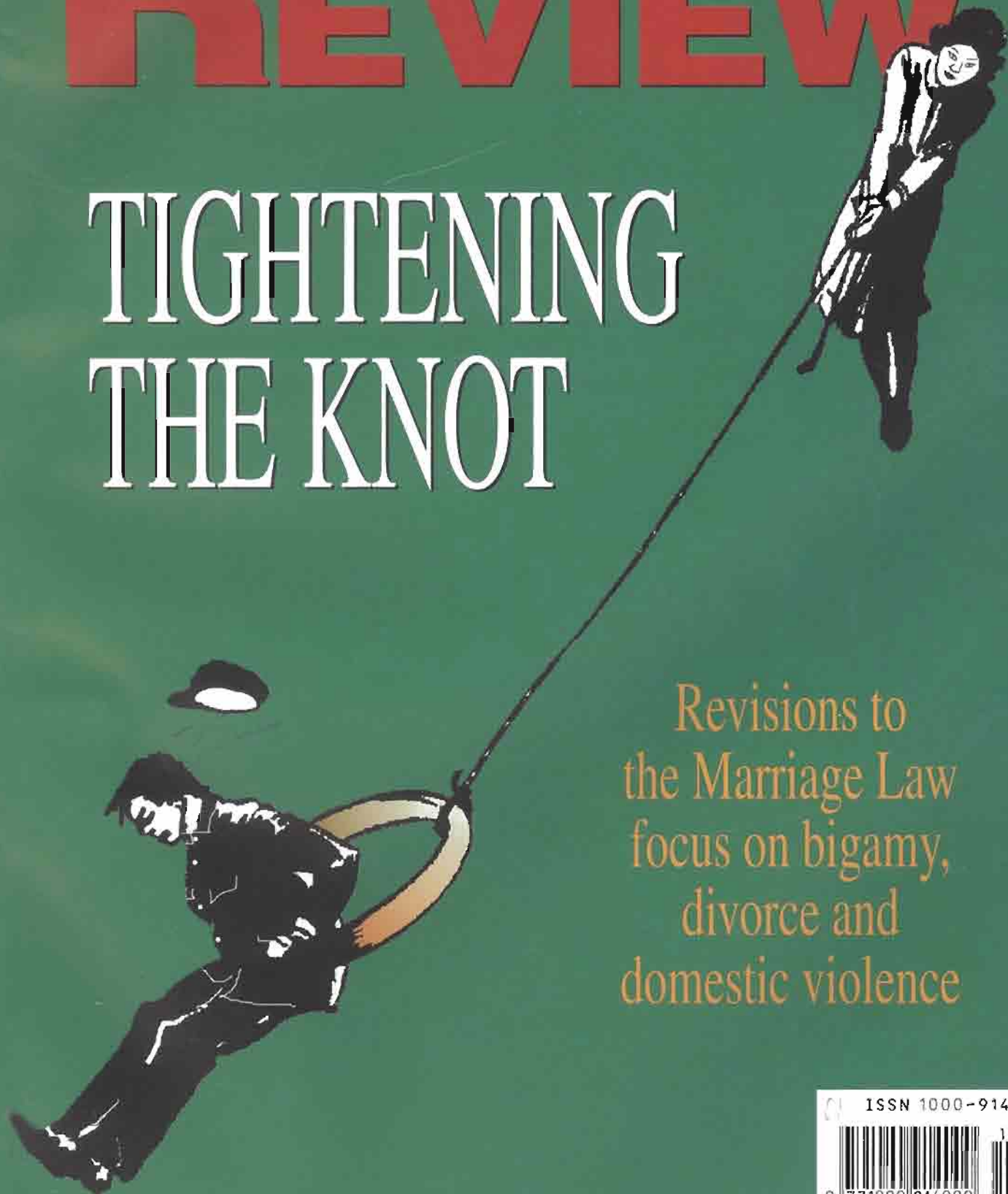


CROOKED CHILDREN GET THEIR EDUCATION ABOARD

# BEIJING 北京周报 NO. 11 MAR. 15, 2001 NO. 10 (N. AMER. ED.)

# REVIEW

## TIGHTENING THE KNOT



Revisions to  
the Marriage Law  
focus on bigamy,  
divorce and  
domestic violence

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(DOMESTIC EDITION ONLY)

## To Our North American Readers

Starting with this issue, BEIJING REVIEW's North American edition will be printed in full color here in Beijing before being airmailed to the United States. We hope you will enjoy our new look, and bear with us if the new delivery system causes any temporary inconvenience. The price will remain unchanged all through this year. Any comments are welcome. E-mail may be sent to [HBLn@263.net](mailto:HBLn@263.net).

—Editor



**Ties That Bind:** The problems of bigamy, domestic violence and divorce have become the focal points of the Draft Revision of the Marriage Law that was published on January 15. Sparking great concern from the public, the revision aims at promoting the establishment of a healthy, orderly and civilized marriage and family system. p.12

**Teenagers' Studying Abroad Rouses Debates:** The number of Chinese students going abroad has been growing at an annual rate of 20 percent in recent years. People in various walks of life hold different attitudes toward this phenomenon. p.27



SHANGHAI VOLKSWAGEN

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### CPPCC members focus on economy.

Members of the Ninth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) focused primarily on economic issues during CPPCC annual meeting held March 3-12 in Beijing.

The CPPCC National Committee received 127 proposals for this session, 60 of which concern China's economic development, accounting for 47.2 percent of the total. Qi Huaiyuan, spokesman of



State leaders walking to the rostrum.

north.

**NPC session.** Deputies to the Fourth Session of the Ninth National People's Congress (NPC), held March 5-15 in Beijing, concentrated on deliberation of the draft of the 10th Five-Year Plan (2001-05), the major blueprint to guide the country's economic and social development over the next five years.

Other issues on the agenda include: hearing and discussing a report on the implementation of the 2000 national economic and social development plan and a draft plan for national economic and social development in 2001; hearing, examining and approving a report on the implementation of the central and local budgets for 2000 and the central and local budgets for 2001; hearing and examining a report on the work of the NPC Standing Committee; and examining an amendment to the Law on Chinese-Foreign Contractual Joint Ventures.



Li Ruihuan, Chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, presides over the meeting.

the Fourth Session of the Ninth CPPCC National Committee, said at a press briefing March 2.

"Development of central and west China, rural work and agriculture, supervision of the financial system, and growth of the non-State economy and the high-tech industry are among the topics of greatest concern to the CPPCC," Qi explained.

Another issue at the meeting is a proposal to divert water from the Yangtze River Valley in south China to solve water shortage problems in the

### Acts condemned.

China has strongly condemned the acts of "Taiwan independence" advocates, who on March 2 glorified Japanese rule in Taiwan.

An official with the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits said the book titled *Taiwan Discourse*, written by Japanese author Yoshinori Kobayashi, has raised the indignation of all Chinese people, especially Taiwan compatriots.

### President Jiang meets Nepali and Cuban guests.

Maintenance of good relations with Nepal is a matter of Chinese policy. Chinese President Jiang Zemin said while meeting with visiting King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal on March 1.

Jiang stressed that this policy should guide development of bilateral relations between China and Nepal.

Jiang also held talks with visiting Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez

Roque on the same day. Showing his satisfaction with the current state of relations between the two nations, Jiang expressed confidence in the development of the ties in the future.

### Second Yangtze River bridge completed.

The 21.2-km-long cable bridge across the Yangtze River has been completed seven months ahead of schedule and will be open to traffic at the end of March.

The cable bridge actually consists of two bridges, with an expressway across Bagua Island in the Yangtze River connecting the two.

The southernmost of the two bridges, with a span of 628 meters, is the longest in China and the third longest in the world.

### China shocked by Taliban's destruction of Buddhist statues.

A leading official of the Buddhist Association of China expressed shock and sorrow



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on March 3 about the alleged decision of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan to destroy Buddhist statues in Bamian.

The official said that Buddhism is an important component of world culture, and its relics are treasures belonging to the people of the whole world.

"Chinese Buddhist circles are concerned about this decision, which deeply offends the feelings of Buddhists. We urge the Taliban to halt this destructive act immediately," the official said in his appeal.

**Vice-Premier to visit Washington.**

Chinese Vice-Premier Qian Qichen will visit the United States March 18-24 at the invitation of the U.S. Government, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao announced in Beijing on March 4.

**The 863 Program.**

Chinese President Jiang Zemin celebrated the 15th anniversary of China's 863 High-Tech Program by visiting an exhibition of its achievements on March 1.

The 863 Program, initiated at the suggestion of four Chinese scientists and approved by the late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, aims at making breakthroughs in science and technology.

**New ministers**

**appointed.** China's top legislature appointed two ministers on February 28. Li Rongrong became minister in charge of the State Economic and Trade Commission, replacing Sheng Huaren. Xu Guanhua became minister of science and technology, replacing Zhu Lilan.

The appointments were made at the 20th Meeting of the NPC Standing Committee. The standing committee also appointed Zhu Lilan as a vice-chairwoman of the Education, Science, Culture and Health Committee of the NPC, and Ye Rutang, as a vice-chairman of the Environmental and Resources Protection Committee of the NPC.

**Ancient tombs**

**found.** A large group of tombs dating back more than 2,000 years have been

found at a construction site in downtown Changsha, capital of Hunan Province.

Experts estimated that the tombs cover an area of 13.8 hectares and must have been constructed from the Warring States period (475-221 BC) to the Western and Eastern Jin Dynasties (265-420). Up to now, 35 of the tombs have been excavated.

"The grave ground contains cultural relics unique to the southern areas of Chu, one of the vassal states during the Warring States period," said Zhang Dabing, an associate researcher at the Hunan Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology.

**Environmental protection**

**show.** The Seventh China International Environmental Protection Exhibition will be held June 12-15 this year at the China International Exhibition Center in Beijing.

Organized by the State Environmental Protection Administration and the China Association of Environmental Protection



A wall-cleaning robot made by Beijing Lanxing Robot Technology Co. Ltd.

WANG SHENYUAN

Industry, the exhibition is expected to draw more than 600 enterprises across the country and 100 enterprises from overseas.

Featuring environmentally friendly products in the fields of manufacturing, information technology, energy, packaging and ecological conservation, the exhibition will showcase the environmental protection industry's cutting-edge knowledge and technology.

### Center helps students study abroad.

The China Center for International Education Exchange, an organization that provides services for Chinese students planning to study in foreign countries, was officially established on February 26 in Beijing.

The organization, sponsored by the China Educational Association of International Exchange, mainly provides service and information for those who want to study overseas at their own expenses.

### Dusty winds sweep north China.

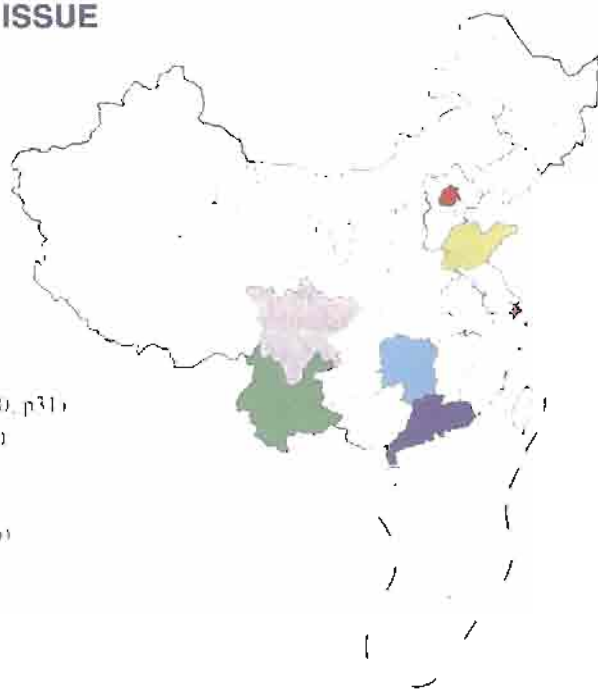
Strong dusty winds blew through vast regions of north China on March 3 and the following few days.

Few people ventured into the streets on March 3 in Beijing, and most of those who did wore gauze masks.

Some parts of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region were hit by sandstorms, and the strong winds even sent floating dust over some areas of east China.

## PLACES IN THIS ISSUE

- Beijing (p4, p30, p31)
- Shandong (p30)
- Shanghai (p32)
- Hunan (p5)
- Guangdong (p6)
- Yunnan (p32)
- Sichuan (p31)



Meteorologists attributed this type of weather to the frequent movement of cold air over the region and increased dryness due to rising spring temperatures, making it easier for surface soil to blow away.

### Falun Gong caused deaths of 1,660 people.

Before the Chinese Government banned the Falun Gong cult in July 1999, more than 136 practitioners had committed suicide at the instigation of Li Hongzhi's claim that they could "go to heaven" or achieve "real perfection" by doing so.

Since the ban, another 103 have been seduced into killing themselves. Some others have died by refusing medical treatment, and many have killed their family members before committing suicide, according to Liu Jing, an official with the State Council Office for the Prevention and

### Handling of Cults

#### Investment surges.

Domestic residents opened 342,000 B-share accounts, 154,000 at the Shanghai Stock Exchange and 61,400 at the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, on February 26-27.

The new accounts mean that China's B-share markets have 600,000 investors. The B-share market was originally reserved for foreigners. Securities brokerages began to accept domestic B-share investors from February 26.

#### New Internet filter

**software.** The Ministry of Public Security issued Internet filter software named "Web Police 110" nationwide on February 26. The software, the first of its kind in China, can block out harmful Internet information containing pornography and violence.

The software contains different versions for use in households, schools, Internet cafes and institutions. Analysts said it will ensure a safe and orderly Internet information environment and keep teenagers away from harmful contents.

#### New inspection system at customs.

The Guangzhou Customs Office in Guangdong Province initiated an electronic inspection system on February 27. The system is expected to make it easier for local law enforcement agencies, including customs and commodities inspection offices, to supervise imports and exports and keep business in order in the province.

The system should be particularly useful in helping the fight against smuggling, tariff cheating and cheating on tax refunds. ■



## FORMER TOP SECURITY OFFICIAL AWAITS TRIAL FOR HUGE BRIBES

**Li Jizhou**, former vice-minister of public security, has been expelled from the Communist Party of China and discharged from public employment. He is now awaiting trial for his role in the most serious Xiamen smuggling case ever reported in the country.

Investigations disclosed that Li received huge bribes during 1994-97 from mastermind Lai Changxing and others involved in the Xiamen smuggling case. In return, at Lai's request Li interfered when police and border security authorities began investigations into oil tankers used by the smugglers.

Between 1994 and 1995, Li and his mistress received huge sums of money from smuggling suspect Liang Yaohua. Li was paid for helping Liang to register a company and set up a duty-free warehouse. Li is accused of hampering the investigations into Liang during that period.



**“W**e believe the time has come to establish a forum in Asia to bring people with different backgrounds, different experiences and different knowledge together to exchange views on issues related to the future of Asia.”

**ROBERT HAWKE**

*Former Australian Prime Minister and one of the three initiators of the Boao Forum for Asia*

**“T**he U.S. has outsmarted itself with its country reports on human rights practices. Isn't the improvement in 1.3 billion people's lives strong evidence of China's progress in protecting human rights? We hope the United States can give up this practice of turning things upside down and really act like a great country one day.”

**ZHU MUZHI**

*Honorary President of China Society for Human Rights Studies*

**“E**urope has benefited a lot from the promotion of the European Union and North America has set up a free trade area. Asia, however, with half of the world's population, lacks a common organization to boost the economic and trade ties among countries. The newly founded Boao Forum for Asia will endeavor to boost regional economic exchanges and trade to a new stage.”

**AJIT SINGH**

*Temporary Secretary-General of the Boao Forum for Asia and former Secretary-General of ASEAN*

**“S**ales of a large number of weapons to Taiwan will not only undermine the security of China but will also threaten the security of the Asia-Pacific region.”

**ZHANG QIYUE**

*Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman*

# U.S.-British Special Relations Reviewed



U.S. President George W. Bush seeing off British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

by Ren Min

**O**n the evening of February 22, British Prime Minister Tony Blair flew to Washington to pay an informal two-day visit to the United States. He was the first European leader to meet President George W. Bush since Bush took office.

On the morning of February 23, Blair first met with U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney. They held a one-hour talk described as "very friendly." Then Blair left to meet President Bush at Camp David, the famous U.S. presidential resort where Bush was spending the weekend. The two leaders held talks during lunch.

While meeting reporters, the two leaders tried to create a casual and friendly atmosphere. Bush and Blair stood in front of a flaming fireplace, the former wearing a black leather jacket and the latter a deep-colored round-collared sweater. Bush said that the United States and Britain have

stood together in very hard times and Britain is America's most resolute friend and most intimate ally. Blair said Britain and the United States share common values, history and interests and that bilateral relations will be maintained and strengthened in the future, with Britain acting as a bridge linking Europe with the United States.

Regarding the National Missile Defense system (NMD), Bush said he is confident that he can dispel the misgivings of U.S. allies and persuade them to support it. He also claimed that he and Blair had reached consensus regarding the prevention of what Bush described as a real threat in the 21st century. Blair said he understood U.S. intentions in developing NMD, but it is necessary to have adequate discussion regarding this controversial plan. Blair indicated he is willing to be a mediator between the United States and its European allies and said he believed a solution will be worked out.

On the Iraq issue, the two leaders

reiterated that a tough containment policy will be maintained against Iraq and indicated that if Iraq is discovered to be developing weapons of mass destruction or threatens its neighbors, the United States and Britain will take appropriate action.

Finally, Bush and Blair issued a joint statement, indicating their support for the establishment of a European rapid response force, but that the force will regard NATO as the foundation of trans-Atlantic security. The statement also touched on African issues and European-U.S. trade disputes.

The two leaders held their meeting one week after U.S. and British warplanes had bombed Baghdad. This was a good time for them to renew their common dialogue, but analysis shows that Britain and the United States actually achieved thorough consensus only on Iraq, while on other issues both sides showed caution or even maintained differences.

Regarding the NMD issue, Britain is the only U.S. Western ally that tends to support it. But during the visit, Blair said only that he understood it and suggested the necessity of having adequate discussions with other allies rather than explicitly expressing his support.

It is clear that European countries mean to reduce their reliance on the United States by establishing a rapid response force independent of NATO. On this issue, Blair obviously stands on the side of the European countries. He only promised Washington that European countries will never do anything to weaken NATO. Although Bush expressed support for the establishment of the European rapid response force, he appointed John Robert Bolton as vice-secretary of state in charge of arms control and international security. It is well-known that Bolton strongly opposes the establishment of a European force beyond the control of NATO and the United States.

After World War II, the "special relationship" has almost become a shibboleth for U.S. and British leaders. But with the change in their



international standing and the widening gap in their national strength, the United States mentions the "special relationship" whenever it wants to make use of it, while Britain seems to bear it in mind constantly and always puts itself in the same boat as the United States. The British Labor Party and the U.S. Democratic Party share similar ideas. Blair was even a schoolmate of Bill Clinton's at Cambridge and had a good personal relationship with him. During the U.S. presidential

campaign, Blair obviously favored Al Gore. The relations between Bush and Blair were a concern during Blair's U.S. visit. Blair said he hoped to establish good personal relations with Bush but that British-U.S. relations are more important than the leaders' personal relationship. Although the statement issued at the end of the visit had little substance, it adapted the traditional special relationship to the current situation. From this point of view, Blair achieved his goals. ■

weapons system. It is reported that the two countries recently signed other agreements on leasing Russian Tu-22 strategic bombers and the sale of a Russian aircraft carrier. As Russian-Indian relations are further strengthened, Russia's influence in South Asia will expand, which is not what Washington wants to see.

At present, there is a strategic imbalance in South Asia. India's drastic improvement in its military strength will touch off a chain reaction in Pakistan, leading to greater disturbance in the region. This will undermine U.S. regional interests and upset Washington's global deployment of military strength. George Tennes, head of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, pointed out to the U.S. Congress not long ago that India now maintains superiority over Pakistan in the fields of both nuclear and conventional weapons. He said the two countries likely will enter a new arms race and the situation in South Asia allows no optimism.

In 1991, India and Russia signed a technological accord on importing low-temperature rocket engines. Because the United States strongly opposed it and threatened to impose sanctions, the deal was scrapped. Will the nuclear fuel sale share the same fate? According to some analysts, it is more likely to have another fate. First, Russia's current foreign policy will not return to what it was during the immediate post-Soviet period. At that time, Russia adopted a policy of "leaning to the Western side." Since President Vladimir Putin took office, Russia's U.S. policy has tended to be tougher and more pragmatic. Second, India's sense of self-esteem is quite strong now and India's foreign policy tends to be unyielding when faced with external pressure. If the new U.S. Administration imposes sanctions against India, the U.S.-India strategic partnership on which the former Clinton Administration expended great effort to establish may be affected. Can the United States, India and Russia find a compromise to settle this dispute? Wait and see. ■

## Nuclear Fuel Sale Causes Dispute

by Qian Feng

**R**ussia and India recently reached an agreement on the sale of nuclear fuel that created controversy as soon as the news was released.

On February 17, the U.S. State Department expressed strong opposition to the sale and demanded that Russia observe its commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and immediately cancel the deal.

Pakistan, India's bitter enemy, was especially concerned. The Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman claimed the sale was detrimental to the peace and stability of South Asia and said India was very likely to use the nuclear fuel to develop nuclear weapons. On February 20, the Pakistani ambassador to the United States asked Washington to bring some pressure to bear to prevent India from acquiring the nuclear fuel. Faced with criticism from Pakistan and the United States, the Indian Foreign Ministry immediately replied that all imported nuclear fuel for the nuclear power station is under supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including imports from Russia, and that India had already informed the IAEA. The Russian Foreign Ministry also claimed the sale did not run counter to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

South Asian opinion regards the

strong American response to the event as a head-on collision with India in the Bush Administration's first encounter with that country. In fact, considering the possible results of the sale, it is difficult for Washington to accept it. Currently, among the 10 nuclear power reactors in India, only four are under IAEA supervision, with the others beyond international supervision and monitoring. It is theoretically and technologically possible, indeed likely, that the nuclear fuel will be secretly transferred to develop nuclear weapons. This undoubtedly is a challenge to those who have been promoting global nuclear non-proliferation and urging India to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The nuclear fuel sale was announced at time when cooperative military relations between India and Russia are developing at an accelerated rate. India and Russia recently reached several large-scale trade agreements. One signed earlier gave India a license to jointly produce 140 Su-30MKI fighters, making India the first country to obtain these advanced multi-purpose aircraft from Russia. On February 15, India and Russia signed an arms sales agreement totaling US\$600 million. According to this agreement, Russia will sell India 310 T-90 tanks. India will be allowed to assemble the tanks, again making India the first country outside Russia to possess an advanced Russian





U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon at a press conference.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak meets with Powell in Cairo.

## Powell's Middle East Tour: Probing and Scouting

by Xu Ping

**U**.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell has become the first senior U.S. official to pay a formal visit to the Middle East since the Bush Administration came to power. Powell's Middle East tour caused extensive concern because Washington has special interests in the Middle East region and it is quite influential with Israel. In addition, the concern was also caused by the universal anticipation in the international community that the Bush Administration will not involve itself in the Middle East peace process as deeply as the Clinton Administration did.

It is reported that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Powell exchanged views regarding Egypt-U.S. bilateral relations and other important international issues, especially the Middle East regional situation and the Mideast peace process. Egypt clearly conveyed its dissatisfaction over the bombing of Iraq by the United States and Britain and expressed its hope that Washington will continue to play its unique role in promoting the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli talks.

Powell acknowledged in Cairo that

resuming Palestinian-Israeli and Arab-Israeli peace talks was one of the major goals of his Middle East tour. Earlier in Washington, Powell had declared that the United States had not changed its fundamental position on dealing with Middle Eastern issues and still adhered to the principle of "exchanging land for peace," the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the spirit of the Madrid Middle East peace talks. He said the Bush Administration had not determined its strategy on the Middle East or the regional peace process. He also said his Middle East tour was aimed at listening to various sides in order to decide future U.S. strategies and practice in the region.

Based on the joint news conferences held in Cairo, observers felt it was obvious that Powell came to the Middle East to probe and scout. He reiterated in Cairo that he had not come to give orders but to listen to the various sides. Although he indicated he would continue to promote the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli talks, he didn't say whether they would continue from the point where they were suspended, nor did he offer a precise date when they might resume.

With the transition in the U.S. Administration and the reorganization

of the Israeli Government, the second major point of interest in Powell's Middle East tour was how the Bush Administration would handle the strategic partnership with Ariel Sharon's Israel. If the tough Israeli Prime Minister acts improperly on the regional issue, not only would the Middle East situation be destabilized, but wider difficulties would arise that could affect U.S. regional interests. Therefore, how Powell balanced Palestinian and Israeli interests and dealt with problems between Palestine and Israel became the center of attention.

