Eisenhower's Topsy-turvy Logic

The World Cannot Look On with Folded Arms

*Renmin Ribao* editorial calls on the people of the world to defeat U.S.-British aggression in the Middle East (p. 5).

On the Long March with Chairman Mao


China's Big Leap in Steel

New Trend in Education

“Tragic History” and “Historical Tragedy”
Just Off the Press

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"Tragic History" and "Historical Tragedy"

The rapid international developments in the wake of the U.S.-British aggression in the Middle East leaves no room for doubt as to the direction in which the political wind is blowing. The United States and Britain now find themselves in a position from which they can neither push forward their aggression without running the grave risk of provoking a serious world-wide conflict nor back down without serious loss of face. They are caught in a dilemma of their own making.

Alfred M. Lilienthal, a veteran U.S. writer on Middle Eastern affairs, deplored the landing of U.S. marines in Lebanon as a "tragic American blunder." History records only too many such "tragic blunders." One need not go far back to find them. For the imperialists and colonialists, the ignominious defeat of U.S. aggression against Korea and the dismal failure of the Anglo-French gamble in the Suez attack are, in the words of some Western commentators, "tragic history."

But the United States and Britain, it appears, did not emerge any the wiser. In launching fresh military aggressions in the Middle East, they are writing another historical tragedy for themselves. And this tragedy will undoubtedly add another stinking chapter of world notoriety to their long "tragic history."

Some sober-minded people in the West have advised a cautious "stop, look and listen" policy before it is too late. Mr. Aneurin Bevan thought it "essential that we pause in this mid-summer madness before we find ourselves at the point of no return," but his Labour Party so far has not yet taken any effective action to secure the withdrawal of British forces from Jordan.

For the people of the world, it is not altogether a bad thing that the imperialists have dropped their masks and come out in their true colours. Barefaced U.S.-British armed intervention in the Middle East makes nonsense of all their high-sounding talk about observing the principles of justice and international law, about respecting each nation's inalienable right to manage its affairs in its own way. It shows up the United States and Britain for the die-hard imperialists that they are. Imperialists will act like imperialists, after all. You might as well expect the beasts of prey to refrain from eating men as expect the imperialists to give up aggression.

Both Eisenhower and Macmillan tried to justify U.S.-British aggression on the pretext of "protecting" their nationals and particularly of helping Lebanon and Jordan to preserve their independence. Such arguments, however, don't hold water, as we show elsewhere in this issue. More revealing is the fact that Eisenhower and Macmillan simply did not mean what they said. All their pious talk about preserving the independence of Lebanon and Jordan is intended to cover up their ulterior motives.

It is common knowledge that Washington and London had planned armed intervention in Lebanon for quite some time. But they hesitated to take the plunge for fear of world opinion. Things, however, took a sharp turn after the victory of the people's revolution in Iraq. Eisenhower declared that the situation in Lebanon was "radically changed on July 14 when there
was a violent outbreak in nearby Iraq” and that “the measures thus far taken are not sufficient.”

It is quite obvious that much more is involved than the problem of Lebanon.

American officials acknowledged that the United States would be the target of universal denunciation if marines were sent to Lebanon. But they said that “the issue at stake was so immense” that President Eisenhower “had no alternative.”

Eisenhower himself admitted that he was well aware of the fact that the landing of U.S. troops in Lebanon could have some “serious consequences,” but he came to the conclusion that the action taken was “essential to the welfare of the United States.”

Discussing the dispatching of British troops to Jordan, Prime Minister Macmillan told the House that it was the most difficult decision he personally remembered having to take, or to be associated with. He could not predict the course of events, but he believed that the government “had no option in what they had done.”

WHAT is the issue at stake which is so “immense” that both the United States and Britain had no choice but to embark on military adventures much as they were aware of the serious consequences?

An AP dispatch from Athens dated July 16 sheds a good deal of light on this question. According to this story, U.S.-British intervention wasn’t dictated by events in Lebanon at all but by what happened in Iraq. “Events in Iraq were bound to give new impetus to the Lebanese revolt, but the main concern of the United States was the future of the entire Middle East, with its vast strategic importance to Western Europe.

“For Britain it is a matter of life or death. . . . The oil production of Iraq and Kuwait is the life blood of British industry.

“The United States, too, has a tremendous stake in what happens in this area, and in whether these events spill over into the Arabian Peninsula to threaten the vast American oil holdings there.”

The New York Times editorial of July 19 further confirmed that the United States dispatched troops to Lebanon to see “how stability can be restored and preserved in the entire Middle East area.”

Prime Minister Macmillan also let the cat out of the bag. He expressed alarm over “the critical and dangerous situation” created by the events in the Middle East. Whatever course these events took there were grave dangers for Britain, he warned. As he saw it, the prospects would be disastrous for Britain if things were allowed to drift along.

“What will be the future of Sudan? Where will Libya stand? What may be the resulting impact on other parts of Africa? What may be the results on our friends in Persia, Turkey and Pakistan?” he asked in panic.

From the above, it can be readily seen that the objective of U.S.-British intervention, as we have pointed out in previous editorials, is to bolster up colonial rule in the Middle East.

In their desperate efforts to maintain imperialist domination over the Middle East, the United States and Britain find a formidable road block in the ever-mounting national independence movements in the Arab countries. That’s why they are doing everything they can to slander and suppress Arab nationalism.

On this point, the British Prime Minister showed himself a true master. According to him, the national independence movements in the Middle East have about them something “perverted.” Why? Because, in his view, “this form of nationalism is not the pure patriotism of sacrifice; it is the kind of nationalism which feeds upon and can often be sustained by continual aggression.”

