th in major world tournaments.

During last year's Asian Club Tournament in Malaysia, one of China's top teams lost a bitter bat-

tle with the Filipino team, which had beefed up its offense with two tall American players.

Today, China's national women's team has squeezed into the ranks of the world's top three teams. Its coach, Yang Boyong, attributes the success to the team's ability to use its strength and prowess, rather than its height, in battling the taller teams. Team member, Cheng Yuefang, who is 2.11 metres tall, and Zheng Haixia, who stands 2.05 metres, are two of the tallest female centres in the world and have been credited with enabling their smaller team to advance from centre court. Despite this, Yang said, the previous strategy is appropriate when there are no taller players to perform such a service.

Other experts contend, however, that if too much emphasis is put on a player's stature, China's confidence in its ability to win may be dampened. As support for their argument against stressing height, these experts point to the success of the Brazilian men's team in the Eighth World Basketball Tournament. During that tournament, the relatively short Brazilian team was able to place third overall by using a combination of fast breaks and rebounding.

Gao Eh, director of the Scientific Research Committee of the China Basketball Association, disagrees. Gao says China's teams should stress both height and agility and that they should implement programmes of rigorous control and handling techniques, while also scouting for taller players.

Gao also says that basketball rules in China need readjusting. Basketball authorities, he says, should not take scores as the sole

criterion for evaluating a coach. Such a practice, he says, encourages coaches to confine the players to the backboard for rebounding and long shots in an effort to boost scores, thereby depriving the rest of the team, and some with prowess in those fields, of such training.

Today, though China's teams are getting taller, their tactics appear also to be getting more predictable and dull. Many players are slow, awkward and less aggressive than they should be, making them inferior by today's tough world standards. Many tall Chinese basketball players are reluctant team players and work poorly with the other players. For many tall players who tend to rely on offensive skill, defence has become a glaring weakness.

Gao Eh said basketball scouts should select more taller players, but within the game itself, coaches should continue to rely on China's traditional style of training the players in a comprehensive programme that emphasizes offense as well as defence. Without such combined training, he said, the "tall vs. tall" strategy will never work.

The average height for most of China's junior teams surpasses that of the quarter final qualifiers at the national sports games. In terms of height alone, the younger players could have formed a first-rate basketball team — both the men and the women. Furthermore, some of those younger players are no longer the clumsy giants they once might have been, but can now both run and think fast. The compromise strategy of encouraging tall and agile players is the orientation China should pursue, and is the one strategy that uses best the characteristics China has to offer for its development on the court.

A Portrait of Miao Clothing

A Picture Album of Miao Clothing and Culture, published recently in both Chinese and English, by the Nationality Press, offers readers a look into the spectacle of embroidery and design that is the Miao people's traditional dress.

The Miao people, of which there are more than five million, live largely in China's southern provinces of Guizhou, Yunnan, Sichuan, Hunan, Hubei, Guangdong and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

They are known for the wealth and endurance of both their material and cultural development as well as costumes for their unique and festive outfits.

Miao dress, which has changed little over the centuries, can be divided into the categories of clothing for special occasions and everyday wear. Miao clothing also varies among age groups. Miao men usually wear a cropped jacket and trousers or a long robe that opens along the side of the shoulder. Miao women usually wear blouses, skirts, sashes, and stockings, and often adorn themselves further with flowers and silver jewelry.

Miao clothing can also, however, differ from region to region. According to their investigations into Miao clothing, the authors of the *Picture Album* discovered about 100 kinds of Miao dress and divided these into five groups: the western Hunan model, the eastern Guizhou model, the mid-south Guizhou model, the Sichuan-Guizhou-Yunnan model and the Hainan Island model. Each model has about 20 styles.

Because groups of Miao have lived under divergent social-economic conditions, some groups

have created high-quality outfits than others. With the development of China's national economy, however, the Miao have since been able to buy better grades of cotton, velvet and satin for their clothes.

Miao clothing is traditionally colourful, distinct, artistic and sewn with a great deal of precision. The Miao have for generations used embroidery, batik and silver in making their clothing. Through the years their productions have reached very high artistic levels. Miao girls, who begin embroidering and dyeing batiks when they are only 6 or 7 years old, become quite experienced and precise in their skills by the time they mature. On the clothing of the Miao who live near the water one finds fish and shrimp designs while those who live in the mountains embellish their garments with flower and bird patterns.

The clothing of the Miao people reflects the ideals and longings of the Miao, for every style of clothing and every piece of cloth has for the maker deep meaning. Headgear, for example, may be a tribute to the diligence and bravery of the wearer, or an expression of a bumper harvest. Clothing too, tell a story or serve as a symbol of love and happiness. When seeing the Miao clothing, one gets a feel for their past, their changes and their development. From the clothing one can also see that economically and culturally, the Miao people have intimate relations with other nationalities.

The photographs of the Miao clothing collected in this book are mainly festive dress and decorative articles, but provide readers with a most comprehensive cultural study of the Miao people. The pub-

lication of this book will also ensure the cultural legacy of the Miao people and benefit researchers in ethnological, archaeological and historical fields.

In order to purchase copies of *A Picture Album of Miao Clothing and Culture*, interested persons should write the China International Book Trading Corp. (Guoji Shudian), P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China.

— Zhou Shu

Author Delves Into Ancient Psychology

A book on ancient Chinese psychology, *Essentials of Psychology of Huangdi Neijing* by Nie Shimao, a 60-year-old lecturer at Chongqing Teachers' Training College, and which analyzes ancient Chinese approaches to psychology will be published soon by the Chongqing Branch of the Scientific and Technical Documents Publishing House.

Nie based his work on the known classic *Huangdi Neijing* (The Yellow Emperor's Classics of Internal Medicine), China's earliest work on medical theory, which was completed between the periods of the Warring States and Western Han Dynasty (5th century BC to 1st century AD), and authored by a number of Chinese physicians.

Nie Shimao came up with the material for his book by studying the materials on psychology offered in the *Huangdi Neijing* and comparing them with modern theories.

In the book, in addition to describing the ancient approach to psychological treatment, the author also gives a brief description on ways to retain good mental health as recommended by the doctors of past ages.

— Zhou Shu

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ART PAGE



Pine Cones.



Bamboo.



Plums.



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