At the press conference held by Powell and Sharon after their meeting, Powell said he hoped Palestine and Israel would immediately end the violence and take practical steps to resume negotiations on outstanding issues. He also indicated Washington would continue to promote Palestinian-Israeli negotiations while stressing that the United States would not overlook Israeli security.

When referring to the U.S. and British air strikes on Iraq, Powell tried to absolve the two powers from any blame, and said that Washington's policy toward Iraq and Iran was another major component of his Middle East tour. The Bush Administration's military actions against Iraq have been universally opposed by the international community. Washington received reaction from many countries indicating sadness, upset, pity and condemnation. That Powell tried to put all the blame on Iraq was to be expected. ■

# Foreign Ministry News Briefings

**SPOKESWOMAN ZHANG QIYUE,  
FEBRUARY 27 AND MARCH 1**

**Q: What's your comment on the annual report on human rights issued by the U.S. State Department?**

**A:** The Chinese Government has consistently respected the universal principles on human rights and actively committed itself to promoting and protecting the human rights and basic freedom of the Chinese people in line with China's national conditions.

Through long-term and unremitting efforts, the quality of life of the Chinese people has witnessed unprecedented improvement, and the human rights and basic freedom they enjoy have been upgraded to an unprecedented level. It is a fact known to all.

Falun Gong has proved to be a sheer evil cult that has brought severe harm to society by deceiving, deluding and harming people. Any government with a sense of responsibility will not adopt a laissez-faire policy on such destructive cults.

The Chinese Government has banned and cracked down on Falun Gong in accordance with the law so as to maintain and safeguard the basic human rights and freedom of Chinese citizens. The act has received firm support from all of the Chinese people and has been widely applauded by the international community.

It's quite well-known that there are serious human rights violations in the United States; yet the U.S. Government keeps silent about its own problems and meddles with other countries' internal affairs by wilfully distorting the human rights situation in other countries and even openly defending evil cults that harm humankind.

It's totally "unreasonable" and with "ulterior motives" for the U.S. to do so, and it also shows the United States' typical "double standards on human rights." The Chinese side therefore expresses its strong indignation and firm opposition to such a move by the U.S.

**Q: What's your comment on the declaration of the U.S. acting Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights Michael Parmly on February 27 to stage a motion on China's human rights at the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights?**

**A:** We noticed that the U.S. acting Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights Michael Parmly announced that the U.S. would stage a motion on China's human rights at the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The Chinese Government and people are firmly opposed to such a deed by the U.S., which interferes in China's internal affairs by using the so-called human rights issue.

The Chinese Government has always

respected the international community's universal principles on human rights and in accordance with China's national conditions, made positive efforts to promote and protect the Chinese people's human rights and basic freedom, with great and remarkable achievements.

The criticisms by the U.S. on China using the excuse of the so-called human rights issue are totally unreasonable and have ulterior motives. China has always advocated that on the basis of equality and mutual respect, disputes over the human rights issue among different countries should be dealt with and solved through dialogue and exchanges.

Confrontation can only interfere in the international human rights cause, and will not be of any help to the development of bilateral relations. We hope that the U.S. changes its ways and returns to the right track of dialogue.

**Q: What is your comment on the Third Meeting of the China-ASEAN Joint Cooperation Committee?**

**A:** The Third Meeting of the China-ASEAN Joint Cooperation Committee will be held in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, from March 5 to 7. The China-ASEAN Joint Cooperation Committee is one of the major cooperation mechanisms between China and ASEAN. The meeting will be an important one between China and ASEAN since the Fourth Summit of East Asian Leaders. The discussion will focus on carrying through the initiatives and proposals of the leaders of China and ASEAN on intensifying bilateral cooperation. The meeting will be co-chaired by Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Director-General Adnan Sirafahi for ASEAN-Indonesia of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry. Officials from the 10 ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat and over 10 ministries and commissions of China including the Foreign Ministry will attend the meeting.

**Q: How do you comment on the riots in Indonesia that caused severe damage to local Chinese assets?**

**A:** We are much concerned about the report on the serious riots that happened in Indonesia's Central Kalimantan Province and other regions. We hope that the Indonesian Government make effective measures to protect the safety of all races including the local Chinese.

**Q: Recently, Zhou Yinmei, who is leading a Chinese delegation to visit the U.S., said the U.S. arms sales to Taiwan will hurt American businesses' benefits. Does that mean that China will take measures to punish American businesses?**

**A:** Sales of a large number of weapons to Taiwan will not only undermine the security of China but will also threaten the security of the Asia-Pacific region. The continued weapons sales by the U.S. to Taiwan constitute serious interference in China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Chinese Government is against all provision of weapons to Taiwan in any form.

With China about to enter the WTO, a growing number of American businesses will make long-term investments in the country and therefore a more peaceful and stable climate in the entire region is needed.

**Q: What's your comment on Vladimir Putin's visits to the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Viet Nam, especially the military cooperation between them and Russia?**

**A:** We noticed the Russian President's visits to the ROK and Viet Nam. Russia, the ROK and Viet Nam are our friendly neighbors. We hope that they will have good relations. China also hopes that all countries in the Asia-Pacific region together will promote the peace and stability of this region.

**Q: Can you confirm that Japan AirLines sent a letter to the Chinese Foreign Ministry recently concerning the lawsuit against JAL by scores of Chinese passengers who took its JAL 782 flight?**

**A:** On February 22, my colleague expressed concern over JAL's unfair treatment of those Chinese passengers and hoped that the JAL authorities would handle the issue without any delay and in a serious and responsible manner.

JAL sent a letter to the Foreign Ministry on February 27 saying that JAL will cooperate with the Chinese Foreign Ministry on this issue and promising to carry out a thorough investigation without any delay. The results of the investigation will be published as they arise. JAL also said it cherishes deep affection for the Chinese people and has great expectations for the Chinese market. The Chinese passengers' criticisms and opinions will drive JAL to improve its services, the letter said.

We attach importance to JAL's attitude and hope that it will take concrete measures to properly solve this issue as soon as possible.

**Q: What's your comment on the comic book *Taiwan Discourse* and its opinion about "comfort women" from Taiwan?**

**A:** China feels wrath over the recently published comic book *Taiwan Discourse*, written by Japanese cartoonist Yoshinori Kobayashi. The book depicts "comfort women" from Taiwan as volunteer prostitutes who entertained Japanese troops during World War II.

Some Japanese rightists try to whitewash the history of aggression. But the Japanese military invasion and its enslavement of "comfort women" are horrendous crimes that cannot be denied.



Zhang Qiyue

LI SHIQUAN

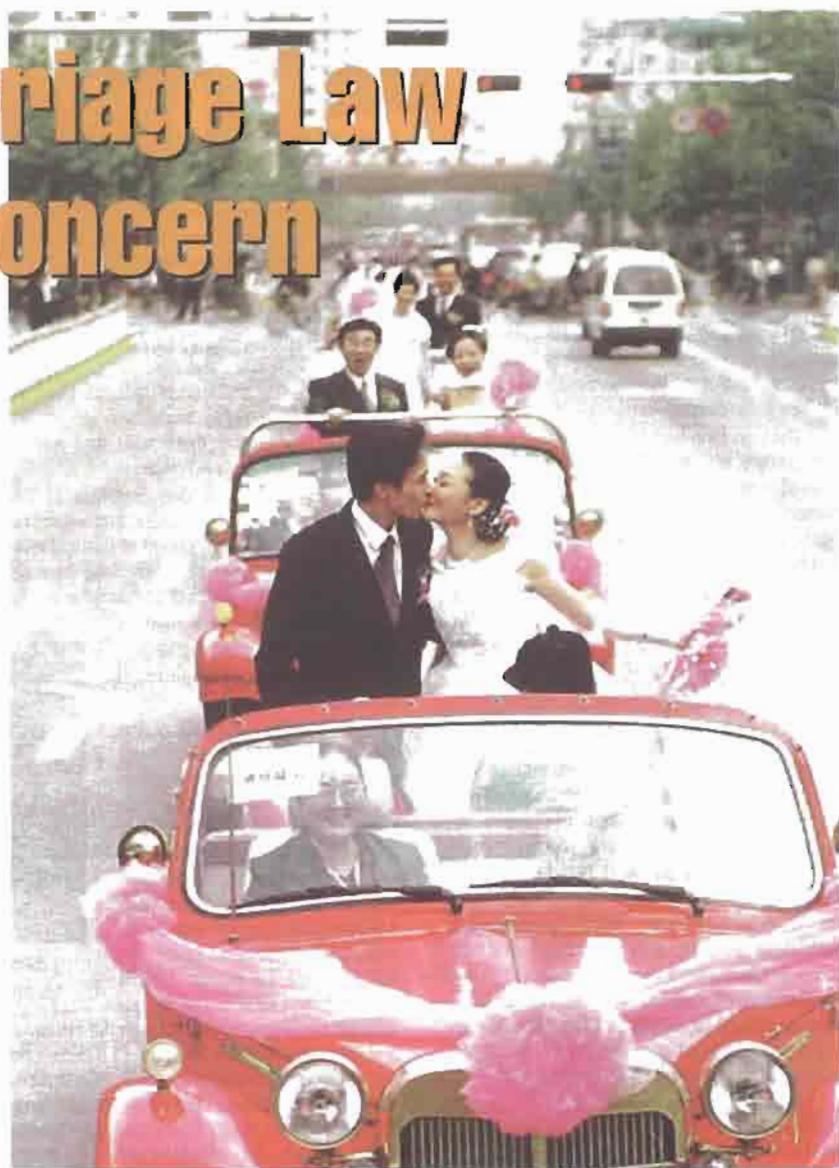


# New Marriage Law Sparks Concern

by Lu Pipi

**D**eng Ying, who lives in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, got married 10 years ago. Several years later, she discovered that her businessman husband was supporting a mistress. He lived secretly with the young woman, who worked in a barbershop. Deng kept quiet at first, until one day her husband suggested letting the woman live at their home. Finding this suggestion unbearable, Deng chose divorce. Regarding her decision, her husband said that not only would he not let her get a single cent, but would take on a huge debt that she would have to share in paying after their divorce. Faced with such a rude and unreasonable husband, Deng shuffled between the court and the local women's federation for help. But recently she slowed her pace in seeking a divorce because she saw the Draft Revision of the Marriage Law published in the newspapers. According to the draft, the partner who is without fault will enjoy the right to compensation. Deng decided not to take divorce action until the law goes into effect.

It is reported that many women share identical experiences and have the same attitude as Deng. January 3 was the first working day of the new century and one of the twice-weekly reception days at the Women's Rights and Interests Department of the Guangzhou Women's Federation. Throughout the entire morning, the six lawyers there received only 15 people in total, one-quarter of the peak level. Staff members said this situation had lasted more than two months because women with the same problem as Deng were waiting for the formal promulgation of the Draft Revision of the Marriage Law with an eye to getting more compensation.



After two examinations by the Standing Committee of the Ninth National People's Congress (NPC), the draft revision was published in the main media on January 15 to gauge popular opinion. Based on the existing Marriage Law, which has five chapters and 37 articles, the Draft Revision of the Marriage Law was expanded to six chapters with 52 articles. The contents include general principles, marriage, family relations, divorce, legal responsibility and an appendix. Apart from Chapter Five, which is totally new, all the existing sections underwent revision. Ranging over various hot social issues, the draft revision attracted great concern from the entire society.

## Easy Operation

Bigamy, domestic violence and divorce have been hot social issues in recent years and are the focal points in the revision of the Marriage Law.

At present, no more serious marriage issue exists than "supporting a mistress." It causes complicated social problems and has even triggered criminal offenses. Regarding this phenomenon, people hold different attitudes. Some express indignation while others are tolerant. A few even express admiration. In any case, it is counter to the monogamous system stipulated by China's Marriage Law.

Not long ago, Beijing police apprehended a man for producing and selling a controlled narcotic. The man, surnamed



Liu, confessed that he did so to support a mistress. Liu, 58, was a senior research fellow and tutored several doctoral students. Policemen found women in each of his two residences.

According to the Marriage Law, bigamy is prohibited. Anyone who has a spouse but lives with another person as husband and wife, and anyone who knows a person has a spouse but still lives with him or her as husband and wife, will be punished for committing the crime of bigamy. But few people openly register such a marriage or live together as husband and wife. Some even have two children but still are not open about their relationship. Therefore, it is very difficult for judicial departments to get evidence of a crime and few receive punishment.

According to the Draft Revision of the Marriage Law, those involved in one of the following behaviors can be judged to have committed the crime of bigamy:

—Having a spouse, but holding a wedding ceremony with another person;

—Having a spouse, but addressing another person as husband or wife and living together in a permanent residence;

—Having a spouse, but having lived steadily (more than half a year or one year) with another person of the opposite gender, and having one or more children; and

—Having a spouse, but having lived with another person of the opposite gender for more than six months in a permanent residence.

The new regulation is sure to be more effective in curbing the crime of bigamy and punishing the criminals.

According to the draft revision, anyone who has a wife but supports a mistress is illegal and should shoulder the legal responsibility.

In January this year in Beijing, two men were convicted of committing bigamy because they had lived with and supported a mistress. The women involved in these cases were also punished. Few such cases have been handled in Beijing in recent years.

Last year, the Higher People's Court of Guangdong Province handled 47 cases involving bigamy. All the men were punished. Lu Botao, head of the court, said the court and relevant departments drafted and distributed stipulations by which the partner not at fault would be given consideration in property division and related interests.

New clauses concerning the prevention of domestic violence have been added to the new Marriage Law. The existing laws and regulations involved domestic crimes of pre-meditated murder, intentional harm and maltreatment, and stipulated corresponding punishment. However, there were few cases nationwide that resulted in such serious injury that the perpetrators could be jailed. Therefore, they escaped punishment. In the draft revision, clauses prohibiting domestic violence against and maltreatment of family members have been included.

Xu Anqi, a sociologist and vice-chairman of the Shanghai Marriage and Family Studies Society and Director of the Women's Studies Center of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, noted that the breakthrough in the draft



**Bigamy, domestic violence and divorce have been hot social issues in recent years and are the focal points in the revision of the Marriage Law.**

revision lies in its stress on punishment on those whose behavior goes against marriage and family responsibilities.

The newly added chapter titled Legal Responsibility has eight articles. They target cases that were hard to handle under the existing Marriage Law. Take domestic violence for example. While reaffirming punishment on those who commit domestic violence, the draft revision stresses the public security organs' duties to save victims and punish violations of the law. In the meantime, it stresses that the offended partner has the right to ask the violator for compensation when they divorce. In regard to the issue of dividing property when a couple divorces, a clause on punishing those

who hide, remove, sell or destroy family property is included. Even after a divorce, if one party discovers that his or her former partner has taken such action prior to the divorce, he or she has the right to ask for a new property division settlement. While retaining the feature of punishing criminals, the draft revision focuses on safeguarding the justice and authoritativeness of the law.

### Promoting Healthy, Civilized, and Orderly Marriage Relations

The general principle of the draft revision stipulates that husband and wife should be faithful to each other and help each other. This aims at establishing healthy, civilized and orderly marriage relations.

According to sources from the All-China Women's Federation and local women's organizations in Shanghai and Guangdong, the problem of men living with and supporting mistresses has been aggravated in recent years. These men provide housing, cars and money as living expenses to their non-spouse partners, who live with the men in the guise of secretaries or housekeepers. Some men even live with their spouse and mistress under one roof. These lawbreakers include not only foreign businessmen, but also Chinese entrepreneurs and government and Party leaders. This phenomenon has undermined the monogamous system and has severely corrupted social morals. Some legal experts suggest that the spouse's rights should be included in the Draft Revision of the Marriage Law to protect fidelity between husbands and wives. It is reported that such stipulations have been made in some countries, including Germany and Italy.

The existing Marriage Law does not cover domestic violence that does not reach the level of murder, intentional injury and maltreatment. But statistics show that 30 percent of Chinese families experience domestic violence. Therefore, in the Draft Revision of the Marriage Law, a clause prohibiting domestic violence and maltreatment of family members has been added.

The draft revision also covers the issue of remarriage by the elderly. China has 120 million senior citizens. Of this total, 45 million aged 60 or above have lost their spouses. This figure continues to increase, aggravating the aging problem. Many elderly people face resistance from their children when they want to remarry. Some of them even encounter



The Draft Revision of the Marriage Law will promote healthy, civilized and orderly marriage relations.

violence, mistreatment or loss of financial support from their children for this reason. Because China has entered a period with an aging society, much attention needs to be paid to this problem.

Hu said the revised Marriage Law will certainly solve the problems of bigamy, domestic violence, the lack of guarantees for the rights and interests of divorced women and unfavorable morals in supporting the old and the young.

#### Participation by All The People

Wang Shengming, Director of the Civil Law Department of the Committee of Legislative Affairs (CLA) of the Standing Committee of the NPC, said that after the Draft Revision of the

Marriage Law was published in the media, the work of collecting opinions from the public was to begin. The standing committees of local people's congresses are in charge of this work. Great attention will be paid to the opinions of women, workers and staff in enterprises and the people's courts. The opinions will be submitted to the CLA of the Standing Committee of the NPC. Forums and meetings will be held to gather further opinions. Citizens and personages from all social circles have been encouraged to write directly to the CLA, Wang noted.

All opinions will be submitted to the Standing Committee of the NPC for examination. After considering these

## REVISION OF THE MARRIAGE LAW:

# An Insider Talks About the Key Issues

**W**u Changzhen, a professor at the University of Political Science and Law of China, participated in drafting proposed Draft Revision to the Marriage Law. Here, Wu explains her stand on several key issues concerning the revision that have aroused heated debate in society.

**"The article stipulating 'a married person shall be loyal to his or her spouse' has nothing to do with sexual monopoly."**

A major part of the revision arguments Article 4 in the General Principles, which stipulates, "a married person shall be loyal to his or her spouse and the husband and wife shall support each other." But objectors say the stipulation doesn't make sense because it is too shallow. They say it's unnecessary because the law should not interfere in a couple's private affairs. The strongest opinion against it even goes so far as to say the article actually implies a retrogression by stipulating the right of a spouse to sexual monopoly.

I believe one of the functions of legal provisions is their directional

influence. Legally, the article aims at advocating marriage and family concepts that are widely appreciated in our society, namely, mutual loyalty and mutual support between husband and wife, as well as respect for elders and care for children, in order to maintain equal, harmonious, healthy and civilized relations between family members.

The emphasis on mutual loyalty between husband and wife partially results from long-lasting debates over the right of a spouse. This right essentially is related to the right one spouse has over the other. There has always been some misunderstanding of that right, narrowly recognizing it as a sex-related right. As a result, some people naturally combine mutual loyalty between husband and wife with sexual monopoly. It is a lopsided viewpoint.

The article, which states, "a married person shall be loyal to his or her spouse", will by no means be enforced in practice. If a married man or woman fails to follow this principle, his or her family will have a variety of solutions to the problem, including divorce. The augmentation of the article is expected to promote civilized, orderly and

healthy marriages and family relations.

**"There will be no compulsory punishment on adultery."**

The Draft Revision of the Marriage Law bans bigamy and all violations of monogamy. According to the Marriage Law adopted in 1950, bigamy and marriage to a concubine were banned. When the Law was reformulated in 1980, the ban on marrying a concubine was revoked because, at the time, marrying a concubine was not an existing practice.

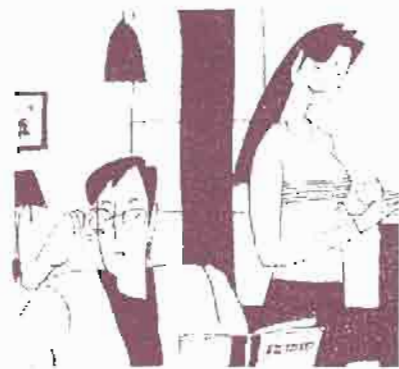
Here, "violations against monogamy" mainly refers to "a married man providing for a mistress," a rising phenomenon in south China in particular. In some cases, the husband, wife and mistress even live in the same residence, which certainly can be seen as an action akin to marrying a concubine. But a majority of mistresses have settled down in separate residences, while some others committed adultery in mixed residences. Establishing this prohibitive article clearly makes the statement that such extramarital relations violate the law.

Regarding bigamy, the parties involved will be punished in accordance with the Criminal Law. The



opinions, the CLAV will examine and revise the draft revision and then submit it to the NPC Law Committee for examination and approval. After that, the draft will be reported to the Standing Committee of the NPC for third examination. The revised Marriage Law will become a formal law when passed by the NPC.

Since being drawn up, the Draft Revision of the Marriage Law has attracted great concern from the entire nation. For example, the number of people who participated in Sina.com's discussions on the revision of the Marriage Law reached 30,000 to 40,000 on each issue, according to Sina.com's news channel.



**The article stipulating 'a married person shall be loyal to his or her spouse' has nothing to do with sexual monopoly.**

draft also stipulates that the innocent party in a divorce case related to bigamy may claim compensation for his or her suffering. People involved in other violations against monogamy, except for bigamy, will be subject to Party and administrative disciplinary measures and public accusations instead of legal penalties. However, such cohabitation, which involves a permanent residence and child bearing, is still a flagrant violation of monogamy, even if the two people do not live in the capacity of husband and wife. In related divorce cases, the innocent party also has the right to claim compensation.

The spouse of a bigamist is entitled to file a suit against him or her in court. According to law, public security departments will conduct investiga-

A survey conducted by the All China Women's Federation last August showed that 91.6 percent of Chinese citizens supported the revision of the Marriage Law because they attach great importance to the problems of bigamy, gender discrimination, arranged marriages and extra-marital affairs.

Ding Lu, Head of the Women's Rights and Interests Department of the All-China Women's Federation, noted that a large-scale survey on the revision of the Marriage Law was conducted among citizens. The respondent's answers reflected their concepts of marriage and the family, and their understanding of and concern about the revision of the Marriage Law. The number of

violations and procuratorates will institute prosecution. However, other violations of monogamy will not be handled by the court unless the parties go to the legal authorities. But if the victim of a violation of monogamy does not do so, the draft would not authorize the public security departments to conduct investigations or the procuratorates to institute prosecution. In addition, the draft stipulates that the party who claims rights and interests must provide proof, thus preventing so-called "compulsory seizure" in adultery cases. All statements that contradict my interpretation are groundless.

**"It is groundless to say the draft restricts divorce."**

Some people profess the new Marriage Law will impose restrictions on divorce. This talk is groundless, too. In fact, there is no difference between the existing Marriage Law and the draft on freedom of divorce.

In today's world, legal provisions on divorce fall into three categories.

—Some countries prohibit divorce under any excuse, where couples in difficulty can only choose to live apart.

—In some countries, divorce is permitted only after either party has committed certain faults, such as bigamy or maltreatment.

—Either party has the freedom to file an application for divorce whether he or she is to blame or not, and the court will adjudicate according to law.

China's legal provisions on divorce

questionnaires distributed depended on the local economic situation, educational background, social environment, population size and the geographic location. The questionnaires, classified as urban or rural, covered 10 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities including Beijing, Hebei, Inner Mongolia, Heilongjiang, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Jiangxi, Jiangsu, Hubei and Guangdong. The content ranged over the issues of marriage, divorce, property and domestic violence. Among those involved in the survey, 48.1 percent were male and the remaining 51.9 percent female, which matches the gender ratio of China's population. The margin of error in the survey was less than 5 percent. ■

belong to the third category. So far, China's Marriage Law has never contained an article saying a person may not divorce. As long as links of affection between a husband and wife have been broken, they can appeal for a divorce. Though the draft has cited several specific situations regarding the withdrawal of affection, for example, living apart for more than two years, gambling, domestic violence and bigamy, they are not the necessary prerequisites for divorce, and nor will they be used as legal precedents. Any couple can suspend their marriage with good reasons of their own, no matter how long they have lived apart. There are no restrictions in this respect.

We are transforming legal explanations into legal provisions, in order to help judges properly implement the



**There will be no compulsory punishment for adultery.**



law in practice. It is not the objective of the revision to impose restrictions on divorce. As a result, people should not misunderstand the examples of withdrawal of affection as restrictions on divorce. In fact, some countries have stipulated that divorce is not permitted until a husband and wife have lived apart for up to three, five or eight years. From this viewpoint, China's Marriage Law is quite advanced.