Macmillan’s complaint about “perverted” nationalism, however, fools no one. Even the British paper News Chronicle retorted with contempt: “Nothing is more likely to pervert it than the West’s recent actions.”

What Macmillan said is clear enough. By sacrifice, he meant sacrificing national interests and independence. By aggression he simply meant resisting foreign intervention.

All this goes to show that the alibis about helping to preserve the independence and integrity of Lebanon and Jordan merely add hypocrisy to crime.

Imperialism in its entire history has made all too many “tragic blunders.” But the imperialist powers just keep on adding one chapter after another to their tragedy. That, it seems, is the greatest tragedy of all for them.

For the peace and freedom-loving people of the world, however, there is nothing tragic about all this. It is the logical outcome of the development of imperialism as a world system. Imperialism and colonialism must go if the nations of the world are to live at peace and to be free to manage their affairs in their own way.

Eisenhower: Don’t lose heart, Mac, we are not alone

By Tai Lin
Aggression in the Middle East

THE WORLD CANNOT LOOK ON WITH FOLDED ARMS

Following is an abridged translation of the “Renmin Ribao” editorial of July 20, 1958 which was published under the title: “The Countries and Peoples of the World Who Love Peace and Freedom Cannot Look on with Folded Arms.” — Ed.

Peace in the Middle East and the whole world is seriously threatened by the joint U.S.-British aggression against the Middle Eastern countries. The U.S.-British imperialists, after sending troops to occupy Lebanon and Jordan, are continuing to rush reinforcements to these countries. At the same time, U.S.-British aggressive forces are hastily massing in Turkey, Cyprus, Aden and in the waters of the Eastern Mediterranean. Their aggression is being directed at Iraq and the United Arab Republic. The U.S.-British imperialists are indulging in wild fantasies of exterminating the whole national independence movement in the Arab east and the Asian-African regions, once they have gained a stable footing in Lebanon and Jordan. These aggressive actions and insane ambitions of the U.S. and British imperialists are a provocation against all countries and peoples who cherish peace and independence.

In the face of this U.S.-British war provocation, the peace and freedom-loving countries and peoples of the world definitely cannot afford to look on with folded arms.

History has demonstrated time and again that resolute blows must be dealt to aggressors, and that peace and national independence can only be achieved by determined struggles against imperialist aggressors. Baring their fangs and opening their claws, the imperialists may look ferocious, but in reality they are nothing but paper tigers, outwardly strong, but all dried up inside. If only the people of all countries take action, the aggression of the imperialists can definitely be defeated, and their war schemes stopped. “Nothing can be saved by yielding to evil, and coddling wrong only helps the devil.” The histories of the aggressive wars launched by Hitler Germany and Japan are still fresh in the memories of the whole world and are sufficient to bring this lesson home. Consequently, if the U.S.-British aggressors refuse to withdraw from Lebanon and Jordan, and insist on expanding their aggression, then the only course left to the people of the world is to hit the aggressors on the head!

The days when imperialism could dream of perpetuating its colonial rule by threat of brute force have long passed. During the Chinese people’s war of liberation, the United States sent many troops to carry out armed threats, but in the face of the firm struggle of the Chinese people, the American forces finally cleared out of the Chinese mainland with their tails between their legs, and the Chiang Kai-shek reactionary regime, to which the United States had given all-out support, finally disintegrated and collapsed. After this, the United States launched the war of aggression against Korea, with wild dreams of gobbling Korea down and spreading the flames of war to China. But under the heavy blows of the Korean People’s Army and the Chinese People’s Volunteers, the American aggressors were finally forced back south of the 38th Parallel, in disgrace, and had to admit their defeat and accept an armistice. After that, the struggle of the Viet-namese people against the American and French imperialists also ended in a great victory. In Egypt’s struggle to protect her sovereignty over the Suez Canal, in Syria’s struggle to guard her national independence, the Arab people showed their unity and solidarity and their determination to strike out at the aggressors, and this, together with the support of the peace forces of the whole world and the support of the socialist countries, and especially the Soviet Union, to the Arab people, stopped aggression in time. Recently, the struggle of the Indonesian Government and people to safeguard the unity of their country has again proved that only by opposing the intervention of the imperialists and their lackeys firmly and without hesitation can they be forced to shrink back. The imperialists have always bullied the weak and been afraid of the strong. The only language they understand is that of force. Only by carrying out determined struggle can we teach these imperialist pirates a lesson, accustomed as they are to carrying out aggression, intervention and war adventures, and force them to accept peace.

At present, the balance of forces is unfavourable as never before to the U.S. and British imperialists. Since the end of World War II, the imperialist colonial system has been in a state of disintegration.

Old colonial countries with a population of 700 million have already achieved their independence; besides this, other countries with a population of 600 million are struggling for their independence or for full independence, or are capitalist countries with neutralist tendencies; and the forces of the socialist camp, which firmly support all
national independence movements, are stronger today than they have ever been before.

IMPERIALISM has lost its superior position, not only politically, but militarily as well. The world domain of imperialism may be broken through at any time or any place. Its front is too long to be defended and its leaks are too numerous to be stopped up. When the American and British imperialists embark on military adventures, they become even more isolated. During the Korean war, the American imperialists were still able to usurp the United Nations banner by various ways and means, but this time the United States has found itself in an unprecedentedly difficult situation even in the U.N. organization, which has been under its control for a long time. Many countries have already formally announced their support for the national struggle of the Republic of Iraq and of the Arab people, and still more countries have formally expressed their opposition to U.S. and British intervention in the Middle East, and demanded the rapid withdrawal of the U.S. and British troops.

The aggressive actions of the United States and Britain in the Middle East have not only encountered indignant condemnation from the peace-loving countries and peoples the world over, but have also met with opposition from the people of their own countries, and even from strata of the bourgeoisie in their own countries. If the U.S. and British imperialists turn a deaf ear to the protests of the peoples throughout the world and the warnings given by China and the Soviet Union, if they do not withdraw their troops from Lebanon and Jordan soon, and abandon their war provocations which threaten the national independence movement of the whole Arab people and world peace, then the only fate in store for them is the hastening of their own doom. President Nasser of the United Arab Republic put it well. He said: "We take a peaceful attitude towards those who treat us peaceably. We take a hostile attitude towards those who are hostile to us. If they want peace, we agree. If they are hostile to us, we will fight to the last drop of blood. This is our way and our motto." Nasser's words express the common attitude of all those who love peace and uphold justice. We want peace, but we certainly are not afraid of war. If the imperialist aggressors, who have lost their senses, insist on a test of strength, then all those who refuse to be slaves must make the necessary preparations.

Alibis for Aggression

Eisenhower’s Topsy-turvy Logic

PRESIDENT Eisenhower stepped before the television cameras and radio microphones on July 15 and dressed up U.S. aggressive policy in the Middle East in fancy clothes. His arguments were later echoed by Macmillan and Lloyd in London. Stripped of its flights of rhetoric, the Eisenhower speech in effect spelled out the U.S.-British programme for armed intervention in the Middle East. As such it is worth looking into.

U.S. troops landed in Lebanon, according to Eisenhower, "for the welfare of the United States," to protect American lives and also to "assist the government of Lebanon to preserve its territorial integrity and political independence." These arguments don’t have a leg to stand on.

Every country, of course, has its own “welfare.” Most countries have nationals abroad. According to Eisenhower’s logic, every country can send troops to foreign lands whenever it wants to. The built-in excuse is so easy: for its “welfare” and to protect its nationals. But in Lebanon, as all admit, there wasn’t even any threat to American nationals. If the United States today is allowed to invade Lebanon on the grounds of “protecting” its 2,500 nationals there, tomorrow it can send troops to other countries because of some other thousands or hundreds of U.S. nationals.

A Hackneyed Colonial Excuse

This is, in fact, a hackneyed and much used colonial excuse. When Hitler carried out armed intervention in Spain in 1936, he claimed that it was “to protect the lives and property of Germans.” And we in China remember only too distinctly that when fascist Japan invaded this country in 1931, 1932 and 1937, it also used the same pretext.

Eisenhower’s high-sounding words about Lebanese integrity and independence are no less specious. Lebanon enjoyed territorial integrity until the U.S. forces invaded it. Lebanon was politically independent, in form at any rate. And the Lebanese people were struggling against the Chamoun government to turn this formal independence into real independence. But the invasion of the U.S. forces has completely destroyed even that formal independence.

The United States and the Chamoun government, Eisenhower said, were “entitled . . . to join in measures of collective security for self-defence” and such action is an “inherent right” recognized by the U.N. Charter. Article 51 of the U.N. Charter provides:

Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to maintain international peace and security.

But, as world public opinion agrees almost unanimously, there was no question of armed attack against Lebanon. What was going on there was purely an internal affair. This was confirmed even by the U.N. observer group and the statement of the U.N. Secretary-General Hammarskjold (though both were sent to Lebanon to find grounds for intervention). Furthermore, the United States dispatched its troops to Lebanon not before but after the
Security Council had "taken the measures necessary" in June. Invoking the U.N. Charter merely underscores Eisenhower's hypocrisy.

Upside Down

In his speech, the President of the United States described the Lebanese people's armed struggle against the Chamoun clique and the Iraqi people's revolution against the Faisal monarchy as "aggression" or "indirect aggression." From this upside-down logic we are supposed to believe that the Lebanese people are committing aggression against Lebanon and the Iraqi people are committing aggression against Iraq. This pretext for imperialist intervention outdoes even Hitler and Tojo in illogic and impudence.

Trying to make the American people accept the military adventure "whatever the consequences," Eisenhower mentioned that many Americans in the past had given their lives for independence. But American history certainly does not come to the aid of Eisenhower, Dulles and company — renegades to the tradition of Washington, Jefferson and Franklin. In their War of Independence (1775-1781), the people of the British colonies in North America fought against British tyranny. They defeated the British overlords. They also crushed the "loyalists" within the colonies who supported the British throne. That is how the United States of America came into being. The well-known American Declaration of Independence affirmed:

... that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

Aren't the people of the Middle East today demanding exactly the same things that the Declaration of Independence affirmed? Why is it that the Americans had the inalienable right to institute a new government while the peoples of Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq should be denied the self-same right?

According to Eisenhower's topsy-turvy logic, the American people in the time of the American Revolution were committing aggression against both England and America itself!

The Americans in the 18th century overthrew the British colonial rulers because they did not "derive their just powers from the consent of the governed." The pro-Western rulers of present-day Lebanon, Jordan and pre-revolution Iraq are even more unpopular among the people. Even the New York Herald Tribune admitted on July 8: "The majority of the Lebanese people openly or passively sympathize with the rebels." And Hussein of Jordan is not a whit more popular. In contrast, the new Government of Iraq enjoys the enthusiastic support of the people. Reporting from Bagdad, the Agence France Presse correspondent, for instance, wrote: "The most significant fact about the revolution is the enthusiasm and support of the people and the fact that it appeared to be a strictly internal affair. . . . The new regime seems to enjoy extraordinary and jubilant support of the people. Circulating freely since the first day, I witnessed groups of cheery people, dancing and singing."