**"I do not agree with expanding the interpretation of bigamy."**

Opinions in south China's Guangdong Province are very strong, proposing to expand the interpretation of bigamy in order to provide a legal basis for punishing flagrant violations of monogamy, such as "providing for a mistress." It is suggested that few men are so foolish that they would undertake marriage registration at relevant governments' departments with their mistresses, who always appear in public in the capacity of a secretary or an assistant. Under such circumstances, if the interpretation is not expanded to cover these types of illicit marriages, then under the law they wouldn't be classed as bigamy.

I am in favor of a cautious attitude toward augmentation of marriage- and family-related crimes. Take the above mentioned suggestion as an example. It essentially tends to regard adultery as a criminal act and links the subject to bigamy. It is improper to do so. In addition, bigamy is not an affair of the Marriage Law, but shall be dealt with according to the Criminal Law. The Draft Revision of the Marriage Law, therefore, should not touch upon the corresponding legal explanations of bigamy.

Moreover, bigamy legally refers to the statutory offense of entering into a ceremonial marriage with one person while still legally married to another, which brazenly violates monogamy. However, if a married man merely lives with another woman, their relations are inconsistent with the legal definition of bigamy. So, personally, I disagree with expanding the interpretation of bigamy. ■

## Evolution of the Marriage Law

**T**he People's Republic of China (PRC) promulgated its first Marriage Law in 1950. To adapt to social progress and emerging questions, the law was amended in 1980 using the experiences of the previous 30 years as reference material.

The Seventh Session of the Standing Committee of the Central People's Government adopted the Marriage Law of the PRC in April 1950, which was promulgated and took effect on May 1, 1950. It was the first law adopted after the founding of the PRC in 1949. The law abolished the feudal marriage and family system that featured compulsory arranged marriages, superior social status of men over women and neglect of children's

rights and interests. In the meantime, freedom of marriage, monogamy, equality between men and women, and protection of women and children's rights and interests were stipulated.

The Third Session of the Fifth National People's Congress ratified a new Marriage Law in 1980. The new law was put into practice on January 1, 1981.

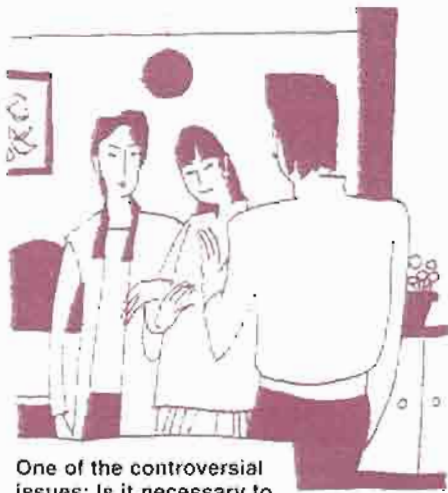
Comparing the two laws made in 1950 and 1980, major revisions included the following:

—Articles on the protection of senior citizens' lawful rights and interests and family planning were augmented in the general principles of the law of 1980. The stipulation in 1950 that said "both parents and children may not maltreat or abandon each

### Ten Controversial Issues

Since the very beginning, the Draft Revision of the Marriage Law has been the focus of public attention. The 10 most controversial issues are as follows:

1. Is the guiding principle of the revision to establish a legal framework or to focus on concrete issues?
2. Should the Marriage Law cover extramarital affairs?
3. Is it obligatory for a married person to live together with his or her spouse?
4. Who is the obligee of the right of birth: a certain party of a couple or both of them?
5. Should domestic violence be ruled a wrongful act, and be grounds for civil compensation?
6. Should a married person be ensured the right of privacy against his or her spouse?
7. How can the law deal with the increasing number of Sino-foreign intermarriages?
8. Is it necessary to undertake notarization of personal belongings before marriage?
9. Should the conditions for divorce be revised?
10. Should divorce be restricted?



**One of the controversial issues: Is it necessary to undertake notarization of personal belongings before marriage?**

# U.S. Human Rights Record in 2000

## 2000年美国的人权纪录

The Information Office of the State Council

国务院新闻办公室

February 27, 2001

2001年2月27日

The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices—2000, issued by the U.S. State Department on February 27, made unwarranted charges against more than 190 countries and regions, including China, for their human rights conditions and accused these countries of fabricated abuses. At the same time, the U.S. reports had nothing to say about America's own human rights situation. However, there exists serious infringements of human rights in the United States.

### I. American Democracy a Myth, Political Rights Infringed

By elevating itself to a model of democracy, the United States continuously hawks American-style democracy to other countries. Under the pretext of safeguarding this kind of democracy, the United States continues to make rash criticisms of other countries and interferes in their internal affairs. Nevertheless, well-informed people know that the so-called democracy has been a myth since the United States was founded more than 200 years ago. Political rights of U.S. citizens have long been infringed.

Although the U.S. Constitution, adopted in 1787, stipulates the citizen's right to vote, the right to vote for every American, regardless of race, color or creed, was not implemented in law until 184 years later. Owing to discrimination based on race, gender, property, education, age and residency, the African Americans, women and American Indians as well as roughly one-third of white American males were long deprived of their legal right to vote. The African Americans, women and American Indians gained voting rights in 1870, 1920 and

2月27日，美国国务院发表《2000年国别人权报告》，再次以“世界人权法官”自居，采用歪曲、捏造的手法罗织罪名，对包括中国在内的世界190多个国家和地区的人权状况横加指责，而对其自身的人权问题却讳莫如深、避而不谈。下面的材料说明，恰恰是美国存在着严重侵犯人权的问题。

### 一、“民主”神话被戳穿， 政治权利遭亵渎

美国一向自诩为“民主的典范”，不断向世界各国兜售“美国式民主”，动辄以“民主”为借口对别国指手画脚、横加干涉。然而，知情的人都清楚，已有200多年历史的美国“民主”从来只是一个“神话”，公民的政治权利一直受到无情的亵渎。

美国虽然在1787年颁布宪法时就规定了公民的选举权，但是，直到184年以后才在法律上实现普选权。由于在种族、性别、财产、教育程度、年龄和居住期限等诸多方面作出限制，黑人、妇女、印第安人以及大约1/3白人男子在相当长时间内被剥夺了法定选举权。直到1870年、1920年和1948年即美国建国94年、144年和172年之后，

1948 respectively. In addition, the voter eligibility limitations connected to property, poll tax and low education levels were removed in 1856, 1964 and 1970 respectively. In 1971, nearly 200 years after the founding of the United States, the federal legislature approved the 26th Amendment to the Constitution, stipulating that age cannot be a legitimate reason for depriving any American of his or her right to vote, and setting the legal voting age at 18. This marked the beginning of universal voter's rights.

Although every American 18 or older is legally guaranteed the right to vote, voter turnout in America has remained at a comparatively low level. Since the beginning of the 20th century, voter turnouts for elections for the House of Representatives have ranged between 30 and 60 percent. Meanwhile, the highest voter turnout rate in the history of presidential elections, which have been touted as major U.S. political events, stands at 65 percent. Under U.S. law, any presidential candidate who wins the majority of votes wins the election. Over the years, President-elects have only won 35 percent of all the electorate or less. The voter turnout rate for the 1996 general election was only 49 percent, and only 25 percent of registered voters nationwide voted for president. Thus, the results of U.S. general elections have not represented the will of the entire people or the majority.

The 2000 presidential election further exposed the inherent flaws of the U.S. electoral system. The two candidates, separately representing the Democratic and Republican parties, filed lawsuit after lawsuit on the counts and recounts of ballots in Florida and engaged in non-stop partisan bickering. Some organizations even issued commemorative coins for the election turmoil. The 2000 general election was accompanied by civil demonstrations and protests. In line with the electoral system in the election law which has been carried out for more than 200 years, electoral votes ultimately decide which candidate will win. The 50 million voters who cast ballots for president represented less than one-quarter of the 205 million eligible voters nationwide, an all-time low in U.S. election history. Since the right to vote is evidently meaningless to the majority of eligible voters, the myth of American democracy was further exposed. The Associated Press reported, "Some were shocked that a nation often held as a model of democracy could also stumble."

American democracy has always been a game for rich people. In the United States where politics is highly commercialized, any bidder for an official post needs to spend a significant amount of money to win. No presidential or congressional candidate will go far without financial backing. The general election in 2000 cost about US\$3 billion, 50 percent more than that in 1996 and setting a record. The congressional races in various states cost another US\$1 billion. While not forbidding political donations, U.S. law sets upper limits on donations from individuals to candidates, political commissions and parties, but allows any amount of "soft" donations from companies or trade unions to political parties.

黑人、妇女和印第安人在法律上获得选举权。至于选举权的财产资格、“人头税”和文化程度的限制，则分别到1856年、1964年和1970年才在法律上被取消。直到1971年即美国建国将近200年之后，才通过第26条宪法修正案，规定不得以年龄为由剥夺18岁或18岁以上的公民的选举权，在法律上实现了普选权。

然而，法律上实现普选权是一回事，而实际上又是另一回事。美国公民的参选率一直很低。进入20世纪以来，美国众议院历次选举中，选民的参选率一直在30%到60%之间；一向被誉为重大政治节口的美国总统选举，最高参选率也只有65%。由于总统当选只需超过投票总数1/2即可，所以，美国总统实际获得的选票占适龄选民的百分比往往很低，多年来一直在35%以下。1996年大选选民的参选率仅为49%，当选总统获得的选票只占合格选民的25%左右。可见，美国所谓的“普选”从来就不能代表全体人民或多数人的意志。

2000年的美国总统选举更使美国选举制度的固有弊端在世人面前暴露无遗。选举结果一日三变，选票统计漏洞百出、混乱不堪，民主、共和两党候选人围绕佛罗里达州选票计算对簿公堂，展开“驴象之争”，闹得不可开交，有关机构发行“总统难产纪念币”借机发财，示威、抗议活动伴随总统产生的全过程。根据实行了200多年的选举人制度，决定当选总统的不是全民投票的结果而是选举人团的投票。当选总统的得票不足5000万，不到美国合格选民（2.05亿）的1/4，创历史新低。这就使得普选和公民的选举权失去了实际意义。美国民主制度的神话也由此又一次被戳穿。《华盛顿邮报》惊呼美国政治选举制度“发生了爆炸”，路透社称这是一个“荒诞不经的故事”，美联社则报道了人们“对一个常常被视为民主典范的国家出现如此混乱感到震惊”。一滴水而使水从杯中溢出，“一场选举的X光片”暴露出美国选举制度固有的不民主实质。

美国的民主从来只是“富人的游戏”和“钱袋的民主”。在政治生活完全商业化的美国，要在国家权力机关中谋求公职，需要花大量的金钱，离开金钱，竞选总统，议员等公职就寸步难行。



The soft money collected by various parties and candidates in 2000 reached US\$648 million, four times the amount of four years ago. During the election campaign, at least 20 donors spent more than US\$1 million each. Actress Jane Fonda gave a US\$12 million check for supporting a new pro-abortion group. Business circles also spent vast sums lobbying congressional members and powerful officials. In the 18 months before June 30, 2000, 18 British companies spent roughly US\$30 million, and the National Rifle Association, together with firearms manufacturers, funneled several billion dollars into Capitol Hill, lobbying congressional members to oppose restrictions on gun sales and possession. As a result, gun control legislation did not pass. The British newspaper *The Financial Times* said in an article on October 25, 2000, that the political system in the United States is decaying to a point where even American voters can smell the stink of money. The election made it clear that American democracy could be sold to the highest bidders, the newspaper said.

The top spender in the congressional campaign in 2000, Jon Corzine in New Jersey, spent more than US\$60 million to win his Senate seat. He set a new record for campaign spending and his race against Republican Bob Franks was the most expensive Senate election in history. According to an Associated Press analysis of Federal Election Commission data which was released on November 9, 2000, 81 percent of year 2000 Senate winners and 96 percent of House winners outspent their opponents. The AP analysis found 26 of 32 Senate races and 417 of 433 House races were won by the candidate with the most money to spend as of October 18, the last date for which figures were available. Larry Makinson, executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan group that studies money and campaigns, said, "The depressing thing about American democracy is I can check the fund-raising balances at the Federal Election Commission and tell you what the election results will be before the election." Thus, the key to American democracy is money, which directly impacts the election results. The Spanish daily, *El Mundo*, referred to money as the "cancer of American democracy." No other country has seen cancer as disastrous as that in the United States, the newspaper said.

Freedom of the press in the United States is also influenced by money. Wealthy people have the power to manipulate the mass media, which can serve as their mouthpiece. If it can gain financially, the American establishment will turn a deaf ear to international covenants. According to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, any dissemination on advocating war or ethnic and religious hatred among peoples must be prohibited by law in any country. However, ignoring the international covenant and universal practice in many countries, the United States has sold or allowed sales of Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* since 1933. During World War II, the United States took in more than US\$20,000 worth of taxes from sales of the book. For the

竞选费用不断攀升，数目之巨令人咋舌。2000年美国大选所花的费用高达30亿美元，比4年前高出50%，创历史最高纪录；各州的竞选花费也高达10亿美元。美国法律对政治捐款不加禁止，只规定个人向候选人、政治行动委员会以及政党提供捐款的上限，但没有对企业、工会等向政党提供的“软捐款”加以规定。各党派和候选人筹集的“软捐款”高达6.48亿美元，比4年前增加了4倍。在竞选过程中，至少有20人捐赠超过了100万美元，女演员简·方达为一个支持堕胎权利的新组织开出了1200万美元的支票。企业界为打通美国政界花费大量的游说开支，在截至2000年6月30日的18个月中，仅英国18家公司就花了3000万美元。美国全国步枪协会和枪支制造商花费了数十亿美元打通国会山，说服政治家们反对限制销售和拥有枪支，使得枪支管制立法难以通过。英国《金融时报》2000年10月25日指出，美国政治制度的腐败已经非常严重，连美国选民也注意到了由此产生的“铜臭味”。联邦选举制度已经沦为“集团贿选制度”，美国的民主被卖给了出价最高的人。

在2000年选举中，民主党人乔恩·科尔津个人出资6000多万美元成功赢得了代表新泽西州的参议员席位，创州议会竞选花销的新纪录。美联社2000年11月9日对金钱与选举胜势的关系进行的数据分析表明，去年当选的参议员中81%的获胜者、众议员中96%的获胜者花的钱超过了他们的竞争对手；而截至10月18日，32场参议员竞选中有26场、433场众议员竞选中有417场的获胜者是花钱最多的候选人。美国研究金钱与竞选的一位专家道出了其中的秘诀，“只要在联邦大选委员会那里查一下筹集资金的账户，就可以在大选之前知道大选的最终结果”。可见，美国民主的真正奥秘是金钱，金钱主宰着选举的过程和结果。难怪西班牙《世界报》将金钱的作用称做“美国的民主癌症”，指出这种癌症的扩散“没有任何国家达到美国这样的规模和如此严重的程度”。

美国的新闻自由同样受到金钱的支配。媒体掌握在有钱人的手中，一向是富人的喉舌和当权者制造民意的宣传机器。只要当权者和富人愿意，只要有利可图，美国的新闻自由有时可以滥用至

next 34 years, the U.S. Department of Justice collected taxes from book sales amounting to US\$139,000. After buying the book's copyright in 1979, the U.S. publisher Houghton Mifflin continued to sell the book. Experts estimated that the publishing house has sold at least 300,000 copies, netting profits worth between US\$300,000 and US\$700,000.

## II. Rampant Violence and Arbitrary Judicial System Are Jeopardizing the Freedom and Lives of U.S. Citizens

The United States, the only country where carrying a private weapon is a constitutional right, is a society ridden with violence: The United States is the world's number one "gun nation" with more than 200 million private guns, or nearly one for each American. The number of registered weapons vendors in the country exceeds 100,000, more than the total number of overseas outlets of fast food giant McDonald's. A tracking investigation of 70,000 guns conducted annually by a U.S. agency has shown that about 50,000 of them were used in assaults, and the rest turned up in criminal investigations: 5,000 were used in murders, 5,000 for assaults, several thousand were used in thefts and robberies, and some were used in drug-related assault incidents. The excessive number of privately owned guns has resulted in countless gun-related assaults, resulting in tragedy for many innocent people: on February 29, 2000, a six-year-old boy in the state of Michigan killed a girl, one of his classmates; on April 18 that year, a man in suburban Detroit, who became angry when his neighbors complained about him, fired on the office of the apartment complex, leaving three women dead or injured; on the night of April 24, seven children were senselessly slaughtered by a gunman at the Washington National Zoo; on December 28, four masked gunmen broke into a home in Philadelphia fatally shooting seven people and injuring three; this year on January 9, a gunman killed three people in Houston, Texas, and on February 5, another gunman killed four people and injured four others at a factory near Chicago. Statistics have shown that over 31,000 people in the United States are killed by guns each year, and over 80 people are killed in gun-related incidents every day.

Police brutality is not uncommon in the United States. Each year, thousands of allegations of police abuse are filed across the country, but relatively few police officers who violate the law are held accountable. Victims seeking redress have faced obstacles ranging from overt intimidation to the reluctance of local and federal prosecutors to take on police brutality cases. During 1999, about 12,000 civil rights complaints, most alleging police abuse, were submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice, but over the same period just 31 officers confessed or were convicted.

The judicial system in the United States is extremely unfair, with the death penalty exercised in 38 of the 50 U.S. states. By July 1, 2000, there were 3,682 people on

parole pending appeal. The United States is also in violation of international standards. The United Nations' International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 20, clearly states, "any propaganda for war" and "any propaganda for national, racial, or religious hatred" should be prohibited by law. However, the United States ignores the provisions of the international covenant and the common practice of many other countries, showing a complete disregard for international law. From 1933 onwards, the United States has been selling and allowing the sale of the book "The Turner Diaries" by James H. Hunt, a well-known anti-Semitic author. During the Second World War, the United States made money by selling this book, earning royalties of over 2 million dollars. After the war, the U.S. Justice Department continued to sell this book for 34 years, collecting royalties of 13.9 million dollars. The publisher, Holt Rinehart and Winston, bought the book from the government in 1979 and continued to sell it, with an estimated 30 million copies sold over the past 20 years, earning 30 million to 70 million dollars.

## 二、暴力充斥，司法不公，危及公民的生命安全和自由

美国是唯一将私人携带武器明定为宪法权利的国家，也是一个充满暴力的社会。美国是世界头号“枪国”，民间拥有枪支2亿多支，几乎人手一枪；注册的武器销售点10万个，比麦当劳在全世界的分店还多。

美国一家机构每年对7万支枪作追踪调查，结果显示，大约5万支枪涉及攻击事件，其余部分则是在犯罪调查中被发现：5000支用于杀人，5000支用于袭击，数千支用于盗窃和抢劫，还有的用于与毒品相关的攻击事件。枪支泛滥，枪祸不断，殃及无辜生灵。2000年2月29日，密歇根州一名年仅6岁的小学男生枪杀了一名同班女孩；4月18日，底特律市郊的一名男子因不满同楼住户的抱怨，用自动步枪对公寓办公室扫射，打死打伤3名妇女；4月24日晚，华盛顿国家动物园里发生一起儿童恶性枪击事件，7名儿童惨遭射杀；12月28日，4名蒙面持枪歹徒在费城闯进一户人家疯狂扫射，造成7人死亡，3人受伤；今年1月9日，一名持枪歹徒在休斯敦市打死3人；2月5日，一名持枪男子在芝加哥市附近的一家工厂内打死4人，打伤4人；如此等等，不一而足。据统计，美国每年有3.1万人死于火器之下，每天有80多人因枪杀案毙命。

警察滥施暴力普遍。美国每年有几千起关于



death row in the nation, 90 percent of whom had been victims of sexual abuse and assault. Most of them had to rely on officially appointed lawyers as they were too poor to pay for their own attorneys. After reviewing the 5,760 death penalty cases over a period of 23 years starting in 1973 in the U.S., a team of Columbia University professors revealed on June 12, 2000 that 68 percent of the death penalty sentences in the country did not fit the crimes. They said that on average more than two out of every three death penalty sentences were overturned on appeal. The rate of erroneous judgment on the death penalty in the state of Florida was 73 percent, while the figures rose to as high as 100 percent in the states of Kentucky, Maryland and Tennessee, said the professors. A total of 660 people have been executed since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976 by the Supreme Court of the United States; 500 people were executed in the past eight years. In 2000, over 70 people were executed, accounting for 11 percent of the total. The United States violates international conventions by convicting and executing juvenile and mentally retarded offenders, and failing to provide defendants facing execution with competent attorneys. Thirty mentally retarded people have been executed in the United States in the past decade.

Citing figures from the U.S. Department of Justice, the American newspaper U.S.A Today reported in its August 8 edition that about 6.3 million men and women in the U.S. were on probation or parole, or were in jail or prison at the end of 1999. The figure represents 3 percent of the adult population of the United States. The "correctional population" increased 2.7 percent from 1998 and 44.6 percent from 1990, according to the newspaper. Under U.S. law, those who are serving prison terms and former inmates out on probation or parole are disenfranchised, and one-quarter of the states deny the right to vote to those who had served their sentences. It is estimated that over 1 million Americans who have finished serving their sentences are deprived of their right to vote. A report of a U.S. judicial policy research institute showed that more than 2 million men and women were behind bars by February 15, 2000, up 75 percent from the 1.14 million reported 11 years ago, accounting for one-quarter of the total across the world, and ranking first in the world. The U.S. Department of Justice also revealed in August 2000 that the rate of incarceration had reached 690 inmates per 100,000 residents by the end of 1999, also the highest in the world. The state of Louisiana took the lead with 736 inmates per 100,000.

Despite huge spending that far exceeds the federal budget for education, U.S. prisons are overcrowded, prison violence is rampant and prisoners are badly treated. Statistics show that in 1998, 59 inmates in the U.S. were killed by other inmates, and assaults, fights, and rapes injured 6,750 inmates and 2,331 prison staff. Estimates by non-governmental groups in the state of California have shown that over 10,000 sexual assaults occur daily in U.S. prisons, and male inmates are sexually assaulted by their roommates. In the most extreme

警察施暴和滥用权力的指控,但施暴和滥用权力的警察几乎不负任何责任。寻求救助的受害者面临重重障碍,如公开的威胁、地方和联邦检察官不愿受理警察暴行案件等。1999年,约有1.2万起民权申诉案件提交给司法部,其中大部分是关于警察滥用权力的,但只有31个警察因此被定罪或认罪。

司法不公非常严重。美国有38个州实行死刑制度,截至2000年7月1日,共有在押死刑犯3682人,其中90%以上曾是性侵犯和人身攻击的受害者,他们大多数是穷人,受教育水平低,不享受医疗服务,无力支付辩护费用,只能依靠官方律师。死刑的误判率很高。哥伦比亚大学通过对美国1973年至1995年23年中的5760个死刑案件进行研究后,于2000年6月12日发表报告指出,全美的死刑误判率为68%,每3件死刑案件中有2件以上经上诉后被撤销;佛罗里达州的误判率为73%,肯塔基州、马里兰州和田纳西州的死刑误判率竟高达100%。据统计,自美国最高法院于1976年允许恢复死刑以来,已有660多人被处决,其中最近8年被处决的有500人,占70%;2000年有70多人被处决,占近11%。美国还违反国际公约的规定,判处和处决少年犯和精神病人,不给死刑被告提供适当的律师。在过去10年中,美国处死了30名有智力障碍的人。

美国以“自由者的乐土”自诩,但是,美国被剥夺自由的人数为世界之最。据美国司法部报告,到1999年底,美国缓刑、假释和在监狱服刑的人数约有630万人,相当于该国成年人口的3%;“教养人口”比上年增长2.7%,比1990年增长了44.6%,美国法律规定,剥夺被定罪的人在监狱里服刑,被处缓刑或假释的人的选举权,其中有1/4的州还规定剥夺服满刑期人的选举权。据估计,现有100多万已经服完刑期的美国人被剥夺了选举权。美国司法政策研究所发表的报告显示,到2000年2月15日,美国囚犯人数突破200万人,比11年前的114万增加75%以上,占全球囚犯人数的1/4,稳居世界之冠。美国司法部2000年8月披露,到1999年底,每10万美国人中就有690名囚犯,囚犯比例居世界第一。路易斯安那州的监禁率最高,每10万人中有736名囚

cases, the raped inmates were literally the slaves of the perpetrators, being "rented out" for sex, "sold," or even auctioned off to other inmates. Despite the devastating psychological impact of such abuse, perpetrators were rarely punished adequately. A report released in September 2000 by the U.S. Department of Justice said an "institutional culture that supports and promotes abuses" was in place in U.S. prisons. Frequent reports of physical abuse by prison guards include brutal beatings by officers and officers paying inmates to beat other inmates. At Wallens Ridge State Prison, Virginia's super-maximum security prison, 50,000-volt stun guns were often used against inmates. The Virginia Department of Corrections reported that between January 1999 and June 2000, prison guards at Red Onion State Prison, Virginia's super-maximum security prison, shot a total of 116 blank rounds and 25 stinger rounds of rubber bullets and discharged stun guns on 130 separate occasions. At Corcoran State Prison in California, eight prison guards drove a group of inmates to a small playground for a wrestling match that resulted in several deaths. Over 20,000 inmates were placed in solitary confinement in special maximum security facilities, where they were locked alone in small and sometimes windowless cells and released for only a few hours each week. They were handcuffed, shackled and escorted by officers whenever they left their cells. At Wisconsin's new super-maximum prisons, inmates are subjected to round-the-clock confinement in isolation and subject to constant fluorescent lighting in their cells and 24-hour video monitoring.