In his speech, Eisenhower defined so-called "indirect aggression" in the following words: "Under the cover of a fomented civil strife, the purpose is to put into domestic control those whose real loyalty is to the aggressor." In this connection it is worthwhile recalling the fact that the American fighters for independence in the 18th century relied greatly on foreign support. They obtained important military assistance from France, Holland and Spain. During the first two and a half years of the War of Independence, over 90 per cent of all the arms used were imported from Europe, and France in particular. Frenchmen and many other Europeans formed volunteer armies to help the war effort of the Americans. Can Eisenhower or, for that matter, anybody else, have the audacity to say that the French who went to the aid of the Americans were "aggressors"? Or that the Americans who sought this help were "those whose real loyalty is to the aggressor"?

Yet today, both the struggle of the Lebanese people and the victory of the Iraqi people depend almost exclusively on their own efforts. Nonetheless, one may ask: why are they not entitled to the same international assistance that the American War of Independence received?

Addressing a mass meeting in Cairo, President Nasser pointed out that the American Revolution "declared the same principles" that the "free men of Iraq" had declared, and asserted: "America, when she expresses her anger today, forgets her own history and her logic."

The Pirates' Flag

It is clear that the American rulers today trample on the principles proclaimed by their forefathers at the time of the War of Independence. The U.S.-British imperialists, furthermore, have scrapped the principles proclaimed by their governments during World War II. The Atlantic Charter signed in 1941, for instance, stated categorically:
They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.

The U.N. Charter stipulates that the aim of the United Nations is the maintenance of international peace and security, that member nations should settle their international disputes through peaceful means, and that they should not resort to intimidation and force in their international relations.

The present action of the United States and Britain in the Middle East violates and negates all these principles. Eisenhower, in his July 15 speech, tried to justify this course of action. If his logic were accepted, the U.S. could send its troops to any country, could indeed take possession of the whole world.

Mark Twain's words denouncing the U.S. conquest of the Philippines more than half a century ago appear today as though they were written to describe the action and arguments of President Eisenhower:

We have invited our clean young men to shoulder a discredited musket and do bandits' work under a flag which bandits have been accustomed to fear, not to follow; we have debauched America's honour and blackened her face before the world. . . . We can have just our usual flag, with the white stripes painted black and the stars replaced by the skull and crossbones.

But the days of piracy are gone—and gone for ever. The world-wide tidal wave of protest against U.S.-British aggression indicates that the people have recognized the U.S.-British pirates for what they are more clearly than ever. They are demanding that the U.S.-British marauders clear out of the Middle East forthwith. The Chinese people, along with peace-loving peoples in other parts of the world, will not rest until this just demand is satisfied.

--T.C.R.

From the Western Press

A BLIND PLUNGE INTO THE DARK

GRAVE misgivings about the U.S.-British military adventures in the Middle East are voiced in newspapers in England, the United States and other Western countries.

"Blind, Blind, Blind," is the title of an editorial in the London Daily Mirror asserting that "Suez will go down in history as a blunder" but that "the British landings in Jordan were charged with even graver perils."

The Labourite Daily Herald says: "We're in—and nobody knows where we are going. We are plunging into the dark."

The Tribune in London writes: "Arab nationalism and Arab unity are on the march. History is on its side. . . . The Baghdad Pact was in ruins, the Eisenhower Doctrine was futile, and dollar imperialism was doomed."

The New York Times admits: "The whole American and British armed forces combined cannot quench that brush-fire in the Middle East."

Hanson W. Baldwin, the military commentator of The New York Times, declares: "The landing of United States marines in Lebanon yesterday may ultimately help to produce what it is intended to prevent. This is the tragic irony of our Lebanon intervention, which is reminiscent of the abortive British-French attack on Port Said almost two years ago." Their (the U.S. troops') mere presence in Lebanon will be to Arab nationalists like a red rag to a bull," Baldwin adds. "It will do more than any other event since the Port Said attack to knit together Arab nationalists throughout the Middle East and to inflame them."

In his syndicated New York Herald Tribune column, Walter Lippmann admits that "the popular revolutionary movement of the Arabs cannot be overcome by Western arms" and that it is plain "no kind of military intervention (against the Republic of Iraq) would have any chance of success." He emphasizes that "any Lebanon government which owes its existence to the Marines is doomed to destruction when the Marines leave. Moreover, the longer the Marines stay on, the greater will be the popular opposition to them in Lebanon."

There is worry even in the U.S.-British aggressive circles. "An attitude of gravity and apprehension" prevails in the U.S. Congress, United Press International reports, and "seldom has the United States been in such an atmosphere of uncertainty as exists now," Associated Press notes.

William L. Ryan, Associated Press commentator, notes: "Now the Middle East is slipping away and force can do little to halt this process."

Press comments on both sides of the Atlantic are highly sceptical about the pretexts of the U.S.-British military intervention in Lebanon and Jordan.

The London weekly New Statesman asserts: "American intervention is indefensible. The United Nations— at America's request—have investigated the Lebanon revolt and pronounced firmly and authoritatively that it was a purely internal affair. . . . Now Eisenhower—acting in panic at the news from Baghdad—has torn up the U.N. report. "Intervention cannot be justified even in terms of expediency," the journal declares.
The London Tribune declares that the U.S.-British intervention in the Middle East is “without a shadow of justification.”

The Manchester Guardian accuses the British Government of turning back the clock in Jordan and voices the suspicion that Macmillan has not looked far ahead.

News Roundup

NATION-WIDE PROTESTS AGAINST U.S.-BRITISH AGGRESSION

In ten days—from July 17 to the time we go to press, over 64 million people had participated in outdoor demonstrations and rallies against U.S. and British aggression in the Middle East. A nation-wide protest movement unprecedented in scale is sweeping through China.

Demonstrations are still going on from the northernmost forest city of Yichun to the subtropical seaport of Hoichow on Hainan Island, and from coastal Shanghai to China’s westernmost city of Kashgar.

In Peking, the mammoth rally against the U.S. invasion of Lebanon and round-the-clock protests in front of the British charge d’affaires office (read Peking Review, No. 21) have given place to indoor discussions and street corner rallies. Scores of amateur theatrical groups are putting on impromptu political skits in various parts of the city in which victorious “Arab warriors” always end up by defeating a bedevilled band of U.S. marines or routing Uncle Sam and John Bull in swallow-tailed frock coats and top hats.

The Middle East situation is still the number one topic in the capital. Radio programmes carry extra news, comments, songs and skits about latest developments. Extra editions of papers are quickly sold out. Many carried letters from readers protesting against U.S.-British aggression. Beijing Wanbao (Peking Evening News) is doing specially well. Sales of Peking papers have gone up from half a million to around 800,000 copies daily. Books and maps on the Middle East are best sellers.

On July 22, Foreign Minister Chen Yi, speaking at a Polish National Day reception, again warned the U.S. and British imperialists. He declared that “the 600 million Chinese people as well as other peace-loving countries and people of the world will not look on with folded arms,” if the imperialists do not cease their acts of aggression in the Middle East.

All over the Country

In Shanghai, on July 19, over a million people came out on the streets to demonstrate their solidarity with the Arab people. They marched on Nanking Road, where thirty-three years ago many Chinese were killed by the imperialists during a patriotic demonstration. Endless streams of people went to the office of the local British consul to voice their protests.

In Canton in the south, in sweltering July heat, 600,000 people took part in a demonstration on July 21.

On behalf of the demonstrators a Whangpoo harbour trade union member told the captain of a British ship in port that the Chinese people were determined to defend world peace and asked him to convey these sentiments to Britain.
Peasants in the outskirts of Canton who have just completed their summer harvest poured into the city to a meeting before the Canton monument to those who died in the struggle against British imperialist aggressors a hundred years ago. They pledged that they would fight imperialist aggression to the bitter end.

In Tientsin, two million took part in demonstrations. On July 18, when news came of the British invasion of Jordan, 12,000 dockers on the shift in the new harbour held a lightning demonstration to show their solidarity with the Arab people. They were greeted by seamen on German and Norwegian ships in port.

In Wuhan, the triple city on the Yangtse, 1,200,000 city residents put their signatures to letters of protest against the aggression in the Middle East. From early morning till late at night, crowds arrived to sign at stands in all parts of the busy city.

The protest movement has also spread to the smaller cities and towns, villages and hamlets in all parts of China.

In northwest China, where most of the Chinese of the Muslim faith live, the campaign is being pressed with vigour. Sixty thousand people of various nationalities took part in a protest demonstration in Urumchi, Sinkiang, on July 19 to show their support for the Arab people. Two hundred Imams of forty mosques marched in the ranks of the demonstrators. In the great Muslim centre of Kashgar, 50,000 people demonstrated in the square in front of the city's world-famous Eligar Mosque.

In Antung, on the Sino-Korean border, a city which was heavily bombed by U.S. aircraft in 1953 during the Korean war, thousands of citizens marched in a demonstration. They were joined by Chinese Volunteers who had just returned from Korea.

In east China, half a million fishermen and peasants in the Choushan Archipelago off the Chekiang coast held a giant “radio meeting.” Fishermen who have often been attacked by Chiang Kai-shek pirates pledged themselves to fight resolutely against any imperialist provocations.

In Lhasa, Tibet, angry denunciations of U.S.-British imperialist armed invasion in the Middle East was voiced at a mass meeting on July 21. In written statements to the rally, the Dalai Lama and Panchen Erdeni denounced imperialist invasion in the Middle East as acts “undermining peace and fomenting war.” On behalf of the Tibetan people, they pledged full support to the anti-imperialist struggles of the Arab people.

In Poan County, Kwangtung Province, wave after wave of workers and peasants went to the Lowu Bridge where they roared slogans: “Down with British aggression in Jordan!” and “U.S. and British forces, get out of the Middle East!” to the British policemen on duty on the opposite end of the bridge on the British-leased territory of Kowloon.

In Huhehot, capital of Inner Mongolia, on July 22, despite pouring rain 150,000 workers, peasants and herdsmen held a torchlight parade with lanterns, red flags and banners protesting against imperialist aggression.

The movement to support the Arab people in their struggle against aggression has spread to the remotest regions of the country. Thousands of Yis of the Great and Little Liangshan Mountains, who only a few years ago were freed from slavery, and Tibetans of Kangting, capital of the Kanze Tibetan Autonomous Chou in southwest China, turned out at mass rallies to support “their Arab brothers” struggling against “imperialist slavery.”

Bitter Experience

The Chinese people who suffered long years of imperialist aggression and exploitation have bitter memories of imperialist rule. Many at the rallies told of their personal experience.

Jen Hsiao-chu, a Shanghai resident, recalled how a pedicabman was murdered in broad daylight by a U.S. sailor in 1946. When the sailor was surrounded on the spot by indignant pedicabmen, Jen related, U.S. soldiers suddenly arrived in a jeep and escaped with the murderer.
Liu Chen, a peasant in Peking's Lukouchiao area (Marco Polo Bridge), scene of the outbreak of Japan's war of aggression against China in 1937, declared: "The Japanese killed every member of my family. I hate the imperialists. I can't be indifferent when the imperialists are invading the Middle East."

Those who addressed the rallies spoke with passionate conviction. As a seventy-four-year-old retired railway worker, Wang Chi-lin, said in Peking: "A lifetime's experience has convinced me that the imperialists must be resolutely handled if we are to ensure peace. The imperialists are again making war in the Middle East. We must act now!"