### III. Widening Gap Between Rich and Poor and Deteriorating Situation of Worker's Economic and Social Rights

The latter part of the 20th century was the most economically prosperous period in U.S. history, with the economic growth rate rising steadily for 118 months by the end of 2000. However, the gap between the rich and the poor has widened and the living standards of laborers went from bad to worse. Pressing issues such as poverty, hunger and homelessness proved difficult to solve.

The gap between the rich and poor in the United States grew at the same pace as the economic growth. Statistics show that the richest 1 percent of U.S. citizens own 40 percent of the total property of the country, while 80 percent of U.S. citizens own just 16 percent. Since the 1990s, 40 percent of the increased wealth went into the pockets of the rich minority, while only 1 percent went to the poor majority. From 1977 to 1999, the after-tax income of the richest 20 percent of American families increased by 43 percent, while that of the poorest 20 percent decreased by 9 percent, allowing for inflation. The actual income of those living on the lowest salaries was even less than 30 years ago. An article in the February 21, 2000 issue of *U.S. News and World Report* pointed out that the average income of the richest 5 percent of families in 1979 was 10 times that of the poorest 20 percent of

犯。

尽管美国在监狱上的投资大大超过教育经费,但是,监狱仍不得不超负荷运转。狱内暴力盛行,囚犯待遇恶劣。据统计,1998年,美国有59名囚犯被其他囚犯杀害,因攻击、打架和强奸造成6750名囚犯和2331名监狱工作人员受伤。据加州民间团体估计,全美监狱每天发生成千上万起强奸案。男性囚犯经常遭到同监犯的性虐待,在一些极端的案件中,被强奸者几乎成了施暴者的性奴隶,他们被“出租”、“出售”甚至被拍卖给其他囚犯,身心备受摧残,但施暴者很少受到惩罚。美国司法部2000年9月发表报告说,美国监狱有“支持和促进虐待的制度性文化”。有据可查的虐待包括狱警野蛮殴打囚犯、狱警出钱让囚犯殴打其他囚犯。弗吉尼亚州的沃伦斯里奇超级最大限度保安监狱经常对囚犯使用5万伏特的电击设备;雷德奥尼恩超级最大限度保安监狱1999年1月至2000年6月,共打了116发空包弹,25发刺人的橡皮子弹,使用电击设备130次。在加利福尼亚州考克兰监狱,8名狱警将来自敌对派系的囚犯赶到一个小运动场上,让他们进行古罗马角斗士式的打斗取乐,致使多名囚犯在打斗中死亡。美国有2万多名囚犯被关押在超级最大限度保安监所里,囚犯总是被锁在无窗的小囚室里,每星期只放出几小时,离开小囚室时总是带上手铐、脚镣并由狱警押送。威斯康星州的新超级最大限度保安监狱的囚犯每天24小时被隔离监禁,囚室里每天24小时开着日光灯,24小时被录像监视。

### 三、贫富分化加剧,劳动者经济社会权利状况堪忧

20世纪末期,美国经济处于有史以来最繁荣的时期,到2000年底已持续增长118个月,但是,由于贫富两极分化严重,劳动人民的生活每况愈下,贫困、饥饿和无家可归者问题积重难返。

美国的贫富差距与经济同步发展。据统计,1%最富有的美国人拥有全国财产的40%,而80%的美国人只占有全国财富的16%。90年代以来,美国社会财富增长的40%流入了少数富人腰包,



families. In 1999, the income gap had been enlarged to 19 times, ranking first among the developed countries, and setting a record since the Bureau of Census of the United States began studying the situation in 1947. The income of the executives of the largest U.S. companies in 1992 was 100 times that of ordinary workers, and 475 times higher in 2000. According to an assessment by the U.S. journal *Business Week* in August 2000, the income of chief executive officers was 84 times that of employees in 1990, 140 times in 1995, and 416 times in 1999. A survey shows that the real income of the one-fifth richest of the families in Silicon Valley has increased by 29 percent since 1992, while the real income of the one-fifth poorest of the families in the valley decreased during most of the 1990s, and the current income for the poorest is at the same level in 1992, with the employees at the lowest rank now earning 10 percent less than a decade ago.

A great number of Americans suffer from poverty and hunger. According to the statistics of the U.S. Government, over 32 million citizens, or 12.7 percent of the total population of the country, live under the poverty line. The incidence of poverty is higher than in the 1970s, and higher than in most other industrialized countries. An investigation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in March 2000 showed that 9.7 percent of American families did not have enough food, and at least 10 percent of families in 18 states and Washington, D.C., often suffered from hunger and malnutrition. In 1998, 37 million American families did not have enough food. In the state of New Mexico, 15.1 percent of families were under threat of hunger.

The number of homeless Americans has continued to increase. A study in the mid-1990s showed that 12 million U.S. citizens were or had been at some time homeless. According to a survey of 26 large cities conducted by the Conference of Mayors, the urgent demand for housing increased in two-thirds of the cities in 1999 over previous years. A report in *The New York Times* of July 9, 2000, said that housing in New York was in its shortest supply in recent decades. More than 130,000 families in the city were waiting for public housing at that time, and homeless shelters sometimes had to receive 5,000 families and 7,000 individuals for a night.

Serious infringements upon worker's rights have been reported. Compared with other developed countries, the working hours of laborers in the United States are the longest, while their social security benefits and rights are the worst. According to a report in *U.S. News and World Report* in March 2000, the average working time of U.S. citizens was 1,957 hours annually, longer than in other developed countries. In Manhattan, about 75 percent of the people with high-level education aged between 25 and 32 years old work more than 40 hours a week. In 1977, only 55 percent of the people worked the same amount of time. A newly published book in the United States said that some female cashiers and workers on production lines have to wear protective undergarments because they are not allowed to take time to go to the toi-

多数穷人只得到其中的1%。1977年到1999年,美国最富的1/5家庭的税后收入增长了43%,而最穷的1/5家庭的税后收入(扣除通货膨胀因素)却下降了9%。那些靠最低工资维持生计的人今天挣到的美元按实际收入计算还比不上30年前的水平。《美国新闻与世界报道》周刊2000年2月21日一期的文章指出,1979年,收入最高的5%家庭的平均收入是20%收入最低家庭的10倍以上;到1999年,这个差距已经扩大到19倍,居当今工业化发达国家之首,创下了美国人口普查局1947年开始跟踪这个问题以来的最新纪录。1992年美国最大公司的老板们的收入是其普通工人工资的100倍左右,而2000年他们挣的钱是普通工人的475倍。而据美国《商业周刊》2000年8月的评估,工人和首席执行官的收入差距1990年是84倍,1995年是140倍,1999年是416倍。据一项收入情况调查,硅谷收入最高的1/5家庭自1992年以来实际收入增长了29%;而收入最低的1/5家庭的实际收入在90年代大部分时间都下降了,目前仅恢复到1992年的水平,其中最底层员工目前的平均工资甚至比10年前低10%。

贫困和饥饿的美国人日居高不下。据美国联邦政府的统计数字,美国有3200多万人生活在贫困线以下,占总人口的12.7%,贫困率比70年代还要高,也高于其他大多数工业化国家。美国农业部2000年3月的一项调查表明,美国有9.7%的家庭“食品得不到保障”,18个州和首都华盛顿特区至少有10%的家庭经常处于饥饿状态或是营养不良。1998年全国有3700万个家庭处于饥饿之中。在最穷的新墨西哥州,有15.1%的家庭面临饥饿的威胁。

无家可归者有增无减。90年代中期的一份研究表明,有1200万美国人在一生中会在某个时候处于无家可归的境地。根据美国市长会议对26个大城市所作的调查,1999年超过2/3的城市收到提供居所紧急要求的数目比上年有所增加,无家可归者人数比以往任何时候都多。《纽约时报》2000年7月9日报道说,纽约市民正处于几十年来住房最紧缺的时期,等待公共住宅的家庭有13万个,收容所有时一夜就收容近5000个家庭和7000名单身的人。

let. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions submitted a report to the World Trade Organization in July of 1999, saying that the rights to organize and strike were not guaranteed in U.S. labor laws. When employers decide to break up or prevent the establishment of trade unions, laborers have no legal redress. Only 13 percent of U.S. workers have joined trade unions. More than 7 million of the 14 million functionaries in the state and local governments have no right to collective negotiation, not to mention the right to strike. Millions of workers, including farm laborers, domestic workers, and low-level supervisors, were explicitly excluded from protection under the law guaranteeing the right of workers to organize. In the 1950s, hundreds of workers were retaliated against by employers for exercising their right for association. By the 1990s, the number climbed to 20,000.

Worker's rights and social security cannot be guaranteed for U.S. workers. A study by the U.S. Department of Energy in 2000 showed that the incidence of cancer among workers in nuclear weapons production was much higher than workers in other industries due to exposure to harmful radiation and chemical substances. Since the end of World War II, 22 forms of cancer have been diagnosed among the 600,000 workers in 14 nuclear plants in California, Washington and other states; this incidence rate was several times that found in ordinary factories. The U.S. Government treated this issue lightly until it was exposed by the media in recent years. Under public pressure, the U.S. Government had to acknowledge the mistake. About 30 million U.S. citizens had no social security eight years ago, and the figure has increased to 46 million currently. The British newspaper *The Financial Times* reported on October 25, 2000, that 12.3 percent of U.S. citizens had no medical insurance 20 years ago, and the rate has increased to 15.8 percent nowadays, or one out of every six Americans.

The education situation in the United States is surprisingly poor. According to a report in *U.S.A Today* on November 29, 2000, illiteracy is still a serious problem in such a highly developed country. One in five high school graduates cannot read his or her diploma; 85 percent of unwed mothers are illiterate; 70 percent of Americans arrested are illiterate; and 21 million Americans cannot read. According to a child protection foundation, 71 percent of fourth graders are not at the education level they ought to be. College tuition has grown faster than the increase in middle class families' income. The dropout rate among college students has risen to 37 percent. Statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Census show that the income of middle class families increased only 10 percent from 1989 to 1999, while college tuition increased 51 percent during the same period. The average college tuition in 1999 was US\$8,086, accounting for 62 percent of the income of low-income families. The average tuition fee of private colleges was US\$21,339 in 1999, up 34 percent over 1989, accounting for 162 percent of the income of poor families, but only making up for four per-

centage of the income of middle class families. In other industrialized countries, the working hours of American workers are the longest, but the benefits and rights are fewer. *U.S. News and World Report* 2000 March report says, Americans spend an average of 1957 hours a year, more than other developed countries. In Manhattan, about 75% of those who have received university education between 25 and 32 years old spend more than 40 hours a week, while in 1977 only 55% of people work such long hours. A book published recently in America reveals that some female cashiers and assembly line workers, because they don't have time to go to the toilet during work, they are forced to wear diapers. International Free Trade Union Federation in 1999 July submitted a report to the World Trade Organization, pointing out that the right to organize and the right to strike in American labor legislation do not get the protection they deserve. When employers decide to break up the union or prevent the establishment of a representative workers' union, the law cannot protect workers. The proportion of workers who join unions in America is only 13%.

America has 140 million state and local government employees, 700,000 of whom do not have collective bargaining rights, let alone the right to strike. Millions of farm workers, home service workers, low-level management staff, besides being explicitly excluded from the legal protection of workers' organization rights, according to statistics, in the 1950s, every year about a few hundred workers who suffered retaliation for exercising their social rights; in the 1990s, every year about 20,000 workers suffered serious retaliation.

Workers do not enjoy sufficient labor protection and social security. American Energy Department in 2000 conducted a study, showing that in America, among workers in nuclear weapons production, because of the harm of radioactive elements and toxic chemical substances, the types and rates of cancer are far higher than those in other industries. Since the end of World War II, in California, Washington and other states, 22 types of cancer have been diagnosed among 600,000 workers in 14 nuclear plants, and the number of cancer patients is several times that of normal workers. The American government has always been evasive about this, until recently, after being exposed by the media, the American government, under public pressure, had to admit its mistake. Eight years ago, the number of Americans without social insurance was 30 million, now it has reached 46 million. *Financial Times* 2000 October 25 report says, in 20 years, the number of Americans without medical insurance has increased from 12.3% to 15.8%. In 6 Americans, 1 does not have medical insurance.

The education situation in America is surprising. According to a report in *U.S.A Today* on November 29, 2000, illiteracy is still a serious problem in such a highly developed country. One in five high school graduates cannot read his or her diploma; 85 percent of unwed mothers are illiterate; 70 percent of Americans arrested are illiterate; and 21 million Americans cannot read. According to a child protection foundation, 71 percent of fourth graders are not at the education level they ought to be. College tuition has grown faster than the increase in middle class families' income. The dropout rate among college students has risen to 37 percent. Statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Census show that the income of middle class families increased only 10 percent from 1989 to 1999, while college tuition increased 51 percent during the same period. The average college tuition in 1999 was US\$8,086, accounting for 62 percent of the income of low-income families. The average tuition fee of private colleges was US\$21,339 in 1999, up 34 percent over 1989, accounting for 162 percent of the income of poor families, but only making up for four per-



cent of the income of rich families. More than 30 million low-income families could not afford to send their children to community colleges.

#### IV. Gender Discrimination and III Treatment of Children

Gender discrimination is widespread in almost every aspect of U.S. society. American women have not yet enjoyed equal constitutional rights compared with men. Women in the United States not only have a weak voice in politics, but also are discriminated against in terms of employment, job status and wages. The labor protection standards for women are below the international norms, and sexual violence, sexual harassment and domestic violence against women are also rampant in the United States.

Reuters reported on March 22, 2000, that as many as 1,100 women have joined a class action on gender discrimination, which was initiated by five women in 1978, against the U.S. Information Agency and Voice of America on 48 charges involving job discrimination because of gender. Following an investigation, the court discovered that the human resource departments of the defendants had purposely overlooked female candidates through deceptive means such as revising test results and selecting beforehand. It was not until 2000 that the U.S. Government was forced to accept an out-of-court settlement and paid US\$508 million in compensation after 46 out of 48 charges were upheld by the court. The breadth and depth of gender discrimination in the U.S. can be seen from this case, which involved the highest compensation for such a case since 1964. A report released in November 2000 by an American institute studying the policy on women showed that women are paid an average of 26 percent less than their male colleagues.

The number of female prisoners has been increasing markedly in the United States, and they often are the victims of various abuses. Since 1980, the number of prisoners in the United States has tripled, while that of female prisoners has quadrupled. A report released by the U.S. Government in December 1999 showed that accusations against jail officers of sexual abuse and other negligent behavior are widespread and criminal prosecution of prison guards for abuse of power has been on the rise. The following major cases have been reported since December 1999: eleven guards and one officer at a county jail were accused of sexual assault and sexual harassment by 16 female inmates; a jail guard in New Mexico was convicted of sexual assault; a prison officer in New York was sentenced to three years imprisonment with probation for raping two female inmates; a prison officer in Ohio was sentenced to four years of imprisonment for conviction of sexual assault on three female inmates. Some female inmates at a prison in New York disclosed that a number of female inmates were raped and some of them even gave birth to babies in their cells. The majority of female prisoners who have been sexually assaulted

70%的被捕者是文盲, 2100万美国人不会阅读。保护儿童基金会证实, 在小学四年级的孩子中, 71%达不到对这个年纪儿童所要求的文化水平。大学学杂费和膳食费的增长超过中产阶级家庭收入的增长, 大学生辍学的比例不断上升, 现已达到37%。据美国人口普查局统计, 1989年至1999年, 中产阶级家庭收入仅增长10%, 而同期公立大学费用增长幅度达51%, 1999年总额达到8086美元, 占低收入家庭收入的62%; 私立大学上升34%, 1999年总额达到21339美元, 相当于低收入家庭总收入的162%, 但只占高收入家庭收入总额的4%。3000多万低收入家庭不堪重负, 甚至没有财力供子女进社区学院(大专)。

#### 四、性别歧视严重, 儿童境遇严峻

性别歧视存在于美国社会各个领域。美国妇女至今未获得与男子全面平等的宪法保护。妇女在政治上发言权有限, 在就业、职业、劳动报酬上受到明显歧视, 享有的劳动保护低于国际标准; 针对妇女的性暴力、性骚扰和家庭暴力非常严重。

据路透社2000年3月22日报道, 最早由5名妇女于1978年提出, 最终有1100名妇女加入的控告美国新闻署和美国之音两个政府机构的性别歧视案, 先后共提出控告48项, 涉及妇女在申请技术人员、编辑、专家、播音员等工作时仅仅因为性别的原因而被拒聘。法庭审理发现, 用人单位甚至采用修改考核成绩和预先内定等作弊手段以达到排挤女性的目的。此案涉及原告数以千计, 诉讼历时达22年之久, 律师为此工作了65000个小时。直到2000年, 在业已宣判的48项诉讼案中有46项败诉的情况下, 美国政府才被迫提出庭外调解, 达成赔偿5.08亿美元的解决方案, 成为1964年通过《民权法案》以来赔偿金额最大的就业歧视案件。美国性别歧视积弊之深由此可见一斑。美国妇女政策研究所2000年11月发表的一份报告表明, 美国妇女与男子同工不同酬, 干同一份工作, 妇女所挣的工资比男子平均少26%。

妇女受监禁人口大幅增加, 女囚犯受到粗暴虐待。1980年以来, 美国囚犯人数增加了2倍, 而女囚犯则增加了3倍。1999年12月美国政府的

cannot get access to adequate legal protection. The state of Michigan stipulates explicitly that prisoners are not protected by civil rights laws.

Quite a number of women and children have been smuggled into the United States and are subject to slavery and torture. According to a report released by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in November 1999, as many as 50,000 women and children are smuggled from Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe into the United States every year. They are often forced to become prostitutes or ill-treated workers and servants, the youngest of whom are aged nine. Despite as many as 100,000 women and children being smuggled to the country in the last two years, only 250 are listed as victims of relevant cases. The New York Times reported on April 2, 2000 that in 1999, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service conducted an investigation in 26 cities and found smuggled women in 250 brothels. An article carried in "Insight" weekly in December 2000 revealed that the human trafficking and the sexual slave trade has become the third largest illegal trade in terms of business volume in the United States, following drugs and arms smuggling. Incomplete statistics showed that criminal rings in the United States earn US\$7 billion from human trafficking annually.

Children in the United States live under worrying conditions. They are often the main victims of violence, and as many as 5,000 children are shot fatally each year. The percentage of gunshot victims under the age of 14 is 21 times that of 25 other industrialized countries. Some 1.5 million children, or two percent of the country's total, have one or both parents in prison. The United States, one of five countries that have the death penalty for juveniles, has the highest number of juveniles sentenced to death in the world. Twenty-five states in the country give the death penalty to juveniles, four of which set the lowest age for the death penalty at 17 years and the other 21 states set 16 years as the bottom line or have no age limit at all. Since 1990, 14 juvenile criminals have been executed in the United States, and in the first seven months of 2000, four juvenile criminals were put to death, more than the figure of other countries combined in the past seven years. By October 2000, 83 juvenile criminals, who were under 18 when their crimes were committed were waiting to be executed. The U.S. Department of Justice released a report on February 27, 2000, indicating that from 1985 to 1997, inmates under the age of 18 in adult prisons more than doubled from 3,400 to 7,400; and 90 percent of juvenile criminals were high school dropouts. To date, more than 100,000 children are incarcerated in juvenile detention facilities and many of them are subject to brutal treatment.

Many children in the United States are threatened by poverty. According to an investigation conducted by UNICEF, the poverty rate of children in the United States ranks second among the 29 members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. In 1998, the poverty rate of American children hit 18.7 percent.

一项研究发现,对教养官员性虐待和行为不端的指控无处不在,对滥用权力的狱警的刑事起诉增加了。1999年12月以来的案件有:私人教养公司经营的一个县监狱的11名狱警和1名监狱官员因对16名女囚犯进行性攻击或性骚扰的罪名被起诉;一名新墨西哥州狱警因对囚犯进行性攻击被判侵犯民权罪;一名纽约狱警因强奸2名女囚犯被判3年徒刑;一名俄亥俄州监狱官员因对3名女囚犯进行性攻击被判4年徒刑。纽约一所监狱的女犯人揭露,许多女囚犯在监狱中都被强奸过,甚至有些单身母亲在监狱中生了孩子。多数遭到性侵害的女囚犯得不到法律的保护,密歇根州法律甚至明文规定囚犯不受州民法的保护。

大量妇女、儿童被拐卖至美国,备受奴役和折磨。美国中央情报局1999年11月提供的一份报告说,每年有多达5万名来自亚洲、拉丁美洲和东欧的妇女和儿童被以各种虚假的理由拐卖到美国,被迫沦为娼妓、受虐待的劳工或佣人,最小的只有9岁。尽管最近两年有多达10万名妇女儿童被拐骗到美国,处于被奴役的地位,但政府提起公诉的案件中所涉及的患者不超过250人。1999年,美国移民和归化局对26个城市进行了调查,发现250家妓院里有被拐卖者,这些人的权利根本得不到保障。在美国,人口走私和性奴隶交易竟然成为毒品和武器交易之后的第三大非法收入来源。据不完全统计,美国犯罪组织每年通过贩卖人口获取的利益高达70亿美元。

儿童状况令人担忧。美国儿童是暴力犯罪的主要受害者,平均每年有5000多名儿童死于枪杀,死于枪杀的14岁以下儿童所占比例要比其他25个工业化国家的总和高20倍。约有150万儿童——占全国儿童总数的2%——的父亲或母亲被关在州或联邦监狱里。美国是世界上处决少年犯的仅有的5个国家之一,也是世界上处决少年犯最多的国家。美国有25个州对未成年人判处死刑,其中4个州把判处死刑的最低年龄定为17岁,其余21个州定为16岁或者根本没有年龄限制。1990年以来已有14个少年犯被处决。2000年前7个月处决了4名少年犯,比世界上其他国家在过去7年里处决的少年犯总数还多。到2000年10月,美国有83个犯罪时不满18岁的少年犯在等候处决。美国



2.5 percent higher than that in 1979. To date, as many as 13 million children live in poverty, 3 million more than the figure of 1979. Reuters reported on January 20, 2000, that children in 15.2 percent of the families in the U.S. are starving, and that children aged below six years in 16.3 percent of households don't have enough food. About 1 million immigrant children who do not hold U.S. citizenship are not covered by the medical insurance system. More than 1 million children in the country live on the streets, 40 percent of whom are under 5, 20 percent suffer from hunger, 20 percent are not covered by the medical insurance system, 10 percent have seen murders, shootings, rapes and violence, and 25 percent have experienced domestic violence.

In the United States, at least 290,000 children are working in factories, mines and farms where working conditions are dangerous. Children working on farms often have to work 20 hours a day and run the risk of pesticide poisoning, injury and permanent disability. They account for 8 percent of the country's total child workers, while the job-related deaths among them make up 40 percent of the country's total occupational death toll. Among these child farm laborers, merely 55 percent have graduated from high school. It is estimated that there are one million cases of human rights violations against these child farm workers in the United States every year; yet the U.S. Labor Department listed only 104 such cases in 1998.

## V. Racial Discrimination Prevails, Minorities Ill Treated

Racial discrimination in the U.S. has a long history and is well known throughout the world; it stands as one of the most serious social problems in the United States. A U.S. report on the implementation of the International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination submitted to the United Nations in September 2000 admitted that racism exists as one of the most daunting challenges facing the U.S.

The minorities in the United States have been called the "Third World of the First World." Racial discrimination is evident everywhere in America. *The Washington Post* reported on February 3, 2000, that even in large U.S. cities, few residential areas are actually racially integrated. In the 1990s, the actual earnings of high-income families increased by 15 percent on average; however, the rich-poor gap between whites and minorities remained unchanged. A survey made by the U.S. Federal Reserve in March 2000 indicated that in 1998 the average net wealth of a middle-income family of Latin Americans, African Americans, or other minorities stood at US\$16,400, equal to just 17.28 percent of that of a white family. The percentage was basically unchanged compared with 1992's 17.23 percent. In 1998, 72.2 percent of the white families owned their own homes while the proportions for African American and Latin American families were only 46.4 percent and 44.9 percent respectively.