Artists and Writers Join In

Chinese artists and writers are also doing their bit in the current campaign.

In Peking, actors of the Chinese classical Peking opera, dressed in Arab national costume, presented a play in praise of the Iraqi revolution at the Tien An Men Square. Thousands of spectators burst into applause and cheers at the end of the play. In similar open-air performances, actors of other opera companies were also staging short plays dealing with the Middle East situation.

Peking streets are plastered with huge posters condemning U.S.-British aggression in the Middle East. These are the works of hundreds of artists and students of the art academies in the capital.

In Shanghai, over a hundred noted writers and poets held a protest meeting during which they unanimously pledged to use their pens to support the Arab people's just struggle. Many poets wrote new verses and personally pasted them in buses, trams, and on public buildings. Shanghai singers are popularizing over a hundred short songs composed by musicians in support of the Arab people.

In faraway Britain, the Chinese Theatrical and Dance Troupe which happened to be performing in London, cancelled all its remaining performances in protest against British aggression in Jordan. They left Britain on July 24.

On Guard for Peace

In the Chinese People's Liberation Army, rallies and meetings have been held in all units of the army, navy and air force in all parts of the country. Officers and men condemned U.S.-British aggression in the Middle East and expressed their readiness to defend China's security and world peace.

Members of units stationed on the Chekiang front declared that they would heighten their vigilance and be ready at all times to liberate Taiwan.

Industry

THE BIG LEAP IN STEEL

by WU LI-YUNG

Director of the Bureau of Metallurgical Industry, State Economic Commission

China's steel output increased at an average annual rate of 31.7 per cent during the First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957) — a speed unknown in the history of capitalist countries. This year, steel production is expanding at a much faster rate than any previous year. It is expected to exceed ten million tons — a more than 90 per cent increase over last year. Next year's steel output, it is estimated, will be more than 20 million tons.

In the light of actual experience, the time-table for the development of China's steel industry has been considerably accelerated. At the end of 1957, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party declared that China would catch up with and surpass Britain in the output of major industrial products in fifteen years or a little longer. At the Second Session of the Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party held in May this year, the slogan was changed to catch up with and surpass Britain in the output of major industrial products in fifteen years or less.

The development of the steel industry in Britain has been slow and unsteady. Between 1937 and 1957 (years of war and post-war boom), the average annual rate of increase was 2.5 per cent. Even if we take the 1950-1957 period (years of the Korean war and armament race), the figure was a mere 4 per cent. Britain's steel output in 1957 was 22 million tons. According to figures released by the Iron and Steel Board, it showed a 5.4 per cent drop in the first half of this year compared with the corresponding period last year. Judging from the development of the iron and steel industry in Britain, China will catch up with and outstrip Britain in steel production in considerably less than 15 years.
Why can China’s iron and steel industry advance at such high speed?

The fundamental reason is China’s socialist system which has released the creative forces of her 600 million people.

China is rich in the resources needed for the iron and steel industry. By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan (1962), the measured and indicated iron reserve may amount to 15,000 million tons; the coal reserve over 110,000 million tons. Iron and coal mines are found in nearly every province of the country and many of the coal deposits can be used to make coke. Manganese, refractories and flux are also in rich enough supply to meet the needs of the rapid development of the iron and steel industry.

In the past few years, much experience has been acquired in this field and a considerable number of technicians have been trained, paving the way for the further development of the iron and steel industry.

Further, as a result of the rapid development of agriculture, the machine-building industry, communications and transport, there has been a growing demand for iron and steel products. The domestic market for iron and steel is constantly expanding.

**Principles and Policies**

The principle of the simultaneous development of this branch of industry by both the central and local authorities and the development of medium and small iron and steel plants as well as giant ones has been adopted so that these favourable conditions can be utilized to the full for the speedy development of the iron and steel industry.

One of the outstanding features in the development of China’s iron and steel industry today is that a large number of medium and small iron and steel enterprises are being set up by the local authorities. Among the medium-sized integrated iron and steel works are the Chungking Iron and Steel Works, the Hantan Iron and Steel Works in Hopei Province, the Tsinan Iron and Steel Works in Shantung Province, the Mannshan Iron and Steel Works in Anhwei Province—all of which are either being expanded or under construction. When completed, each will produce over 600,000 tons of steel annually. Among the smaller iron and steel plants are the Ocheng Iron and Steel Plant in Hupeh Province, the Lienyuan Iron and Steel Plant in Hunan Province and the Chekiang Iron and Steel Plant, each with an annual steel output of over 100,000 tons.

More numerous still are the various types of medium and small blast furnaces for smelting iron and medium and small Bessemer converters for steel-making. More than 13,000 blast furnaces are being built this year. They will have a total capacity of over 20 million tons of pig iron.* The provinces of Hopei, Honan, Hunan and Shantung will each build more than 1,000 small blast furnaces and most of them will be completed this year.

In steel production, over 200 medium and small Bessemer converters ranging from 0.5 to 12 tons are being built this year by the local authorities in all parts of the country. Their total capacity of steel-smelting will reach 10 million tons. Some of them set up recently in Chekiang, Shansi, Shantung and Peking have already gone into operation.

This does not mean, however, that China will rely on a large number of medium- and small-sized iron and steel plants alone. The Ministry of Metallurgical Industry is stepping up the construction of giant, modern, integrated iron and steel works. The expansion of the Anshan Iron and Steel Works has been completed. The first 1,386-cubic-metre blast furnace of the Wuhan Iron and Steel Works in central China will produce iron on October 1 of this year. Its second blast furnace, steel-smelting plant and rolling mills are also under construction. In Inner Mongolia, the Paotow Iron and Steel Works is building its own mines and preparations are being made for its first 1,513-cubic-metre blast furnace to go into operation next year. These are big, integrated iron and steel works, the sinew of China’s iron and steel industry, each with an annual capacity of over three million tons of steel.