司法部司法统计局2000年2月27日发表的报告说, 1985年到1997年, 美国成年人监狱中18岁以下囚犯人数增加了一倍以上, 从3400人增至7400人; 约90%的少年犯连中学都没有毕业。目前有10多万儿童被关在少年监所里, 许多人受到非人的待遇。

贫困严重困扰着美国儿童。据联合国儿童基金会对经济合作与发展组织29个成员的调查, 美国儿童的贫困率位居第二。1998年美国儿童的贫困率达18.7%, 比1979年高出2.5个百分点。目前, 美国有1300万儿童生活在贫困之中, 比1979年多300万。据路透社2000年1月20日报道, 美国有15.2%家庭的儿童忍饥挨饿, 有16.3%的家庭6岁以下的儿童没有足够的食物, 有100万未加入美国国籍的移民儿童没有医疗保险。美国有上百万儿童到处流浪, 处境险恶。其中, 有40%的流浪儿童年龄不到5岁; 20%的流浪儿童挨饿; 20%的流浪儿童的家庭没有医疗保险; 10%的流浪儿童目击过杀人、枪击、强暴或谋杀案, 25%的流浪儿经历过家庭暴力。

美国至少有29万儿童受雇于环境危险和条件恶劣的工厂、矿山、农场。农场童工经常一天工作20小时, 并冒杀虫剂中毒、受伤和终生残疾的危险。他们占美国童工的8%, 却占职业死亡的40%。在美国农场劳动的儿童中, 只有55%完成中学学业。每年发生在农业领域的童工侵权案件估计有100万件, 而美国劳工部列举的1998年度童工侵权案件仅104件。

## 五、种族歧视依旧, 少数民族待遇恶劣

美国的种族歧视由来已久, 举世闻名。时至今日, 种族歧视仍然是美国最严重的社会痼疾。连美国2000年9月向联合国机构提交的执行《消除一切形式种族歧视国际公约》情况的报告都不得不承认, 美国存在种族主义, 种族歧视和事实上的种族隔离, 少数民族面临的不平等仍然是美国最严重和无法解决的挑战之一。

少数民族始终是美国这个“第一世界中的第三世界”, 处于被遗忘的边缘。事实上的种族隔离仍然随处可见。《华盛顿邮报》2000年2月3日的报道说, 即使在美国大城市, 也没有几个居民

Even worse, nearly two million aboriginals were living on streets of big cities in the United States and 40 percent of them went without food for up to three days at a time. They are the poorest people in the world's richest country. *The Christian Science Monitor* reported in May 2000 that immigrant families account for over one-fifth of the U.S. poverty-stricken population and one-fourth of the total number of poor children. Among the immigrants in the U.S., over 9 million, or 43 percent of the total, do not have medical insurance. In contrast, 12 percent of white people do not have medical insurance, according to a research report released last year by the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The report also indicated that 41 percent of white youths could receive higher education while the rate for young Latin Americans was only 22 percent.

Discrimination against minorities is deeply rooted in America. The unemployment rate among African Americans doubles that of whites. An investigation made in 1996 indicated that 90 percent of the chief executives or managers of U.S. companies have never given any black people the same status and responsibilities as whites. Computer giant Microsoft had a staff of over 20,000 in the U.S. in 1999; only 557 of them were African Americans. The number accounted for 2.6 percent of the company's total employees. The company has 5,155 mid-level administrative personnel and only 82 people, or 1.6 percent, are African Americans. A report in *U.S.A Today* in 2000 said that charges of sexual harassment on immigrated workers had witnessed a fast increase, up 10 times from 1986 to 1999. About 2,200 cases were reported in the 1980s, while the figure became 15,150 in the 1990s.

Racial discrimination has also emerged as a very serious problem in the courts. A total of 98 percent of the judges in the U.S. are white while most of the people receiving prison terms or the death sentence are blacks or other minorities. Twelve percent of the U.S. population are African American; nearly half of the two million prison inmates in the U.S. are black, and another 16 percent are Latin American. Black men are eight times more likely to be imprisoned than white men, with an incarceration rate of 3,408 per 100,000 black males compared to the rate of 417 per 100,000 white males. In 11 states, the incarceration rate of African American men is from 12 to 26 times greater than that of white men. The U.S. Department of Justice estimated that 9.4 percent of all black men at the age of 25-29 years were in prison in 1999, compared to one percent of white men in the same age group. Also in 1999, juveniles belonging to minority groups constituted one-third of the adolescent population in the United States, but they comprised two-thirds of the young people confined in local detention and state correctional systems. One of every three young black people were confined in juvenile facilities or out on bail. An investigation funded by the Department of Justice indicated that the number of young black inmates jailed on first offenses is six times higher than that of white youths.

区真正取消了种族隔离。在大约1/3的黑人社区中,90%以上是黑人。90年代,美国高收入家庭的实际收入平均增长了15%,但是,少数民族和白人的贫富差距却几乎没有任何改变。美国联邦储备委员会2000年3月的一项调查显示,1998年,拉美裔、非洲裔和其他少数民族的中等富裕家庭的净财富为16400美元,仅及白人中等富裕家庭净财富的17.28%,这与1992年的比例数17.23%基本没有区别。1998年,72.2%的白人家庭拥有自己的住房,而黑人和拉美裔家庭的比例却只有46.6%和44.9%。近200万土著人在美国各大城市的大街上过日子,其中40%的人每周经常两三天吃不上东西,他们是地球上这个最富裕国家中最贫困的人。《基督教科学箴言报》2000年5月15日报道,移民家庭占美国贫困人口1/5以上,占贫困儿童的1/4。在美国生活的移民中,有43%即900多万人没有医疗保险,其中包括50%从事全日制劳动的人;在美国出生的移民中,有14%的人没有医疗保险。《美国医学会杂志》2000年发表的研究报告指出,20%以上的黑人和32%的拉美裔人没有医疗保险,而白人的比例仅为12%。41%的非拉美裔白人青年能接受高等教育,而拉美裔青年仅为22%。

对少数民族的歧视根深蒂固。黑人的失业率是白人的2倍。1996年的一项调查发现,美国大约90%的公司主管和经理从来没有聘用过一名地位和职责同等的黑人同事。微软公司1999年在美国共有2万多名员工,其中只有557人是非洲裔美国人,约占员工总数的2.6%;中层以上的管理人员有5155人,然而非洲裔美国人只有82人,仅占其中的1.6%。《今日美国》报2000年的一篇文章报道说,基于种族原因对移民工人的性骚扰指控迅速增长,1986年到1999年增长了10倍,80年代记录在案的有约2200件,而90年代则有15150件。

司法中的种族歧视非常严重。美国法官中98%是白人,而被判监禁和被判死刑的人则多数是黑人和其他少数民族。黑人只占美国总人口的12%,但是,在200多万美国囚犯中,却有约一半是黑人,另有16%为拉美裔美国人。黑人进监狱的可能性是白人的8倍。每10万名黑人男子中

Among violent crime cases, the number of incarcerated black youths is nine times higher than that of white youths. Fifteen percent of juveniles under 18 are black; while among the confined people of the same age group, 26 percent are African American. Among youths held in adult prison facilities, 58 percent are black. The likelihood of conviction for black youths is much higher than that for whites. In California, children of color are 6.2 times more likely than white youths to be charged with crimes, and seven times more likely to be sentenced to prison when they are tried as adults. The proportion of black men sent to state prisons on drug charges to the state's total population is 13.4 times greater than that of white men. The number of black youths sent to correctional facilities for drug offenses is 48 times higher than that for whites. In at least 15 states, the number of African American men sent to prison on drug charges is 20 to 57 times more often than white men. In seven states, 80 to 90 percent of all drug offenders are black men. Although the majority of crack cocaine users are white, almost 90 percent of convicted federal drug offenders are black.

In the 200-plus years since the U.S. was founded, a total of 18,000 people have been sentenced to death; only 38 of them were white, accounting for 0.2 percent of the total. No white man has ever been sentenced to death for raping a black woman. Between 1977 and 1998, African Americans comprised 10 to 12 percent of the total U.S. population. However, out of the 5,709 people sentenced to death, 41 percent were black. A report from the Department of Justice issued on September 12, 2000, acknowledged that in the past five years, lawyers proposed to sentence 183 offenders to death, 20 percent of them were whites, nearly half of them were blacks, around 30 percent were Latin Americans and the rest were other minorities. Of all death penalty sentences upheld by the U.S. federal courts since 1995, the number of colored people accounts for 74 percent. The ratio of African American and white murder victims was almost the same; however, since 1997, 82 percent of the total number executed were African Americans who had murdered white people.

## **VI. Waging War Frequently and Rampantly Infringing Upon Human Rights of Other Countries**

The United States, assuming an air of self-importance and practicing power politics in the world, has done a great deal of damage by encroaching on human rights in other countries.

The United States has, over a long period of time, built many military bases over the world. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops stationed in these bases have committed a series of crimes that violated the human rights of local residents. Such acts by the U.S. troops have occurred frequently since 2000 and numerous scandals have been exposed. In 1995 a Japanese schoolgirl

有3408人被囚禁，而白人男子的监禁率只有417人。在11个州，黑人男子的监禁率竟是白人男子的12—26倍。据司法部估计，1999年，9.4%的25—29岁的黑人男子在监狱里服刑，而在相同年龄组的白人男子中，只有1%在蹲监。少数民族青少年占美国青少年人口的1/3，但他们占了被监禁在地方拘留和州教养系统的青少年的2/3。每3名黑人青年中就有1人在押或保释。美国司法部提供资助的一份调查报告显示，美国黑人青少年第一次犯罪被关进监狱的人数是白人青少年的6倍。在暴力犯罪案件中，黑人青少年坐牢的人数是白人的9倍。在18岁以下青年中，黑人青年占15%，但是在被捕的18岁以下的人中，黑人占26%。在成人监狱的青年中，黑人占58%。少数民族青少年被当作成人审理以及被处监禁的可能性比被指控犯类似罪行的白人青少年大得多。在加利福尼亚，有色人种的青少年在成人法庭受审的可能性是白人青少年的6.2倍，他们被当作成人判决入狱的可能性是白人青少年的7倍。因毒品罪被关进州监狱的黑人男子占人口的比率是白人男子的13.4倍。因毒品罪被关进公共教养所的黑人青少年占人口的比率是白人青少年的48倍。在至少15个州，因毒品罪被关进监狱的黑人占人口的比率是白人的20—57倍。在7个州，黑人占被关进监狱的毒品罪犯的80%—90%。虽然大多数强效纯可卡因使用者是白人，但黑人却占了被判犯此罪的联邦罪犯的近90%。

在美国200多年的历史中，共有1.8万人被判处死刑，其中白人只有38名，仅占0.2%。从来没有一个白人因为强奸黑人妇女而被判死刑。1977年至1998年期间，黑人仅占美国人口10%至12%，但在5709名被判死刑的人当中，却有41%是黑人。美国司法部2000年9月12日公布的报告承认，在过去5年中律师共提议判处183名被告死刑，其中20%是白人，将近一半是黑人，大约30%是拉美裔人，其余是其他少数民族。在美国联邦法院1995年以来所作出的死刑判决中，有色人种占到了74%。在谋杀案的受害者中，黑人和白人的数量相当，但自1977年以来，在被执行死刑的罪犯总数中，谋杀白人的黑人占了82%。



was raped by three American soldiers stationed at Okinawa, sparking a massive protest by the Japanese people. Following this incident, a serviceman with the U. S. Marine Aircraft Group at Futenma Air Station was imprisoned for allegedly attempting to rape a Japanese woman in the city of Okinawa on January 14, 2000. That same month, three servicemen of the U.S. Navy in southern Nagasaki sexually harassed two 15-year-old Japanese girls. On January 9 this year, a seaman of the U.S. Navy sexually assaulted a 16-year-old Japanese girl in Okinawa. On January 13, 2000, a U.S. soldier on peace-keeping duty in Kosovo raped and killed an Albanian girl. The incident aroused strong indignation from Albanians in Kosovo. In July last year, Green Korea United, an environmental protection group of the Republic of Korea (ROK), revealed that the American military base in Seoul discharged embalming fluid used for its servicemen into the Han River. The group reported that since 1991 another U.S. military base in the ROK has discharged waste oil into a local river, which is the source of drinking water for 210,000 local people. The actions of the American troops seriously polluted the local environment and endangered the health of local people. A Cuban newspaper reported on November 6, 2000, that an environmental group found more than 50 areas in some island countries such as Fiji and Kiribati that had been seriously polluted by dangerous refuse. All of the material has been traced back to U.S. military interests or other interests of the U.S. The acting vice-minister of foreign affairs of Panama revealed on July 24, 2000, that during its nearly 100-year occupation of the Panama Canal, the U.S. stationed troops in the area, and numerous Panamanian women were used and cast away by American soldiers, leaving hundreds of thousands of fatherless children. When the U.S. troops withdrew from the Panama Canal area at the end of 1999, they left behind 700 pregnant women in Panama and Colon provinces alone.

The United States forces its way into the internal affairs of other countries and cultivates its influence in secrecy, infringing upon human rights in other countries. The U.S. Department of Defense launched a research institute for safety cooperation in the western hemisphere, while the predecessor of the institution is Escola Das Americas affiliated with the U.S. Army, which is famous for training Latin American and Caribbean troops to torture suspects, carry out secret executions and mail threatening letters to political dissidents. The school, described by international human rights organizations as a training base for "dictators, hangmen and assassins," trained 56,000 people during the period between 1946 when it was first established, and December of 2000 when it was closed. The school also trained numerous personnel for various purposes. Many notorious human rights violators and ringleaders of criminal gangs are graduates of this school, and nearly all of the major massacre cases in the Latin America and Caribbean areas have connections with these graduates.

## 六、穷兵黩武，粗暴侵犯别国人权

美国在国际上唯我独尊，推行霸权主义和强权政治，到处留下侵犯人权的斑斑劣迹。

美国长期以来在世界各地设有军事基地，驻军达数十万，犯下许多侵犯当地居民人权的罪行。2000年以来，美军的此类劣行不断发生，一些相关的事件相继被揭露出来。继1995年驻冲绳3名美军士兵强奸一名日本女孩引发日本民众大规模抗议之后，2000年1月14日，驻普天间航空基地的美国海军士兵在冲绳市再次发生因企图强奸一名日本女子而被逮捕入狱的案件；同月，美国海军驻长崎南部辖区佐世堡基地的3名水兵对2名15岁的少女进行性骚扰；今年1月9日，美国海军士兵又在冲绳市猥亵一名年仅16岁的日本少女。2000年1月13日，美国驻科索沃维和部队士兵奸杀一阿族小女孩，激起科索沃阿族人强烈愤慨。7月，韩国环保组织绿色联合会调查揭露，驻汉城美军基地将未经处理的尸体防腐液排放进汉江，美军在韩国江原道的一个基地从1991年至今一直向作为当地21万居民饮用水源的蟾江排放废油，污染当地环境，危害居民健康。据古巴《格拉玛报》2000年11月6日报道，南太平洋环境计划在斐济、基里巴斯和密克罗尼西亚联邦等一些岛国发现了50多个被危险废弃物污染的地区，而这些废弃物或多或少都与美国的军事利益或其他利益有关。2000年7月24日，巴拿马代理副外长揭露，美国在占领巴拿马运河区的近一个世纪中长期在当地驻扎军队，无数巴拿马妇女被美国大兵玩弄和抛弃，留下了成千上万没有父亲的孩子；1999年底美军撤出巴拿马运河区后，巴拿马和科隆两省就有700名孕妇被抛弃。

美国到处插手别国内部事务，暗中培植势力，在别国制造侵犯人权的事件。2001年1月17日，美国国防部开办了“西半球安全合作研究院”。而这个机构的前身是美国陆军所属的“美洲学校”，由于其以教授拉美和加勒比军人折磨嫌疑犯、执行秘密枪决、向持不同政见者寄恐吓信等技能而著称，被国际人权组织称之为“独裁者、刽子手、暗杀者培训基地”。这所学校在从1946年组建到2000年12月关闭的54年间，正式培训的

A terrorist organization formed by graduates of the Escola Das Americas slaughtered 767 innocent villagers in a remote area of Columbia in 1981. Among those murdered were people over age 90 and less than two months old.

Nearly 10 years have passed since the end of the Cold War. Peace and development are now the common aspirations of people all over the world. However, the United States, as the only remaining superpower, has yet to relinquish its Cold War mentality. It stations troops abroad, boosts military spending, sells ammunition to other countries and regions, and rattles its saber around the world. The U.S. has become a major threat to world peace and stability, and infringes upon the sovereignty and human rights of other countries. A report released by the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Congressional Research and Service Bureau said that U.S. military spending and ammunition exports rank first in the world: Its military expenses account for one-third of the world's total and exports of ammunition amount to 36 percent of the global total. Its military spending budget for 2001 increased by US\$12.6 billion compared with the US\$200 billion for 2000. Incomplete statistics show that the United States has waged wars in foreign countries and regions more than 40 times in the 1990s. The country uses cluster bombs and depleted uranium shells, which are banned by international law, and new weapons of mass destruction in foreign countries, killing and injuring local people and also wreaking havoc on the ecological environment in these places. Reports say that U.S. troops tested depleted uranium (DU) weapons in shooting ranges in Panama 30 years ago. The U.S. army dropped 940,000 DU bombs in Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War. About 10,000 DU bombs were dropped by the U.S. army during the 1994-1995 Bosnia-Herzegovina war. The U.S. army also tested DU weapons in military maneuvers in Japan's Okinawa in 1995 and 1996. In 1999, the U.S. army used more than 31,000 DU bombs in 112 locations in Yugoslavia. The number of cancer patients has increased by 30 percent in Yugoslavia due to DU radiation, and at least 10,000 civilians have died of radiation. About 40 out of some 80 babies born in two months in a Bulgarian town adjacent to Yugoslavia have suffered from physical deformities. A number of European soldiers and civilians who once served in Bosnia, Croatia and Yugoslavia including Kosovo have contracted "Balkan Syndrome," and at least 27 of them have died. The UN Environmental Program has analyzed samples collected in Yugoslavia and confirmed that they contain radioactive substances, according to a spokesman for the UN secretary-general. Although it is well known that uranium is a sort of radioactive heavy metal, the United States refuses to admit that DU is harmful to human health, and prevents other countries and international organizations from investigating the matter. It also has refused to stop using DU bombs. Currently, the U.S. troops stationed in Kosovo are still equipped with DU weapons. In fact, the United States has long had full knowledge of the harm caused by DU weapons. Before the breakout of the Gulf

学生有56000人、通过其他各种名目的“短期培训”、“秘密训练”培养的学员不计其数。许多臭名昭著的“人权侵犯者”、“大毒枭”都是该校的毕业生。拉美和加勒比地区数一数二的哥伦比亚乌拉巴大惨案等几桩特大屠杀案无一不牵扯到“美洲学校”的学员。1981年，“美洲学校”一手训练出来的“阿特拉卡特尔营”在一次行动中就屠杀了哥伦比亚埃尔莫佐特村767位无辜村民，其中，最大的超过90岁，最小的还不到2个月。

冷战结束已近10年，要和平、求发展已成为时代潮流和人心所向。但是，美国作为当今世界唯一的超级大国，顽固坚持冷战思维，维持海外驻军，增加军费开支，大肆出售军火，到处炫耀武力，成为破坏世界和平与稳定、侵犯别国主权和人权的一个重要根源。美国国务院和国会研究服务局2000年8月21日公布的报告显示，美国军费开支和军火出口总额均占世界首位，其中军费开支占全球的1/3，军火出口占全球的36%。2001年的军费预算比2000年的2000亿美元又增加了126亿美元。据不完全统计，仅90年代以来，美国对外使用武力就达40多次，多次动用集束炸弹、贫铀弹等国际法禁用的武器和各种破坏力极强的新式武器，在世界许多地区造成不计其数的平民伤亡，对受害地区的生态环境和人体健康造成了长期的灾难性影响。据报道，30多年前，美军就在巴拿马靶场试射贫铀弹；1991年海湾战争中，美军曾向伊拉克投下94万枚贫铀弹；1994年至1995年波黑战争中，美军投掷了1万余枚贫铀弹；1995年和1996年美军在日本冲绳岛的军事演习中试射了贫铀弹；1999年科索沃战争中，美军在南斯拉夫联盟使用了3.1万枚贫铀弹，对112处目标进行了打击。由于受到北约在波黑和科索沃使用的贫铀弹的辐射，南联盟患恶性肿瘤的人数增加了30%，至少有1万名科索沃公民因受辐射而死亡，毗邻南联盟的保加利亚的一个小镇两个月内出生的80名婴儿中有40名畸形或患有其他生理缺陷，曾在波斯尼亚、克罗地亚和包括科索沃在内的南联盟服役的一些欧洲国家的士兵和文官被诊断患上了“巴尔干综合征”，其中至少已有27人死亡。联合国秘书长发言人指出，联合国环境规划署已经证实，他们从南斯拉夫抽取的检测

War in July 1990, a test panel affiliated with the U.S. army pointed out in a report that the explosion of DU bombs would produce strong cancer-inducing Alfa radiation and soldiers carrying out tasks in DU weapon-stricken areas must take preventive measures. However, in the same area, the local residents had not received any notice from the U.S. army and they thus became victims of DU bombs.

The United States has always adopted a passive attitude towards international human rights conventions. Although the United States was a founding member of the UN, it did not accede to any key international human rights convention until 1988, when it joined the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. That is to say, the United States did not ratify the treaty until 40 years after it was signed. In addition, it did not ratify the International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for 28 years and 15 years respectively after it signed them. The United States still has not ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, although it signed it 24 years ago. The United States is one of the only two countries in the world that have not acceded to the International Convention on Children's Rights, and one of several countries that have not joined the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The United States has always opposed the right to development as a human right, and it is the only Western country that has voted against the Declaration on the Right to Development. Although it is a founding member of the Organization of American States, it refuses to accede to the Human Rights Convention of America and other human rights conventions approved by the organization. As for the international conventions it has already signed, the United States has always ensured that the enforcement of the conventions is strictly limited to within the scope of the U.S. constitution and laws, or let them only apply to the federation instead of in each of the states, by making reservations, declarations and allowances for them. In this way, the United States has reduced the international conventions to nothing but empty rhetoric.

Actions speak louder than words, and the public champions justice. The promotion of human rights is the common task of all nations in the world. The United States not only closes its eyes to its own serious human rights problems, but also releases the "Human Rights Report" annually to condemn other countries' human rights records. All these realities have exposed the true face of the United States, showing it to be a defender of power politics rather than human rights. China would like to offer this advice to the U.S. Government: abandon your old ways and make a new start, take effective measures to improve the human rights record in your own country, take steps to promote international cooperation in human rights, and stop ordering other countries on the pretext of safeguarding human rights. ■

样本中确实存在放射性物质。众所周知，铀是超重金属，且具有放射性，而美国却矢口否认贫铀弹对人体健康的危害，阻挠有关国家和国际组织继续进行调查，并断然拒绝中止使用贫铀弹。目前，美国驻科索沃的军队仍配备有贫铀弹。其实，美国对贫铀弹爆炸产生的危害早就了如指掌。早在1990年7月海湾战争爆发之前，属于美国军方的试验小组就在一份报告中指出，贫铀弹爆炸后会产生极强的致癌阿尔法( $\alpha$ )射线，在遭受贫铀弹攻击的地区执行任务的士兵必须先采取有效的预防措施。而同一地区的居民并没有得到任何警告，他们是命中注定的贫铀弹的受害者。

美国对国际人权公约一贯持消极态度。美国是联合国创始成员国，但直到1988年才首次加入一个重要的国际人权公约即《防止及惩治灭绝种族罪公约》。对于该公约以及《消除一切形式种族歧视国际公约》和《公民权利和政治权利国际公约》，美国从签署到批准分别拖了40年、28年和15年。美国签署《经济、社会、文化权利国际公约》已经24年，至今仍未批准该公约。美国是目前世界上仅有的两个未加入《儿童权利国际公约》的国家之一，也是少数几个未加入《消除对妇女一切形式歧视公约》的国家之一。美国长期反对将发展权确认为一项人权，是西方国家中唯一投票反对《发展权宣言》的国家。美国作为美洲国家组织的创始成员国，一直拒绝加入《美洲人权公约》和该组织通过的其他有关人权的公约。对于其所加入的国际人权公约，美国总是通过作出保留、声明和谅解确保其实施被严格限制在美国宪法和法律范围之内，并使之只能适用于联邦而不适用于各州，从而使国际公约在美国变成一纸空文。

俗话说，事实胜于雄辩，公道自在人心。促进人权本是世界各国的共同任务。美国对自己存在的严重人权问题熟视无睹，却在国际上高喊“人权”，年复一年地发表《人权报告》，对世界各国进行声讨，这只能在世人面前暴露其假“人权卫士”、真霸权主义的本来面目。我们奉劝美国政府改弦易辙，切实采取措施改善一下本国的人权状况，多做有利于人权领域国际合作的事，不要动辄借口人权对他国颐指气使。 ■



other" was changed to a ban on the maltreatment or abandonment of all family members.

—The lawful age for getting married was raised from 20 to not earlier than 22 for men and 18 to not earlier than 20 for women.

—In regard to marriage between collateral relatives by blood, the article in 1950 saying "other issues concerning marriage between collateral relatives by blood within five generations shall be handled according to traditional practices" was revised and the new stipulation raised a ban on marriage between collateral relatives by blood within three generations.

—Several new articles were made in 1980, which included it being obligatory upon parents to discipline and protect their minor children. As well, grandparents were obliged to bring up their grandchildren and elder brothers and sisters were obliged to raise their younger siblings.

—The divorce procedures set by the Marriage Law of 1950 stipulated: when either party of a couple is resolved to divorce, the People's Government of the district where the couple lives shall fulfill the responsibility to mediate; if mediation fails, the People's Government of the county or city where the couple lives shall be responsible for handling the case. The procedures adopted in 1980 made two choices available for couples intending to divorce: either accept mediation by the relevant government department or directly file a lawsuit to the court. According to the Marriage Law of 1980, the court shall approve the litigants to divorce if mediation failed to mend their broken links of affection.

—The Marriage Law of 1980 stipulated that people who violated the Marriage Law shall be punished by law and related adjudication shall be enforced.

The Chinese people's ideas and concepts have changed remarkably as a result of socio-economic development. Faced with a series of new questions regarding marriage and family relations, revision of the Marriage Law was becoming increasingly urgent.

In light of a program of legislation by the Standing Committee of the NPC,



Promulgation of the first Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China marked the establishment a new marriage and family system in China. Pictured here a newly-married of the 1950s looked through their marriage certificate.



A group wedding held at the Great Wall.

the Committee of Legislative Affairs of the NPC Standing Committee put forward the proposed Draft Revision of the Marriage Law last August. In light of the opinions from relevant departments of central and local governments as well as legal experts, the Draft Revision of the Marriage Law was completed.

The draft focuses on feasible and purposeful supplementary stipulations. Stipulations on bigamy, domestic vio-

lence, invalid marriages, a system of dividing a couple's belongings, divorce and protection of senior citizens' rights and interests have been made more definite. A special chart on legal liability clearly stipulates civil and criminal liability in various circumstances.

The Draft Revision of the Marriage Law passed its initial examination at the 18th Session of the Standing Committee of the Ninth NPC held at the end of October 2000. ■

# CHINA AND THE WTO: Opportunities and Challenges

The following is the full text of a speech delivered by **Stephen R. Lewis, Jr.**, President and professor of economics at Carleton College, Minnesota, U.S.A., at a recent forum in China on the development of Chinese economy. —Ed.

**L**et me begin with some of my own perspective on economic development. I first studied the Chinese economy in the late 1950s. At this time, it is possible to read every book and article in English that seriously addresses the issues of the Chinese economy in a period of two or three weeks. How times have changed!

For more than 35 years I have worked in the developing world. I first lived in Pakistan, which was then the fifth largest country in population, later in Kenya, which is about an average sized developing country, and for many years I was both a resident in Botswana and a consultant to the government of Botswana, which, with fewer than 1.5 million citizens, is among the smallest countries in the developing world. My interest throughout these years has been in the study of international trade and its relation to economic development. In the course of both research and my work with the governments of developing countries, I have come to a very clear conviction: international trade is a positive-sum game, that is, all who engage in the process can benefit. This is quite contrary to the ideology of some who believe that if one party gains from trade, the other party will lose. The evidence of history shows clearly that such is not the case. Indeed, history suggests that the growth of trade and the growth of incomes and production go hand-in-hand.

## The Nexus of Policy Issues

My interest has been primarily in a series of interrelated policies in the development process. There are four sets of these policies. Let me explain them briefly.

First, there are the macroeconomic policies—fiscal and monetary—that are pursued by governments. Fiscal policy, of course, refers to budgets, taxes and spending, surpluses and deficits of major government entities, including the central government. Monetary policy refers to money and credit, money supplies as well as policies on interest rates and on domestic credit expansion.

The second set of policies are trade and commercial policies—tariffs, non-tariff barriers such as import controls and licenses, incentives such as direct subsidies to exports or import competing industries, regulations regarding “quality” or the specifications of goods entering trade, etc. It is quite clear that these policies can affect macroeconomic balances through their impact on the volume and value of imports and exports.

The third set of policies are those regarding exchange rates and exchange control systems. In Pakistan, for example, the impact of the import control system and other exchange control mechanisms was far greater than that of the very high levels of tariffs on imported goods. In Kenya, I was working within the Ministry of Finance while the government developed a series of direct controls during the 1970s and 1980s. These affected the value of the Kenyan shilling as well as macroeconomic policies and other aspects of incentives for import substitution and exports. It is important to recognize that the exchange rate can act as a subsidy or tax mechanism that is as effective as tariffs or other kinds of trade and commercial policies. Therefore, exchange rate policies can affect both commercial policies and the macroeconomic balances in the economy and vice versa.

Finally, though it overlaps in some respects with the first three sets of policies, there is the overall strategy being followed by the government—sometimes aggressive efforts to promote import substitution, sometimes

development of natural resources, sometimes promotion of “outward looking” policies which emphasize export development. Choices about overall strategy both affect and are affected by, macroeconomic, trade and commercial, and exchange rate policies. Thus, there is an interrelated set of four issues to which any government must pay attention.

In the past 150 to 200 years of modern industrialization, there have been very few periods of rapid economic growth within a single country that have extended for long periods of time. Indeed, studies in the 1960s and 1970s suggested it was unlikely that any country could sustain a period of more than 15 years of growth in excess of 10 percent per year in investment or GDP. Since that time a very few countries have managed that feat. However, even they have generally had sustained periods of very low growth following periods of “exuberant” growth. The very few exceptions are, indeed, exceptional. And, they have paid attention to these four sets of policies and have ensured that they are not contradictory.

I believe the likelihood that rapid growth will be followed by relatively slow growth is related to the importance of “balance” among different sectors of the economy and different economic functions. When I was working in a garden nursery in the 1950s, I first learned of the herbicide 2-4-D, which is used to kill noxious weeds. It works through an enzyme that induces a rapid growth of the leaves, which outstrips the ability of the root structure of the plant to provide nutrients—and, thus, the plant dies. In some respects the periods of very slow growth we see at the end of exuberant spurts of growth reflects the same phenomenon in an economy. Sometimes infrastructure constraints choke off the growth of other sectors, as happened in Nigeria and in a number of other mineral rich countries in the 1970s. More recently in much of East and Southeast Asia, it would seem the inability of the banking systems to expand rapidly without making uncollectable loans brought growth to a halt. One could find many other examples. But the general lesson, I believe, is clear: in order to sustain rapid growth over long periods of time, one must pay attention to the imbalances that may develop within different sectors and functions of the economy.

The balanced development of the internationally competitive sectors of an economy is one of the key factors that has brought growth to a halt in many countries. The need to meet external obligations—for both purchases of imported goods and services and payments for debt or capital services—imposes a very important constraint on the development of a domestic economy. Unless access to foreign capital is unlimited (a virtual impossibility for a country of any size), external balances must be carefully watched by government policy makers. If one intentionally competitive sector of an economy needs a “subsidy” in order to be competitive, it is





clear that other intentionally competitive sectors in the economy must supply it. It is quite obvious that subsidized import-substituting industrialization came to a sharp halt in many countries because the sectors requiring subsidization grew much too rapidly for the rest of the economy to provide the necessary subsidy. The leaves outgrew the roots.

There are many examples of unsustainable development and subsequent crises throughout the developing world in the last 50 years. The most highly documented have been periods of rapid import-substituting industrialization in such countries as Brazil, Pakistan, India, Kenya, Ghana and Argentina among others. Periods of "exuberant" growth were followed by balance of payments or debt crises and subsequent slow growth because insufficient attention was paid to balance. In terms of the four interrelated policies, insufficient attention was paid to the need to keep all policies working in the same direction.

### WTO and International Content

Let me turn now to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The experience of the entire world in the Great Depression of the 1930s led to extensive conversations among countries toward the end of World War II about the need to establish international institutions, and agreed policies, in order to avoid the downward spiral of deflation and Depression that had engulfed the world and, indeed, provided the conditions that led to World War II. "Beggars my neighbor" tariff policies and competitive devaluation among countries (in order to protect their own domestic markets and to invade third-country markets with exports) had the net effect of decreasing world trade and, consequently, decreasing world production and incomes. Nazi Germany sought to overcome its own problems by entering into a series of bilateral barter arrangements with other countries, which benefited the German economy—at the expense of everyone else. The issue in the early 1940s was: how could the world avoid this situation in the future?

The post-World War II institutions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) were aimed at establishing new international rules. The IMF was established to provide orderly functioning of foreign exchange markets, exchange rates, and short-term capital movements. The function of the World Bank was to provide development capital to lower-income parts of the world. And, GATT was established in order to have agreed rules for trade (import tariffs and import and export controls) by which all countries would abide. Thus, these institutions were established to avoid the deflation and Depression of the 1930s. They stressed the importance of multilateral agreements among countries rather than bilateral trade between individual countries.

As a result of this range of institutions, European countries in the 1950s formed the European Common Market and the European Free Trade Association. This led in turn to the European Economic Community and, finally, to the European Community. Tariff barriers dropped, trade expanded, production and employment in these countries grew as multilateral trade increased. The rapid growth that took place because of the growing trade (as well as the flow of capital in the very early years from the U.S. Marshall Plan) made "structural change" easier. In a growing economy, the sectors that are declining in relative importance need not shrink absolutely, which makes the adjustment problem much easier. Growth and trade opened up opportunities for investment. Soon, barriers to movement of capital across borders were being decreased—for the first time since the 1930s. Ultimately these developments resulted in the adoption of flexible exchange rates among the major industrial countries in the 1970s and the evolution of different roles for international institutions: the IMF, in particular.

It is important to see the WTO in this broader context. The WTO is a successor to GATT's endeavors to establish both rules of conduct for all countries and constraints on the behavior of individual governments. The WTO addresses a wider range of concerns than GATT did. Thus, it is much more important to all sectors of the economies of each member country. The WTO also provides a forum for the settlement of bilateral disputes such as those between the United States and the European



Community, or the United States and Japan. However, the WTO will not completely eliminate such disputes. We should see the WTO as the latest stage of more than 50 years of evolution of international institutions. And, we should expect that the evolution will continue in the future.

### Development in China

Let me now turn to China. In the period since the late 1970s when China began its opening to the world, foreign trade in China has grown very, very rapidly relative to gross domestic product. Trade has risen from about 3 percent of GDP in the late 1970s to nearly 22 percent of GDP today. As a result, foreign trade in China is twice as important relative to the economy as is the case in Japan, and is nearly twice as important as it is in the United States. This is a very, very dramatic development.

China has also grown in its share of world trade. China's exports grew two and a half times as fast as world trade in the 1980s, and four times as fast in the 1990s.

These two trends mean that (1) trade is much more important to China than it was two decades ago, and (2) China's trade is a much larger share of world trade than it was in the late 1970s.

Paralleling these changes in imports and exports relative to GDP, there has been a substantial change in the economic structure within China. Among other things, the importance of State-owned enterprises has declined substantially, the importance of newly established enterprises has risen, and agriculture has fallen from 34 to 17 percent of GDP.

With respect to macroeconomic balances, I think most observers would rate China's performance as quite good. The performance has been helped by very high private saving rates in the Chinese economy. One of the key issues in macroeconomic terms for the next decade, I believe, is whether those high private saving rates will continue. In Kenya in the 1970s and 1980s, for example, previously high rates of private saving declined precipitously. But because fiscal policy and commercial policies did not adjust accordingly, Kenya found itself in substantial and sustained balance of payments difficulties for most of the last 25 years. Paying attention to the macroeconomics of China's management is, I believe, of fundamental importance for the future. I cannot emphasize this point too strongly.

China's position in the world economy today is very, very different from that two decades ago. China now can be seen as an export "threat" to many countries. Chinese exports now are equivalent to 60 percent of exports from the United Kingdom, 50 percent of Japanese exports, three times the level of Brazilian exports, and four times the level of Indian exports. Since exports from Japan, Brazil and India are regarded in a number of high-income countries as threats to their domestic industries, the size of China's exports suggests that China will face increasing difficulties in the future. This is both an economic and a political issue.

On the other hand, China is a very important import market for the exports of other countries. The value of Chinese imports is now half that of France or the U.K., two and a half times that of Brazil, and substantial-



ly more than all Middle East and North African economies combined. This gives China an important bargaining chip in international negotiations.

China has also emerged as a very important destination for international investment. Direct foreign investment in China is now equivalent to one quarter of all direct foreign investment to all middle-income developing countries.

In summary, China has, in a short period of time, by world historical standards, become a major player in the international economy. What has happened to China is, perhaps, equivalent to Japan's growth in the 1960s and 1970s, and the growth of all the "Nics"—the Newly Industrialized Countries—in the 1970s and 1980s. Future historians will marvel at these two decades of Chinese emergence.

### China's Challenges If Opportunities Are Seized

Having examined briefly the major interrelated policy issues facing any government, the WTO and its antecedents, and complementary institutions, in organizing the world economy, and China's experience over the past two decades, one can now look at the challenges and opportunities facing China as it contemplates membership in the WTO. Let me make three points about the major issues facing the Chinese Government.

First, continued restructuring of the Chinese economy requires continued rapid economic growth and vice versa. State-owned enterprises and the agricultural sector will continue to decline in relative terms; and they will displace employees. This clearly implies the need for rapid growth of new jobs in other sectors of the economy, which in turn means the need for investment and growth of output in those sectors. One inherent danger is this: if major enterprises or sectors of the economy are "protected" against foreign competition, they will absorb resources from the rest of the economy. Such resources will be needed to increase production internationally, such resources might be prompted in order to "subsidize" the less efficient, less competitive sectors. Failure to face up to the necessary decline of some sectors will doom long-term growth. However—and this point, too, is critical—the increased access to world markets for China's exports will give China the opportunity to continue rapid growth of new sectors in its economy. And, the regularization of laws and regulations within China that will be required for WTO compliance, will also encourage continued growth of foreign investment in China.

Second, reciprocity in bilateral trade relationships must be managed carefully in order to both minimize conflicts with other countries and maximize opportunities. The highly politicized "trade wars" between Japan and the United States and between Europe and the United States over the past 20 to 30 years are painful reminders of the political dimension of trading relationships. The Chinese leadership must be attentive to potential conflicts, take the initiative in addressing them, and take the long view on the benefits from greater trade.

Third, a major challenge for the Chinese authorities will be to adopt and maintain macroeconomic and exchange rate policies that will sustain growth in the face of the increased opening of the economy to foreign com-

petition. As one example, a decrease in the level of tariff protection (or of protection via import controls) will result in substantial increases in imports. Therefore, it is likely that one element of a liberalization program might be a planned depreciation in the currency. Continual monitoring and adjustment of both fiscal and monetary policies and exchange rate policies are essential elements of the package of policies to accommodate opening to the WTO.

Given the fact of structural change and of a certain amount of economic dislocation that will necessarily accompany liberalization of international trade and investment, there are a number of potential roadblocks both in China and in other countries.

One set of challenges will be to deal with both the idealism and the ideology that object to the freeing up of international trade and investment. The WTO is sometimes opposed in the industrialized countries, for example, because of concerns about both environmental regulation and the potential for economic exploitation of workers in low-wage economies. There will be pressure in all countries to pay greater attention to labor standards. And there will continue to be opposition to international trade per se on the (grossly mistaken) basis that trade is a zero-sum game, in which only one party can win and the other must lose. Since these ideological convictions in opposition to trade have been present for a century or more, there is no reason to suspect they will diminish in the coming decades.

A second set of roadblocks arise from particular economic interests in both China and its trading partners. There will be major pressure to protect sectors of the economy that will be squeezed by freer movement of goods and services. It is clear that organized labor in the United States, while marching under a banner of concern for low-paid workers in other countries, has as its major concern the protection of high-wage U.S. jobs in sectors threatened by increased foreign imports. The agricultural sector in Europe is another obvious case of special interest that will make its voice heard in opposition to free trade. And, I need hardly mention here in China the sectors that will oppose increased trade because of threats to their economic viability.

Other political agendas will also arise in opposition to increased trade and investment both in China and in other countries. Geo-politics to increased openness, and to "linkages" between economies of countries with substantially different international, political, or security interests will discourage increased international commerce. If they carry the day, the growth of employment and output will not reach its potential.

Finally, world economic conditions, and the "management" of the major economies of the world, will have a major impact on the potential for China's growth. Continued expansion in world trade is important for every country, a contraction or substantial slowdown in international trade presents major problems for most countries in the world. One has only to look at the experience of the 1930s, or the 1970s, when the spread of economic pain, and the political consequences thereof, were clear for all to see. China might do an excellent job of managing its own economy and still run into substantial difficulties, if the rest of the world is not well run.

### Summary Comments

Is one an optimist, or is one a realist, to say that the future looks good? On the basis of my own 40 years of studying international trade and politics, as well as economic development, I think it is realistic to say the future looks good, provided political leaders in major countries, China included, are sensible and consider the long run in their approach to policy. Economic success depends heavily on political leadership, and on the willingness to take a long-term view. In the five decades since the end of World War II, sensible leadership has prevailed in most major countries most of the time, with the result that the world has seen a spread of economic opportunity, and a rise in standards of living, that are unprecedented in human history. If we continue to heed the lessons both of the disasters of the 1930s and the successes in the post World War II expansion, I believe the future will continue to look good, and that the opportunities for the Chinese people, as well as for those in other countries, will continue to be bright. ■







A special Mitsubishi maintenance station in Anhui undertakes an overhaul of the 100-odd Mitsubishi Jeeps running in the province.

by Wang Wen

**C**hina's State Administration for Exit-Entry Inspection and Quarantine (SAEEIQ) issued an emergency notice on February 9, revoking as of that day the import safety permit of Japan-based Mitsubishi Motors Corp and banning the import of the corporation's Pajero V31 and V33 sport-utility vehicles. These models, SAEEIQ said, have serious safety problems.

#### Cause

On September 15, last year, Huang Guoqing, a driver with the Department of Geology and Mineral Resources in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, was driving a Pajero sport-utility vehicle to Guyuan. With him in the vehicle were the vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences and two other experts.

When the vehicle came to a downhill turn, Huang stepped on the brake pedal only to discover the brakes had failed. At that moment, a heavy-duty truck was driving toward them and would collide head-on. Huang, who had more than 20 years of driving experience, immediately applied the hand brake, while shifting gears and steering the wheels to the right. Just as he managed to stop the car at the edge of the road (below which is a deep gully), the truck brushed past them. A catastrophic accident was avoided, but everyone in the vehicle was so scared they broke out into a cold sweat.

Huang felt the incident was abnormal for the sport-utility vehicle, which had only traveled 20,000 km and been in use for less than one year. He checked and found a pool of brake fluid at the place where he applied the emergency brake. Obviously, something was wrong with the brake line.

After that, Huang did not let the matter drop by simply having the problem fixed. He sent the vehicle to the Ningxia Exit-Entry Inspection and Quarantine Bureau (NEEIQB) to be examined. The laboratory test and experts' analysis indicated that the design of Mitsubishi's Pajero sport-utility vehicle had serious defects. The steel LSPV at the rear part of the vehicle would touch the rear brake line directly under it whenever it was pressed down. Repeated touching wore down the brake line, resulting in the leaking of brake fluid, which led to brake failure.

A few days later, another car accident involving a Pajero occurred in Ningxia. Again, faulty brakes were found to be the cause. Realizing the seriousness of the problem, NEEIQB immediately examined several other Pajero V31s and V33s. They found that the brake line in all the vehicles showed signs of wear.

In no time, SAEEIQ got the report and paid much attention to the matter. According to initial investigations, Yunnan Province found 300 Pajero V31s and V33s had problems with their brake lines and in Tibet, the brake lines of two of the nine vehicles checked were worn out. In an effort to protect people's lives and property and prevent further accidents, SAEEIQ decided to stop importing these models made by Mitsubishi.

#### Reaction

The Pajero incident evoked strong reactions from Chinese consumers.

Zou Qunying from Chongqing recalled on March 21, 1997, the farm vehicle her husband was riding in collided with a Mitsubishi sport-utility vehicle coming head-on. Three people in the farm vehicle died at the scene. According to departments handling the matter, the Mitsubishi vehicle was careening wildly down the sloping road, Zou said. After reading the

reports about the Pajero's brake problems, Zou said she believed the cause of the accident four years earlier must have been the Mitsubishi vehicle and therefore she would sue the Japanese company.

Having read the reports, Mr. Su, a Mitsubishi vehicle user from Chengdu, Sichuan Province, drove his vehicle to a special Mitsubishi maintenance station for a checkup on February 13. They found his vehicle's rear brake line showed signs of minor wear. Maintenance workers only adjusted the position of the line but did not replace it for him. "Mitsubishi simply regards the lives of users as a trifling thing since its staff are so careless about flaws in the quality," said Su angrily.

A complaint from Changsha, Hunan Province, aroused widespread attention. On the evening of December 25, 2000, Li Zhiming, head of the Changsha Lushan Hydraulic Products Factory, was driving his Pajero V31 southward on the Jianxiang Road at a speed of 30 km per hour. Seeing that a person was about to cross the road, Li stepped on the brake pedal. Unexpectedly, the brakes failed and his car knocked down Lu Hul, who was walking on the sidewalk.

Lu was immediately sent to hospital. There were two blood clots in her head and an operation was conducted. Although the operation was quite successful, Lu has remained in a deep coma. Lu's family has already spent more than 160,000 yuan on medical treatment.

While examining the accident scene, the



On February 26, Mitsubishi Motors announced a staff reduction plan in order to cut production costs.



police found a lot of brake fluid on the ground under the sport-utility vehicle and determined this was another tragedy caused by a worn brake line in a Pajero.

Currently, an increasing number of Chinese consumers have claimed compensation for the harm the Pajero has brought them.

The Pajero V31 and V33 are said to be models Mitsubishi specially designed for the Chinese market. V33 began to sell in China in 1994 and V31 entered the Chinese market in 1996. At present, there are about 72,000 vehicles of these two models operating on roads throughout China.

SAEIIQ officials point out that if the models underwent adequate road tests before being exported to China, Mitsubishi could not have made such an obvious design flaw.

**Action**

**On the Chinese side:** For the sake of the safety of 72,000 Chinese Pajero users, SAEIIQ, while issuing the emergency ban, summoned representatives of the Mitsubishi Motors Beijing Office for an urgent meeting, demanding the Japanese company take necessary measures as soon as possible to solve the problem.

The China Consumers' Association conducted painstaking negotiations with Mitsubishi concerning the issue of safeguarding the interests and rights of consumers. It put forward five requirements:

—Mitsubishi should make an open apology, recall its products for checkup and replace the affected parts. It should also compensate

the consumers for their losses directly caused by the vehicle's quality problem.

—The warranty period for the replaced parts of Pajero sport-utility vehicles should be renewed from the date of replacement.

—According to Article 48 of China's Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Consumers, if a product is deemed not up to standard by relevant departments, consumers have the right to return it.

—If there is evidence demonstrating that Mitsubishi knew in advance the design defect of the Pajero sport-utility vehicle that could possibly cause safety problems but still exported the vehicle to China by hiding the truth, then Chinese consumers are eligible to claim compensation that is double the price of the product, according to Article 49 of the Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Consumers.

—Mitsubishi should rectify its attitude toward Chinese consumers, respect Chinese laws and regulations, and pay due attention to the rights, interests and personal safety of consumers.

**On the Japanese side:** Under pressure from public opinion and strongly reasonable arguments made by SAEIIQ and the China Consumers' Association, Mitsubishi Motors made concessions.

On February 13, Anraku Hideaki, new president of Mitsubishi's Beijing Office, and his three deputies went to the China Consumers' Association and had a talk with the association's deputy secretary-general Dong Jingsheng. They apologized to the Chinese

Pajero V31 and V33 users.

On February 15, Mitsubishi Motors General Manager Sonoda Kozo announced in Japan that the company would recall 400,000 Mitsubishi vehicles of 11 models that sell in Japan and 950,000 vehicles of three models sold in the United States, excluding the Mitsubishi sport-utility vehicles in China.