In this way, the whole country, with the three major integrated iron and steel works as the backbone, will be dotted with many medium-sized iron and steel plants and still more small ones, to be supplemented by myriads of

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* Britain’s total pig iron output in 1957 was 14,530,000 tons.
small blast furnaces and small Bessemer converters. This will end the pattern that prevailed in old China when a small iron and steel industry was confined to the northeast and the coastal areas. Then, there will be a relatively balanced development of this industry in the country as a whole and iron and steel output will increase quickly.

It was necessary, in the past, for the iron and steel industry to be developed centrally by the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry so as to build up the technical strength and gather experience in this field. Now it is possible for the local authorities to establish their own iron and steel industries. The local authorities will work things out in accordance with local needs. The central authorities will balance things out from the viewpoint of the situation in the country as a whole, make over-all plans and co-ordinate the work.

In addition to the mechanized and automatic iron and steel plants in China today there are also small plants where manual labour is combined with semi-mechanization. These small enterprises are not necessarily low in output and high in production costs as some people might think. Since the small enterprises are numerous their total output will be raised fairly rapidly. A farm tools plant in Soochow recently built an eight-cubic-metre small blast furnace in three months. It cost only 100,000 yuan. Its annual capacity is 4,000 tons. In Szechuan, the cost for one ton of pig iron produced by a small blast furnace is only around 100 yuan. These small blast furnaces and Bessemer converters take little time to build and cost very little. They can make good use of the resources, manpower and equipment available in the locality.

Small enterprises, of course, also have their drawbacks. For one thing, their equipment does not last very long. But they meet an urgent need. With the growth of production, the accumulation of funds and technological advances, backward methods of production can be gradually replaced by modern methods — mechanization and automation.

Funds and Equipment

The construction of a large number of iron and steel plants is being financed by the central as well as the local authorities who can raise funds by pruning administrative and other expenses. Agricultural and handicraft cooperatives can also accumulate funds. The principle is to establish small ones first and big ones later. Small enterprises can go into operation quickly. As soon as they bring in profits, they can be expanded again and reconstructed for enlarged reproduction.

The fullest use is made of the materials and equipment available locally. Some small blast furnaces are not made entirely of steel and only the part above the bosh is bound with hoops of steel. Most of the 400 small blast furnaces which Szechuan plans to build this year are to be made of local sand and stone. When certain materials are not available, substitutes are used. Thus, when refractory bricks are in short supply, a mixture of fire clay and coke powder is used. The equipment is either made by the machinery works run by the Central Government or those operated by the local authorities.

Large numbers of technicians needed in the development of the iron and steel industry are being drawn from the existing enterprises. The newly built plants are also sending their workers to the old ones to learn the trade. The master steel workers are training more apprentices. Short-term iron and steel smelting classes have been opened to train still more people. Mobile technical teams are organized to make the rounds of various plants to help solve technical problems. The old plants are serving as technical advisers to the new ones. In this way the corps of iron and steel technicians is rapidly expanding.

Innovations

In this age of technical revolution, iron and steel technology too is making rapid progress. The coefficient of utilization of blast furnace (the volume of furnace required to produce one ton of iron in 24 hours) is declining daily. Today, the record is already as low as 0.396. The Taiyuan Iron and Steel Works and the Chungking Iron and Steel Works have successfully employed a new steel tapping method in which three troughs are used and this has increased steel output by 50 per cent. Shanghai’s No. 3 Steel Plant now uses three rows of tuyere instead of two in side blowing. The result, the time for blowing steel in a converter was shortened by 13 per cent; the rate of loss in blowing dropped by 27 per cent; output went up by 14 per cent. Moreover, the quality of converter steel is now just as good as that of open hearth steel. The latest technique of making alloy steel with both electric furnace and converter has been proved to be successful and this will enable China to produce a greater amount of alloy steel. The latest technique of continuous rolling has been used to simplify the heating process and has raised output by over 5 per cent. Another new technique introduced is the continuous casting which simplified the blooming process. As a result, investment in this field can be greatly reduced. China produced 4,000 types of steel products in 1957. Thanks to the elevation of the technical level, she expects to produce more than ten thousand types of steel products within three years.

We have every reason to believe that the progress of China’s iron and steel will continue at a very high speed. In 1952, China was 18th among the countries of the world in steel production. In 1957 China jumped to 9th place. This year she will beat Belgium and Italy and take 7th place or higher. When, in less than fifteen years, China catches up with and surpasses Britain in steel output, she will make still greater efforts to quicken the tempo of development of her steel industry so that her steel output will, in the not distant future, equal that of the most advanced countries in the world.
Reminiscences

On the Long March with Chairman Mao

by CHEN CHANG-FENG

This is the second instalment of our abridged version of the reminiscences of Colonel Chen Chang-feng, "With Chairman Mao on the Long March," now appearing serially in the popular fortnightly "Xin Guaneha" (New Observer). Our first instalment was published last week and our final one will appear in a subsequent issue. — Ed.

III. ON THE LONG MARCH

By April 1935, we had crossed the Chingsha River and reached Mienning in southeast Szechuan. We were about to enter the region inhabited by the Yis.

One day we were chatting with our host. He was a very talkative old chap and once he got going it was difficult to stop him. He could turn a molehill into a mountain at a moment's notice. When the conversation turned to the Yis he suddenly became very agitated and cried in alarm: "That's the Lolos, eh? Ah, they're fierce, they are!