On February 17, Mitsubishi decided that Chinese users could have their brake lines replaced at the 44 special Mitsubishi maintenance stations across China.

On February 22, Mitsubishi expressed that for humanitarian reasons, it would pay 120,000 yuan to Lu Hui who was injured due to the Pajero's safety problems. But, according to sources, the money has not yet been sent.

On February 23, the Mitsubishi Beijing Office decided to provide compensation according to Chinese laws for accidents confirmed to have been caused by technical problems in Mitsubishi products. It will also recall all the old-style Pajero V31s and V33s in China for free maintenance and the warranty period will be renewed. In addition, the number of maintenance stations will be increased to 54 from 44.

On February 28, Mitsubishi announced its compensation scheme. This is the first time the word "compensation" has been used by the company. Since the SAEIIQ banned the import of the Pajero V31 and V33, the Japanese company had been evading the question of compensation.

The compensation scheme is based on the suggestions of the China Consumers' Association. The company had previously said that Pajero V31 and V33 owners could get their vehicles repaired at its special maintenance stations. According to this compensation scheme, repair expenses would be exempted. The company also promised it would pay for all expenses involved in the whole repair process, including transport, board and lodging expenses.

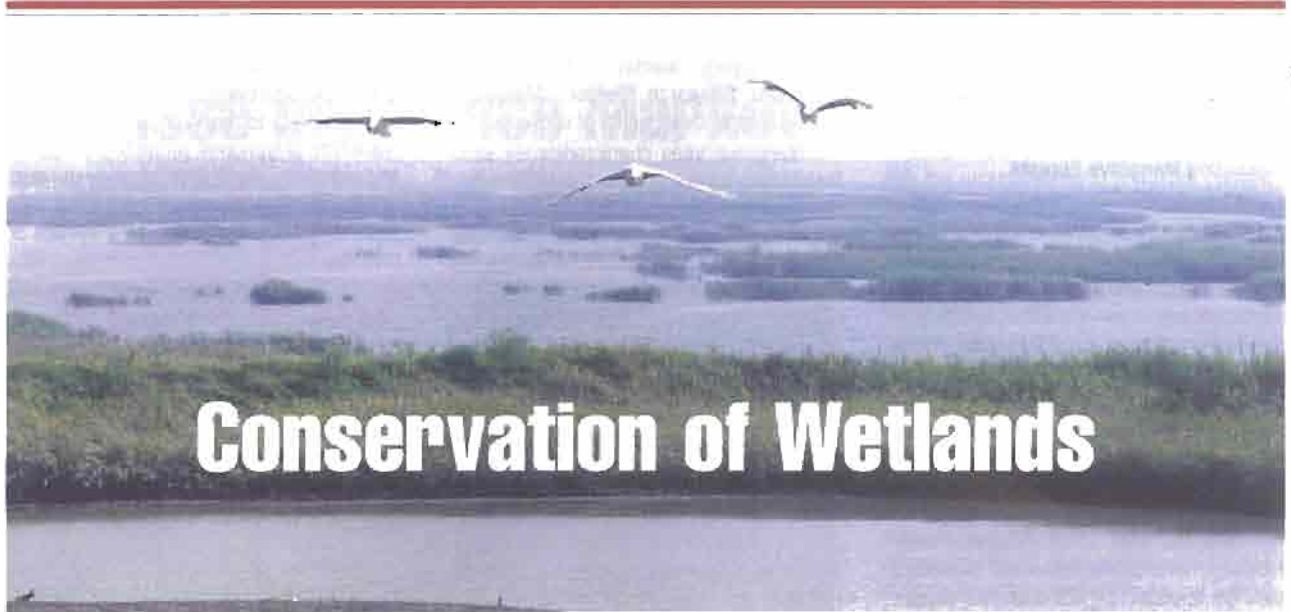
The scheme says that the company will carry out a thorough investigation into each complaint, and if an injury is proved to be caused by Pajero's safety flaws, it will pay compensation in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Consumers. Consumers who bought V31s and V33s for personal use and through "a legal channel" can return the vehicle if necessary, the scheme says.

The China Consumers' Association welcomed Mitsubishi's compensation scheme, but declined to say that it was "satisfied." It says that they would keep watch to make sure the Japanese company fulfilled its promises. ■



An assembly line at a Mitsubishi plant.





# Conservation of Wetlands

An intertidal precious bird reserve in Yancheng, Jiangsu Province.

by Lu Xixi

**C**hina's National Wetlands Conservation Action Plan officially went into effect last November. A result of six years of research and studies, the plan was jointly formulated by the State Forestry Bureau and 17 other ministries and commissions. It regularizes and institutionalizes China's efforts in the conservation and rational use of wetlands.

Wetlands are an important part of the earth's ecosystem. While some wetlands appear in the form of big rivers and lakes, others stand as small ponds and rice paddy fields. Wetlands not only provide habitats for a huge number of wild animals and plants, especially rare and precious waterfowl, but also supply water and food for human beings.

China is a country with wetlands rich in living organisms. It has 650,000 square km of wetlands, accounting for 10 percent of the world's total and ranking first in Asia. So far, China has established more than 260 nature reserves of wetlands.

In 1992, the Chinese Government officially acceded to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, also known as the International Ramsar Convention. Since then, relevant departments have paid greater attention to the conservation of wetlands. To date, seven wetlands (Zhalong in Heilongjiang Province, Xianghai in Jilin, Birds' Island in Qinghai, Dongting Lake in Hunan, Poyang Lake in Jiangxi, Dongzhai Port in Hainan and Mai Po in Hong Kong)

have been included in the list of wetlands of international importance.

## 'Kidneys' of the Earth

Scientists' understanding of wetlands varies in different countries. According to the definition of the International Ramsar Convention, agreed by governments of various countries, wetlands consist of flowing and stagnant waters of rivers and lakes and intertidal zones wider than 6 meters.

"Wetlands are very important to the ecosystem. Like forests and seas, they have great ecological functions and high bio-diversity," said Shen Guofang, an ecologist and vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Engineering. "When merging with forests, wetlands produce greater hydrological effects," Shen noted. Scientists often refer to wetlands as the "kidneys" of the earth and forests as the "lungs" of the earth.

Statistics indicate that hundreds of species of fish and countless aquatic insects and invertebrates live in wetlands. One-third of the world's birds are found in wetlands, while the variety of plants is beyond count.

"The wetlands are of vital importance to humanity," said Chen Kelin, head of the China Program Office of Wetlands International. "Simply speaking, many of the materials used for making paper, such as reed, are from wetlands. So are aquatic products, farm produce such as rice, and aquatic medicinal plants." Wetlands have great ecological value. In terms of water storage, for instance, wetlands are equivalent to rivers and lakes because they are saturated with moisture.

Wetlands are also closely related to climate changes, Chen said. The warming of the climate in recent years has resulted in a series of problems, such as the thawing of ice at the South Pole, the rising of sea levels around many island countries, the rising of temperatures and an increase in red tide. Also, many wetlands, especially those in coastal areas, have vanished. "However, proper conservation of wetlands can help slow down the pace of global warming," said Chen.

According to data and facts in the latest report on world resources jointly produced by 175 international scientists, water, forests, wetlands and seas in the global ecosystem are deteriorating. Given this, ecological conservation organizations in the world have urged governments of all countries to take action and increase investment in science and technology for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

According to Liu Yongfan, deputy director of the Department of Wild Flora and Fauna Conservation under the State Forestry Bureau, every signatory country to the International Ramsar Convention should, in line with the requirements of the Convention, formulate its plan for the conservation of its own wetlands resources. However, unlike China, few countries have worked out their respective action plans.

As a large country in terms of wetlands, China plays a key international role, Liu said. The launch of China's National Wetlands Conservation Action Plan demonstrates that China genuinely performs its duties as required by the International Ramsar

Convention, making an important step forward in the conservation and sustainable economic development of wetlands.

### Protecting Mangrove Forests

A special species of forest vegetation—the mangrove tree—grows in the tidal zones lying between land and sea in China's subtropical areas. The mangrove is the only species of tree in the world that can grow in the swampy ground along the coast. It is a viviparous plant. Its seeds remain hanging on the mother tree until saplings appear. Some then fall into the mud and take root, while others are carried to other areas by seawater. The mangrove tree has a marvelous speed of reproduction and growth.

Over the past years, however, many localities have blindly reclaimed mangrove swamps in pursuit of fast economic expansion. The excessive consumption of water resources as well as some natural factors such as global warming have caused a sharp decline in the area of mangrove forests, thus aggravating pollution in the coastal tidal zones.

Red tide has also become an increasingly serious problem over the past few years. "Red tide is a result of eutrophication, which is caused by excessive amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in seawater," said

Fan Hangqing, director of the Guangxi Mangrove Research Center. "Mangrove forests are the ideal purifier of seawater."

Mangrove trees characteristically shed their leaves constantly. When old leaves fall, new ones take their place. But the trees need large amount of nutrients to grow new leaves. Nitrogen and phosphorus are the two kinds of nutrients badly needed by mangrove trees. If there are large expanses of mangrove forests along heavily polluted coasts, they could help absorb nitrogen and phosphorus in the water, thus easing eutrophication and reducing the possibility of red tide occurrence.

The Shankou Mangrove Nature Reserve in Beihai City, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, has drawn wide attention from the international community in recent years for the successful conservation of mangrove swamps. The nature reserve has 13 species of mangrove and nearly 100 species of insects as well as various phytoplanktons, fish, shellfish and birds. They form a harmonious ecosystem, maintaining the ecological balance for a protracted period.

Some mangrove trees there have grown for decades or nearly a century. People in Beihai regard the trees as guardians of the coasts and the reserve as natural farmland.

In addition to their ecological value, mangrove trees also bring multiple economic and social benefits to the local people, such as prevention of typhoons, protection of coastal embankments, purification of seawater and development of tourism. Some residents even regard the mangrove as a symbol of their city.

"While intensifying legal enforcement to protect our forests, we devoted efforts to publicity and education to improve residents' environmental and ecological awareness," said Beihai Mayor Liu Jun. "Thus ordinary citizens got to know the mangrove trees and began to love them and conscientiously protected them."

### Improving Public Awareness

With the promulgation of the Action Plan, intensified efforts in legal enforcement will follow. Relevant government departments will organize scientists to help residents in areas around nature reserves for wetlands use and develop wetlands resources rationally. The wetlands with unique geographical locations and irreplaceable environmental effects will be enclosed to facilitate management.

In the next five years, China will build 50 more nature reserves for wetlands and basically stop the reduction of natural wetlands caused by man-made factors.

Improving public awareness is a matter of primary importance, said Shen Guolang. According to a national sample survey conducted by the State Forestry Bureau, many people have failed to understand the importance of conserving the wetlands. In regard to marshes, for instance, some people maintain that as China is a traditional agricultural country, marshes are simply ideal lands for reclaiming.

People did so in the past, Shen noted. They drained water off the marshes and planted trees or grain crops. As a result, many wetlands were destroyed. In the future, people should be guided to give more scientific consideration to wetlands' ecosystem functions, Shen said.

People should also be taught to know that many marshes, such as those at the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, are conservation grounds for water sources essential for the survival of humanity, Shen said. They constantly provide water to the Yangtze and Yellow rivers. If they were destroyed, the rivers would have no sources. Wetlands are also an important link in the biological chain of birds. Without wetlands, many birds would become extinct, which would in turn affect all living organisms. ■



The Dafeng David's Deer Reserve in Yancheng, Jiangsu.



A wetland in the Engebei Desert, Inner Mongolia.



# Chinese Insurance Market Promises Bright Prospects



Vice-Premier Li Lanqing addresses a national meeting held last year on the reform of the medical system and the basic medical insurance system for urban workers.

by Wang Zhe

As Chinese people bid farewell to the system of free medical services that has prevailed for more than 40 years, the old Chinese saying that "You can afford to have everything but illness and have nothing but money" vividly portrays the worries of most of them about medical expenses nowadays.

Recently, however, people have found that all matters in their lives, such as childbirth, old age, illness and death, can be linked with insurance. Commercial insurance is becoming a natural choice for their future security.

## Infant Stage

China resumed its domestic insurance business in 1980. Since then, the insurance market has diversified. By the end of 1999, China had 28 insurance companies. Of the 13 Chinese-funded firms, four are solely State-owned and nine are joint-stock businesses. Although the Chinese insurance sector has generally been growing at a high rate, it lags far behind its foreign counterparts in terms of the proportion of premium income in GDP, per-capita insurance expenses and insurance awareness of citizens.

Statistics show that the proportion of pre-

mium revenue in GDP in developed countries approaches 10 percent. In China, however, it stood at only 1.7 percent in 1999, ranking 66th in the world, and per-capita insurance expenses were 110 yuan (about US\$13), far lower than the level of US\$200 per person in developed countries and ranking 75th in the world. China also lags behind many developing countries regarding these two indicators.

Premium revenue generally accounts for 7 percent of residents' total savings deposits in developing countries and 15 percent in developed countries. But it formed only 2.3 percent in China in 1999. In addition, China has fewer insurance companies per 1 million residents. In 1996, for instance, the United States had 28.26 insurance companies for every 1 million population and Hong Kong, 33.3, while the mainland of China with a population of 1.2 billion had only 28 insurance firms altogether averaging 0.02 for every 1 million people. In terms of total assets, Chinese insurance companies combined to have US\$28.8 billion worth of assets in 1999. However, the assets of the U.S.-based Aetna Life Insurance Co. alone exceeded US\$90 billion, 3.4 times the total of Chinese companies.

## Market-Oriented Reform

The People's Insurance Co. of China

(PICC) and the China Life Insurance Co. Ltd are solely State-owned firms. They played an important historical role in the recovery period of the Chinese insurance industry. But with the establishment of a market system, the State-owned firms began to display disadvantages. The planned economy elements in their organizational setup made it difficult for them to deal with market competition. Thus, reform in line with market law became extremely important.

PICC consolidated subsidiaries at different levels in some cities, closed firms not up to standard, and introduced a program of increasing efficiency by downsizing the staff. Meanwhile, the New China Insurance Co., which had been in existence for only three years, launched its expansion program aimed at growing into a national business. It has opened branches successively in Tianjin, Nanjing and Chengdu. This example of contraction versus expansion well illustrates the essence of restructuring in the Chinese insurance sector.

The most gratifying change in the Chinese insurance industry last year was the price competition giving way to service competition. PICC opened the nation's first telephone hotline for insurance services using a unified number nationwide. This so-called "insurance 110" line has served as a bridge linking the company with clients. The Ping An Insurance Co. built up three interactive service platforms—a telephone service center, an Internet service center and a countertop service center.

After three years' research, Ping An Insurance launched an investment-based insurance scheme that has sold well in Shanghai and Beijing. Almost at the same time, the insurance with dividends program developed by the China Life Insurance Co. became the "upstart" of the market. The appearance of these insurance items, the most advanced in the world, has placed higher demand on the quality of sales personnel, the level of computerization, the capability of fund operations and the degree of openness in management at various insurance companies.

According to Wu Xiaoping, Vice-Chairman of the China Insurance Regulatory Commission, these changes are not only a transformation in insurance products but also an overall upgrading in the management ideology and management level of the Chinese insurance sector. He believes that these changes will push insurance businesses into a higher stage of management and service competition and open a broader space for the expansion of the Chinese life insurance business.



**Interaction of Insurance and Capital Market**

International experiences indicate that as a component of the financial industry, the insurance sector should build up a sound interactive relationship with the entire capital market. According to economist Wu Jinglian, this relationship is displayed in two ways: On the one hand, the development of the insurance business needs a sound capital market and on the other hand, the growth of the capital market counts on the active participation of insurance funds. Therefore, accelerating the reform and development of the two sectors and promoting interaction are prerequisites for the sound development of China's financial system.

The Chinese insurance sector needs the capital market. Being in its infancy, the sector is still at a low level of development in terms of the number and scale of insurance companies, the share of premium revenue in the

insurance premiums and allow them to enter the capital market. In 1999 the Government permitted insurance premiums to access securities investment funds, opening a channel for insurance premiums to enter the capital market.

Insurance premiums are policyholders' savings for emergency needs. Life insurance premiums, in particular, are considered "life-saving" money of the insured. The management of these funds should in no way go wrong. Given this, insurance premiums need a stable capital market that features open and fair transactions. In a bid to ensure the security of insurance premiums, the capital market needs further regulation and development. As for social supervision, the regulatory departments should conscientiously change their guiding ideology for capital market development, reduce unnecessary administrative interference and strengthen supervision over the openness, justness and

nesses from the United States, Britain, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, France, Australia and Hong Kong have been approved to enter the Chinese market. However, in terms of strength, they are merely "small boats" compared with the incoming "carrier fleet."

During his visit to Europe in July 2000, Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji told the CEO of Holland Aegon Life Insurance Co. that he was considering issuing a business license to its Trans-American Life Insurance Co. After that, relevant Chinese departments revealed that China would be giving entry permits to 12 foreign insurance businesses after it joins the World Trade Organization.

Last October, 400 model employees and senior administrative staff of the New York-based Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., led by the company's CEO Robert H. Benmosche, arrived in Beijing for an important company meeting.

A world-renowned company, Metropolitan Life ranks No.1 in the United States in the trade. It provides insurance services to 9 million American families and many companies and institutions. It also has business in 11 countries and regions around the world. In 1999, its business turnover was as high as US\$25.4 billion, the total effective insured amount of life insurance stood at US\$1.600 billion, and assets under its management exceeded US\$400 billion.

Benmosche has paid much attention to China's reform and opening up in the insurance field. He said the Chinese insurance market is the most dynamic market in the world with its more than 1.2 billion people and a rapidly growing economy, and his company hopes to play a constructive role in the development of China.

Lloyd's of London is an insurance conglomerate comprised of 124 businesses that cooperate and compete with each other. The largest insurance trader, its annual premiums amount to nearly 7.8 billion pounds (US\$10.5 billion), accounting for 50 percent of the total London insurance market. Lloyd's of London Chairman Max Taylor noted that the establishment of an independent supervisory institution—the China Insurance Regulatory Commission—for China's insurance sector, the diversifying insurance services, the increasing premiums and the expanding insurance businesses all indicate that the Chinese insurance industry is integrating with international practices.

In November 2000, Lloyd's of London opened a representative office in Beijing, the first time the company had set up a representative office in a country where it had no operating institution. ■



The nation's first telephone hotline for insurance services using a unified number nationwide.

GDP, the variety and quantity of insurance products, and the space and channels for the operation of insurance premiums. Experience in other countries indicates that the insurance companies must have the means and capability to manage insurance premiums so that they can ensure the security and profitability of these "life-saving" funds.

Comparatively speaking, investment in securities, especially investment in stocks, can reap high long-term profits and has thus become a primary choice of insurance companies in the world for managing insurance premiums. In order to improve the overall payment capacity of China's insurance industry, it is imperative to tap investment areas for

fairness of the market in a bid to give play to the function of the market and improve the efficiency of capital allocation. At the same time, measures should be taken to limit the effects of a "bubble" economy, minimizing overall risks.

**Approach of Overseas Insurance Carriers**

A "carrier fleet", composed of insurance businesses from the United States and European Union nations, is sailing for the shores of China. This is reasonable in consideration of the huge development potential of China's insurance market.

In 1992, China started opening its insurance market to the outside world, first in Shanghai. Since then, 15 insurance busi-



# Should Children Get Their Education Abroad?

**T**he recent 2001 China International Higher Education Touring Exhibition once again stimulated Chinese enthusiasm for overseas study. More than 160 colleges and universities from 22 countries and regions, including the United States, Canada, Britain and France, took part in the exhibition on February 17 at the Conference and Exhibition Hall of the Beijing World Trade Center. Tens of thousands of students and parents from Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and Liaoning flooded the exhibition, getting material or filling in application forms. The China Overseas Study Service Center provided consultations on the spot and handled relevant formalities. The site was bustling with noise and excitement.

Statistics show that the number of Chinese students going abroad has been growing at an annual rate of 20 percent in recent years. From the boisterous scenes at this touring exhibition, one can easily see that overseas study is still the ardent desire of many people. In addition to many college students and company employees who inquired about further study abroad, there were many senior high students. Compared with previous exhibitions of this kind, students intending to study abroad are getting younger.

According to the State Overseas Students Service Center, there are more than 20 million students in China who have failed the college entrance examination, 30 percent of them living in cities. Among these students, one-third, or a total of 2 million, have enough money or, even though they lack adequate funds, try every possible means to study abroad. Because of various reasons, such as the lack of a visa, not all of them succeed in going abroad to study. But over the past three years, the number of teenage students going abroad has been growing at a rate of around 40 percent, reaching approximately 50,000 in the year 2000. Preliminary estimates show that each teenage student spends US\$15,000-US\$20,000 each year abroad.

Apart from the huge cost, overseas teenage students have to bear the spiritual ordeal of leaving their native land. How do people in various walks of life view the phenomenon of teenagers studying abroad?

## Enthusiasm for Overseas Study: More Disadvantages to the State

—Zhang Zhiyong and Bian Huimin, Southwest China University of Finance and Economics

The population flow observes one law, that is, the population flows from less developed areas to developed areas. For the country that accepts foreign students, this can save it money on childbirth, child rearing and health care prior to the students' entry. A large part of foreign students' education expenses can also be saved. Moreover, out of consideration of its own interests, the recipient country retains people with a relatively high level of knowledge, which helps optimize the local structure of talented people and injects vitality into economic development.

Whereas countries that export talented people adopt the compulsory elementary education system, developed countries that accept the students adopt paid higher education. In this way, the recipient country not only shifts the huge burden of education expenses on to the exporting country, but also makes up for deficiencies in local talent. The development of higher education thus achieves a favorable spiral in developed countries.

In the United States, for instance, higher education brings in billions of dollars in foreign exchange revenue each year in addition to an influx of hundreds of thousands of talented people. Currently, international students account for 50 percent of the graduates in U.S. colleges and universities. A considerable number of these graduates will stay and work in the United States. All their innovative capabilities after they complete their education will benefit the United States first. The superiority of the United States in scientific and technological development is, to a large extent, a result of the introduction of the scientific and technological elite from other countries. It can be said that higher education has become the most lucrative industry in the United States, and this is also the fundamental reason accounting for the leading position of the United States in the world's high-tech fields.

For the exporting country, however, the disadvantages outweigh the advantages. The exporting country loses the money it invested in educating the students, which consequently decreases the investment efficiency and greatly affects the country's economic development. In the 17 years from 1978 to 1995, China sent a total of 250,000 students abroad, but only about 80,000 of them came back. Among the over 160,000 students who remained overseas, more than 60 percent were in the United States. These Chinese students have become a force not to be ignored in the scientific, technological, educational and economic fields in the United States. For China, however, a huge amount in education funds has been cast to the winds. Worse still, China will have to buy the new and high-tech products from developed countries at a much higher price. This is really worrisome.

The phenomenon of students going abroad at a younger age reflects to a certain degree the defects of China's current school system and education mode. There is nothing to be said against studying abroad and many old reputable universities overseas are attractive indeed. But China should work out more ways to keep Chinese students at home as well as work on tuition fees. For instance, prestigious schools in other countries may be allowed to operate schools in China, or set up branches or joint ventures. In that way, high-level education



The 2001 international education exhibition held in Beijing provides an opportunity for those who want to study abroad.





A Belgian teacher talks with students at a summer "English training camp."

and good experiences may be introduced and a win-win result may be achieved.

#### Be Patient About Children's Overseas Study

—Qi Lixin, chief representative in the China market for a Canadian consulting company

The number of Chinese students in Canada has continued to increase on a yearly basis. About 20 percent of them have education of senior high school or below. From my personal point of view, these students go abroad too early, which is not so good for their growth. Since most of the students at this age have grown up in families containing four elderly people and two parents as well as themselves, they are incapable of taking care of themselves in daily life. As well, they do not have mature outlooks on the world or life. If they, in such a state of mind, enter a society that is greatly different in ideology and lifestyle, they are very likely to lose their direction in life. As a result, it will be difficult for them to succeed in their education and, more importantly, there may be a shadow on them for the rest of their lives.

Most of the students going abroad at this age start in a preparatory school. Most often, the schools they attend are unregulated private schools, which lack a strong teaching force. Usually a few teachers and a few dozen students form a college. As the study is almost solely concentrated on language, there are no systematic courses that will help the students lay a solid foundation for their future major study.

As a matter of fact, elementary education in China is as good as in developed countries. There is no need for parents to be impatient. They can wait with ease until their children finish senior high school or have a few years of college education. Then the children can study at a regular university abroad after taking the necessary examinations. In this way, the students can have a clear position about their orientation of study, and because they may obtain scholarships, they can alleviate the financial burden of their families.

#### Young Students: Act With Prudence

—Zhou Zhicheng, associate professor in the Department of Political Science and Law at the South China Teachers' University

I studied at Canada's University of Alberta for a Master's degree from 1994 to 1997. I was more than 30 years old when I went abroad. According to what I saw and heard during my study in Canada, I have reservations about sending students abroad at a young age.

Many parents have great ambitions for their children. Unquestionably, all those parents who send their children abroad at a young age hope that their children can become useful people at an early date. However, I'm doubtful about how much studying abroad can contribute to a child growing into a useful person.

The biggest problem is a child's psychological adaptability. From China to a foreign country, a child faces a brand new world. Even for adult students, it is no easy matter to adapt to a changed environment. My neighbor in Canada was a Chinese student who was a borderline schizophrenic because of the excessive psychological pressures. As well, there are reports about the suicide of Chinese students abroad. I really can't understand why some parents have the heart to send their teenage children to study abroad.

The language barrier is much tougher than expected. Childhood is the prime time for a person to learn a language. A child less than 10 years of age can easily grasp a language after he or she lives for some time in the new language environment. But as we get older, the ability to learn a language decreases. Generally speaking, it is easier for a person less than 11 or 12 years of age to learn a language than a person who is older. Many students going abroad are already older than 11 or 12. Because they have passed the best time for learning a language, it is relatively difficult for them to overcome the language barrier. While I was studying in Canada, I worked as an English tutor in quite a number of families who were immigrants from Hong Kong. Some of my students were junior high and some senior high. I tried my best to teach them and they tried their best to learn, but progress was slow. Many parents immigrated to Canada for the sake of their children, but the academic performance of their children was disappointing. Even for parents who are with their children, things have been less than satisfactory. So, it is not hard to imagine what will happen when a child studies alone in a foreign country.

Complaints do exist about China's primary and middle school education. However, things are no better in other countries. Many adult Chinese students in Canada also complain about the lax management and irrational curriculum in their children's schools. They say that their children can hardly learn anything in such schools. Thus, it is clear that Western education is not perfect.

#### Study Abroad: Early Preparation for a Child's Future

—Song Shu, parent of a student

There is tough competition to go to college in China. Even if my son is admitted to the best university in the country, there is no guarantee that he will find a satisfactory job. So I think it would be better to send him abroad early to save trouble in the future. I hope my son can have a part-time job while studying abroad. If he can't find a job, the family will use up all their resources to support his education. As far as I know, many parents of students share my view.

#### Study Abroad Is Necessary

—Wang Weijia, sociologist

At present, investment in individual education cannot yield corresponding returns in China. Overseas study can avoid fierce competition in China for college admission and fulfill the dream of a college education. More importantly, overseas study can bring about higher returns. Such returns include a high income and a high social status. Besides, there are more opportunities for development abroad. If a student comes back with a diploma from a foreign university, he or she can have other benefits. In other words, overseas study is a way to procure higher returns. Enthusiasm for overseas study in recent years is solid proof of this mode of investment.

From another point of view, it is impossible to imagine that China, which is undergoing reform and opening up, has an isolationist policy on education. China should let young students obtain more understanding about the outside world and have the opportunity to accept a multi-cultural education, especially in the world's most advanced science and technology fields. The majority of overseas students will make contributions, through one way or another, to the rejuvenation of China. From this point of view, the annual 4 billion yuan investment in education will produce returns sooner or later. ■



# Sports and Fitness Tour in 2001

2001   
Health & Fitness-China

**T**aking advantage of the World Universiade to be held in Beijing this year and Beijing's bid for the 2008 Olympic Games, the State Tourism Administration has introduced the theme of "Sports and Fitness Tour" for this year. Some of the major international and domestic sporting events will be promoted outside China.

According to the State Tourism Administration's plan, sightseeing and ecological tourism products will be promoted; specialized programs and sports tourism activities favored by the public will be introduced; group tourist products for overseas tourists will be available and various sports tourism activities will be operated to boost the domestic tourism market and promote domestic tourist undertakings during the nationwide fitness campaign. As the policy of developing China's western region is further implemented, the tourist environment in the west will be fully utilized, and specialized tours suitable to the region will be emphasized, so as to boost the local tourism industry and promote economic development.

The themes of the 2001 Sports and Fitness Tour include:

1. Sports and Fitness Tour—the choice for the new century
2. Travel around and build yourself up
3. Relax your mind in nature
4. Stay young through travel

Major contents of the event during the first quarter of the year include:

● **The Harbin Ice and Snow Festival (December 31, 2000)**

**Sponsors:** Heilongjiang Provincial Government and Harbin Municipal Government

**Managers:** Harbin City and Heilongjiang Tourism Bureau

**Locations:** Songhuajiang Ice and Snow Wonderland in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, and 28 snow fields in the province

**Major activities:** The opening ceremony, skiing show, skiing contest for Xueyu Club members, ice and snow tourism fair, food week and tourist skiing competition.

● **Taishan Mountain in the New Century (December 31, 2000 - January 1, 2001)**

**Sponsors:** China Pigeon Association, Beijing Donghai Huaye Co. and Tai'an Municipal Government

**Major activities:** Foreign and domestic tourists climbing the mountain on the night of December 31, 2000; freeing 2001 pigeons at the mountain peak, greeting the dawn of the new century and praying for world peace on the morning of January 1, 2001; the opening ceremony at the Daimiao Temple, including striking an ancient bell, performance with 100 drums and 100 zheng (a traditional Chinese zither), a taiji sword performance by 100 local elders and a kungfu performance by 100 local children.

● **Jilin Ice and Snow Tourism Festival (January-March)**

The opening ceremony of the festival was held on January 1, 2001.

**Sponsor:** Jilin Provincial Government

**Locations:** Changchun and Jilin cities and Changbaishan Mountain

**Major activities:** Colorful tourist activities on ice and snow help to introduce local tourist products to the global market and boost local tourism during winter.

● **Ten thousand Climbers on the Great Wall (January 1)**

**Major activities:** 10,000 people climbing the Badaling Great Wall and National Team members shooting clay pigeons.

● **Climbing the Oriental Pearl and Long-distance Race on New Year's Day (January 1)**

**Location:** Shanghai Oriental Pearl Television Tower

**Major activities:** 10,000 citizens climbing the tower and running the race after gathering at the Oriental Pearl Square; art performance and sports competition.

● **The Opening Ceremony for 2001 China Chongqing Fitness**

**Swimming Program (January 1)**

**Sponsors:** Chongqing Tourism Bureau, Sports Bureau and Yuzhong District Government

**Location:** Chaotianmen Square in Chongqing

**Major activities:** Exercises and long-distance race with 10,000 people participating.

● **Ten thousand Guangzhou Citizens Race Around the City on New Year's Day (January 1)**

**Major activities:** Long-distance race participated in by 10,000 citizens along the main arteries of the city proper; flower fair and fitness performance in local parks and sports locales.

● **The Opening Ceremony for 2001 China Sports and Fitness Tour in Shaanxi (January 1)**

**Sponsor:** Shaanxi Tourism Bureau

**Location:** Xi'an City

**Major activities:** Tang Dynasty style polo performance, taiji boxing performance, martial arts performance, martial arts performance by children and traditional kungfu performances.

● **The First South China Ice and Snow Festival (January 6)**

**Sponsor:** Sichuan Provincial Government

**Managers:** Sichuan Tourism Bureau, Sports Bureau, China Southwestern Airlines, Chengdu City, Leshan City, Meishan Prefecture and Ganzi Prefecture

**Locations:** Xiling Snow Mountain, Emei Mountain, Longchi Lake, Wawu Mountain and Hailuoguo Valley

**Major activities:** Skiing, skating, figure skating, motorcycle competition on a snow field, ice sculpture contest, snow games and hot spring bathing in snow field.

● **Qipanshan Mountain Ice and Snow Festival and Relevant Sports Activities in Shenyang, Liaoning Province (January-February)**

**Sponsor:** Shenyang Municipal Government

**Manager:** Shenyang Tourism Bureau

**Locations:** Shenyang Qipanshan Mountain, Beiling Park and Nanhu Park

**Major activities:** Skiing, skating, motorcycle racing and sailing on ice fields, the fourth Winter Swimming Contest and ice games.

● **Kite Fair of the Nanjing International Plum Blossom Festival (February 28-March 18)**

**Location:** Zijinshan Mountain, Nanjing

**Major events:** Kite performance and competition, domestic and foreign kite exhibition.

● **Hainan International Golf Competition (March 8-13)**

**Major activities:** The competition will start from Qionghai and, after a tour of Beao in Qionghai and Kangleyuan in Wanning, will end at the golf course in Yalong Bay in Sanya. More than 1,000 golf enthusiasts from home and abroad will be invited to participate in the competition and the fitness tour.

● **First International Taiji Boxing Fair (March 22-26)**

**Sponsors:** Martial Art Management Center of the State General Administration of Sports, China Martial Arts Association and Sanya Municipal Government

**Location:** Sanya, Hainan Province

**Participants:** Teams from all provinces and cities, teams from places of origin of taiji boxing and those from well-known martial arts houses and martial art organizations from more than 20 countries and regions.

**Major activities:** Taiji boxing performances, exchanges and appraisals, taiji boxing consultations, lectures and training courses, a symposium on "scientific fitness", grading of taiji boxers, martial arts tour for fitness, 1,000 taiji boxers doing morning exercises on the beach and an art performance. ■

## Beijing to Invest 45 Billion Yuan in Environment

**B**eijing will invest 45 billion yuan in environmental protection, especially cleaning up air pollution, in the next five years, Beijing Mayor Liu Qi said recently. As a result of the investment, air quality in Beijing will reach Class Two Standard during 70 percent of the days of the year.

In recent years, the Beijing Municipal Government has taken many forceful measures to change the urban environment. The authorities have popularized clean fuel in the city of 12 million people. Last year, natural gas usage in Beijing exceeded 1 billion cubic meters. In the next five years, the proportion of natural gas, electric power and other clean fuel among all energy used will reach 75 percent. By 2005, Beijingers will use 3 billion cubic meters of natural gas.

In a short period of time, Beijing has succeeded in controlling air pollution from cars. The government ordered 600,000 old autos off the streets and had more than 180,000 vehicles refitted to meet current standards. Strict standards for emission have also been applied to heavy trucks, diesel engines and farm vehicles.

To reduce the amount of dust floating in the air, the government strengthened the management of pollution from construction projects and increased the amount of green space. Last year, 5 million square meters were covered with greenery, 36.5 percent of the city's area.

In addition, Beijing ordered the clearing-up of the waterway system. In recent years, more than 1.78 million cubic meters of mud was removed and a 45.3-km sewage water course was built. The government has devoted great efforts to cleaning the water network in the central part of Beijing.

Last year, air quality on most days was good and other pollution was reduced on a large scale.

Beijing has succeeded in completing the first step in making the air clean, Liu Qi said. The main aim in 2001 is to continue to improve air quality, especially in winter, and prepare to meet environmental quality targets for next year.



## APEC Investment Mart 2001

**S**ponsored by China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation and the Shandong Provincial People's Government, APEC Investment Mart 2001 will be held in the city of Yantai from June 9 to 15 this year.

An important APEC multilateral trade activity, the investment mart was first held in Seoul in 1999. China is host of the APEC summit this year and the investment mart is just one activity to be held in China.

The topic of this year's event, "Investing in the Asia-Pacific Region: Investing in the Future," will give APEC members a chance to display their investment climate, policies and opportunities. The event is expected to promote communication and cooperation, while accelerating economic prosperity and development in the region. The investment mart will include a policy investment session for APEC members, a forum for APEC entrepreneurs, an exhibition of investment opportunities and an investment cooperation fair.

The 1,000 standard display sites will be divided into two parts, one for APEC members and one for APEC enterprises. The area set aside for APEC members will provide each member with a free 100-square-meter display space to put their images and projects before the public. The part for enterprises will provide a platform for them to show their high-tech products and projects.

The Chinese Government values the investment mart and established the Guiding Committee and Organizing Committee to prepare for it. The host city of Yantai is one of China's first open cities and has a well-developed economy, beautiful environment and rich experience in sponsoring large international meetings.

## Toyota to Enter China's Clean Auto Industry

**R**epresentatives from Toyota Corp. of Japan recently attended a workshop at China's electrical car testing zone. The zone, established in June 1998, is on Nan'ao Island, Shantou city. Toyota donated five RAV4EV electrically operated cars to the zone as test vehicles.

At the workshop, Toyota representatives discussed their environmental and electrical technology, and their practical experiences in putting the test auto into operation. The attendees also discussed the future development of a clean Chinese auto.



## EU-China Clerical Training Project Begins

The nationwide EU-China Training Project for Clerical Staff recently started in Beijing following the launch of a piloting program in Wuhan, Hubei Province.

The project is designed to improve the competitiveness of Sino-EU joint ventures before China enters the WTO. Any enterprise in any region will be able to discuss training requests with foreign experts and jointly devise training programs. Helped by European and Chinese experts, the project will not only train clerical staff, but also benefit the Chinese education system by employing the latest European training methods. Most of the project's services will be free.

The piloting program in Wuhan, funded with 15 million euros from the EU Commission and Hubei Province, will improve staff in Sino-EU joint ventures over the next five years. Another 40 projects will go in other provinces and in different companies.

## Swiss Insurance Companies Rush Into Chinese Market

Since last year, several large Swiss insurance companies have rushed into the Chinese market. Last November, a Swiss insurance firm bought 10 percent of the shares in the Taikang Life Insurance Company, the fifth largest life insurance company in China. Recently, Zurich Financial Services Group announced it would buy 10 percent of the fourth largest life insurance company, Xinhua Life, for US\$39 million. Under current Chinese laws, individual foreign companies are limited to holding a maximum of 10 percent of the shares of Chinese insurance companies. Besides Zurich Financial, International Finance Corp., Meiji Life Insurance Co. of Japan and Development Finance Co. of the Netherlands together hold another 14.9 percent of the shares, meaning foreign capital owns 24.9 percent of the shares in Xinhua Life.

Founded in 1996, Xinhua Life has business rights across the entire country. With 500 employees and 2,500 agencies nationwide, the company earned US\$120 million last year. Swiss experts believe that although the Chinese insurance industry has just started up, it has great potential because reforms in health and social security will supply unlimited opportunities. Besides life

insurance, Zurich Financial plans to explore other markets. It is an open secret that according to the Sino-Swiss trade treaty concerning China's WTO entry, the Swiss will get a license to enter the Chinese market and Zurich Financial will be the first to benefit. As described by Zurich Financial, this interim life insurance license will give Zurich exclusive access to the Chinese market for the first two years after China joins the WTO.

According to a survey of the Chinese insurance market, the income of Chinese insurers reached US\$1.7 billion in 1999, 13.3 percent more than the previous year. The income from life insurance increased 18.3 percent, and from non-life insurance 5.8 percent. As the 16th largest insurance market in the world, the income from Chinese insurance was 0.72 percent of the world total.

## Beijing High-Tech Week Becomes International Fair

The Fourth Beijing High-Tech International Week, also called the Beijing International Science Fair, will be held from May 10 to 15. Yao Wang, president of Beijing Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said the international week was given an additional name of "international fair" in line with international practice because it establishes the fair as an international brand name.

This fair will host exhibitions, professional forums, trade fairs, and hundreds of scientific, commercial and communication meetings.

The size of this year's fair will be four times larger than last time. The China International Exhibition Center will be employed as the central display area. Seven other locations, including the Beijing Exhibition Museum and International Conference Center, will also be used. The 21 exhibition fields will include modern electronics and telecommunications, e-business, biomedicine and pharmaceuticals, energy conservation and environmental protection, space technology and computers.

Valuable speeches and 20 forums on subjects ranging from science and education to start-up and development, high-tech industry and finance, have been scheduled. All the hot topics in the new economy will be mentioned, such as the WTO and international cooperation, digital China, and the management of high-tech enterprises.

During the week, 14 trade activities, including the International Investment and Trade Fair, Investment Projects Fair, UN Purchasing Fair and West China's Key

Projects Fair, will be held. These fairs provide opportunities for exchange between enterprises, research institutes and financial institutions. The Financial Capital Trade Fair will emerge for the first time during the week. In addition, large scale international communications activities will enrich the week's activities. As a modern measure, networking technology will energize exchanges.

## Hong Kong Fair Held in Chengdu

To introduce Hong Kong's name-brand products, economy, social development and tourist resources to the local people, the Hong Kong Fair was held at the Chengdu International Exhibition Center from February 22 to 25. The fair benefited from interest in west China.

One of the sponsors, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, led 68 Hong Kong companies to attend and hoped it would promote trade cooperation with Sichuan, Chongqing and the whole of southwestern China.

Wen Shaowen, manager of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, pointed out that the development of western China provides many opportunities for Hong Kong companies, especially in infrastructure and raw material development as well as the manufacturing and service industries. After China's entry into the WTO, the inland market will open up more and more and Hong Kong companies will attach importance to investing in western China.

Wen also noted that Sichuan Province and Chongqing, with the densest population — 120 million — strongest economic power and highest consumption in the region, have attracted investment by a great many Hong Kong businessmen. They believe that with the government pushing development in western China, the economy of the region will increase rapidly. The income and consumption levels of the people will boom at the same time, meaning the Chongqing and Sichuan markets have even better prospects.

Wen emphasized that after the council held the Hong Kong Return Fair in 1997, similar fairs in Chongqing, Shanghai and Wuhan received good feedback. Attendees learned about the local market from the fair and began to cooperate with local manufacturers or set up their own agencies directly.

This fair will exhibit six categories of products: clothing, food, household electrical appliances, toys and gifts, jewelry and cosmetics, industrial and professional products. ■



## Helping Poor Students Finish Their Education

The year 2000 saw more work to help poor students at post-secondary institutions based in Shanghai. About 17 million yuan in government subsidies and funds raised by colleges and universities were delivered to poor students in the form of grants.

Students studying in Shanghai's institutions of higher learning and vocational schools totaled 232,300 last year. Among them, 43,100 students or 18.56 percent of the total were from families with a per-capita monthly income of less than 400 yuan; 29,900 or 12.48 percent were from families with a per-capita monthly income below 280 yuan. The number of poor students increased by about 5,000 over 1999.

The appropriation and use of poverty aid in Shanghai's colleges and universities in 2000 were more standardized than in the previous year. In 30 percent of the colleges and universities, 10 percent of tuition fees were set aside for a poverty aid fund. The earmarking of aid funds was also guaranteed in other schools. Part-time work and part-time study program offices were established in departments of student affairs, and specialized staff were put in charge of financial aid in 98 percent of the schools.

At present, there are 90 newspaper stands, 38 copy centers and four student-staff supermarkets in the 132 part-time work and part-time study program bases in Shanghai's institutions of higher learning. A total of 41,190 students participated in the program in Shanghai, resulting in a profit of 29.89 million yuan.

The work of granting loans to poor college and university student has also made great progress. Last year, the Shanghai branches of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the China Construction Bank and the Agricultural Bank of China and the Pudong Development Bank held consultations in dozens of colleges, universities and vocational colleges, handled loan-granting procedures, and approved loans of more than 310 million yuan. To date, 76.02 million yuan, which is 35 times more than that in 1999, have been delivered. Altogether, 26,144 students have been granted aid loans. ■



Jinzhou Railway No.1 Middle School in Liaoning Province delivers poverty aid and clothes to 25 students from impoverished families.

## CETV and AOL Time Warner Form Strategic Alliance

China Entertainment Television & Broadcast Ltd. (CETV) forged a strategic alliance with AOL Time Warner, the world's largest media company, on February 17. Under this alliance, CETV will go through a complete makeover to provide entertainment programs of the highest quality to Chinese audiences around the world, especially to those in China's mainland.

Chen Yongguang, Vice-President and General Manager of CETV, said, "With the support of AOL Time Warner, we have gained world-class television production facilities and techniques as well as a wealth of programming resources and talented performers. After the makeover, CETV will provide a host of great programs, including our own productions and programs purchased from the world's best entertainment networks. We will make sure that our viewers get the latest and hottest entertainment shows in the world."

AOL Time Warner, CETV's strategic partner, is the world's leading media company and the first in the world to introduce digital broadcast technology in transmission of information and entertainment programming.

The new CETV programming will present to the Chinese world-wide a wide spectrum of entertainment programs including talk shows, music, arts, fashion, science, health, movies, soap operas, etc.

CETV, with headquarters in Hong Kong, was established in March 1995. CETV features a 24-hour mandarin language channel transmitted through the AsiaSat 3S satellite. CETV has 33 million subscribers in Asia and more than 10 million viewers in mainland China. ■

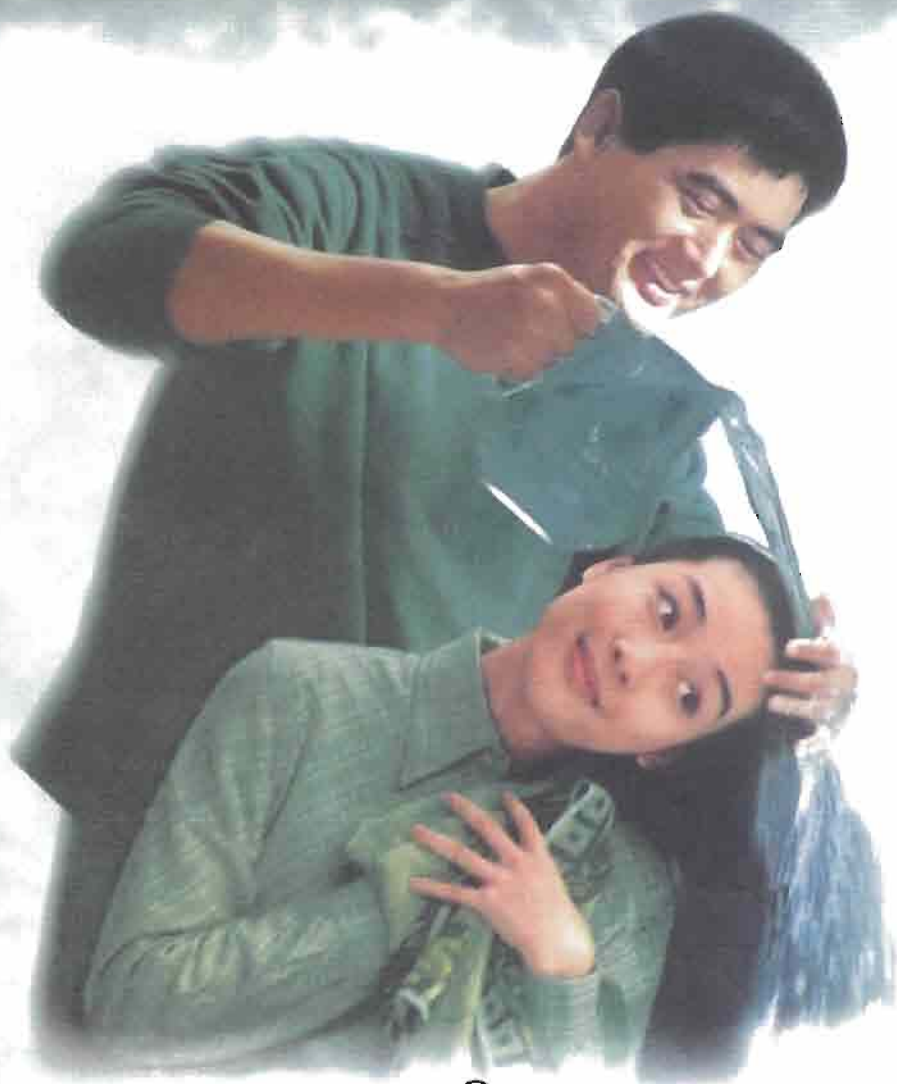
## Twelfth State Book Fair to Open in Kunming

The 12th State Book Fair will be held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, between September 15 and 25, Vice-Governor Jiang Gongqing announced in Beijing.

Besides in Kunming, exhibitions are to be held in Dali, Lijiang, Xishuangbanna and Yuxi, which are comparatively developed in terms of economy and culture. Publishing houses from around the nation, including Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and those from neighboring countries will be invited to participate. Exhibitions, sales and the ordering of books, periodicals and electronic video and audio publications of all kinds will be organized at the fair. The fair will also include a series of related activities, including the China Publication and the Development of the Western Region Forum, book autographing, reading and lecturing contest, solicitation of contributions and presentation of books to minority ethnic regions at the first Yunnan Reading Festival. A book fair website will be launched featuring fair information, an e-bookstore and related e-commerce activities.

The First State Book Fair was held in 1980. Since the second one in 1989, the event has been held annually and been enlarged in scale, exerting influence on the press and readers.

by Feng Jing



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