"How fierce?" we asked him, and he carried on in great excitement: "They're savages and love to fight! They especially hate us Hans. They see red as soon as they catch sight of a Han, and if they catch you — well, it's all up with you!"

"If they're that fierce, we'd better keep out of their way!" said Tseng Hsien-chi, another bodyguard.

"How can you keep away from them unless you keep away from their land?" retorted our host. "Once in there, you'll land yourselves in a trap. Suddenly you'll find a whole mountain full of their men, yelling and shouting, and sniping at you. It's said they're first-rate shots!"

"Why do they hate the Hans so much?" we asked.

The old man frowned and shook his head: "I don't know!"

Although we didn't believe all he told us about the Yis, we were a bit worried. Particularly about the sniping.

We were puzzled too because in our political study class we had often discussed this question of the national minorities. We knew that the White Army* oppressed them worse than it did the Hans, so we looked on them as our brothers. We didn't hear anything about them killing Hans, so I went and asked Chairman Mao.

"Chairman Mao, it's said the Yis are very fierce!" I began.

"Who told you that?" he rejoined. So I told him all that our host had said and asked him: "Is it true?"

Chairman Mao smiled and countered: "What do you think?"

I smiled in my turn and shook my head.

He then explained that the Yis in Szechuan and the Miaoos in Kwangsi were cruelly oppressed by the White Army. This was why they hated the Whites. "But to us," he said, "they're different. We respect them and look on them as our brothers. We unite with them and fight together with them against exploitation by the White Army."

"Our Commander-in-Chief Chu Teh," he continued, "and Chief-of-Staff Liu Po-cheng both come from Szechuan. They know the Yi people well. The Yis will be glad when they know that an army led by Commander Chu Teh has come to them. So what's there to be afraid of?"

"But that old man spoke as if what he said was truth itself?"

Chairman Mao explained: "Those are simply rumours deliberately spread by the White Army to stir up hatred between Hans and Yis. That old man hasn't seen things with his own eyes so naturally it's easy to deceive him."

Chairman Mao's explanations set our minds at rest. Soon Chief-of-Staff Liu Po-cheng actually became the sworn brother of Hsiao Yehtan, leader of the Yis.

Meeting the Yi Brothers

Two days later we left Mienning. We entered the Yi region. It was high noon. In my native Kiangsi, the fields would already be gay with the golden rice, but here the land was deserted and untilled. There were no rice fields, no farm houses, only some rough empty shacks in the forests.

But soon after we entered a mountainous area a group of men and women in strange clothes suddenly appeared before us. They shouted as they approached. Five tall women came out from the group, each carrying a big red cock in her arms. They approached Chairman Mao and surrounded him. They said something that we could not understand.

Then Chairman Mao turned to us: "See! All that talk about fighting. They've come to welcome us! Just think why!" As we walked on, we discussed the matter.

A while later Tseng asked: "Chairman Mao, although they are our good brothers, we can't understand what they say. It's as if we were in a foreign country!"

"It's not surprising," Chairman Mao said. "You know how big our country is. I've met many Hans who can't even understand what I, a Hunan man, say. So how can you understand what the Yi people say?"

This set all of us laughing. When the Yi people saw us laughing, they too laughed, uproariously. The way

*The Kuomintang and warlord armies.
they laughed was so simple and unaffected that one wondered at that wicked talk about their fierceness and cruelty. And it was in this atmosphere, full of gaiety and friendship, that we crossed the "mysterious" region of the Yis.

How We Crossed the Snow Mountains

In June 1935, after crossing the Tatu River, we came to the foot of Chiachin Mountain, a towering, snow-covered peak. The June sun had not yet set but its heat had lost its power in the face of this great icy mass.

We paused for a day at its foot. Chairman Mao had advised us to collect ginger and pepper to fortify ourselves against the bitter cold as we climbed the pass over the mountain. We started the climb in the early morning of the next day.

The peak of Chiachin Mountain pierced the sky like a sword point glittering in the sunlight. Its whole mass sparkled as if decorated with a myriad glittering mirrors. Its brightness dazzled your eyes. Every now and again clouds of snow swirled around the peak like a vast umbrella. It was an unearthly, fairy sight.

At the start the snow was not so deep and we could walk on it fairly easily. But after twenty minutes or so the drifts became deeper and deeper. A single careless step could throw you into a crevasse and then it might take hours to extricate you. If you walked where the mantle of snow was lighter, it was slippery; you slid back three steps for every forward one you took! Chairman Mao was walking ahead of us, his shoulders hunched, climbing with difficulty. Sometimes he would slip back several steps. Then we gave him a hand; but we too had difficulty in keeping our foothold and then it was he who caught our arms in a firm grip and pulled us up. He wore no padded clothes; he had none to wear. Soon his thin grey trousers were wet through and his black cotton slippers were shiny with frost.

The climb was taking it out of us. I clambered up to him and said: "Chairman Mao! It's too hard for you, better let us support you!" I stood firm beside him. But he only answered shortly: "No," and went on. "You are just as tired as I am!"

Half way up the mountain a sudden, sharp wind blew up. Thick, dark clouds drifted along the top of the range. The blast blew up the snow which swirled around us viciously.

I hurried a few steps forward and pulled at his jacket: "Snow's coming, Chairman Mao!" I yelled.

He looked ahead against the wind. "Yes, it'll be here immediately. Let us get prepared!" No sooner had he ceased speaking than hailstones, as big as small eggs, whistled and splashed down on us. Umbrellas were useless against this gusty sea of snow and ice. We held an oilskin ground sheet up and huddled together under it with Chairman Mao in the centre. Lao Yu, the groom, was having a difficult time. The horse he was looking after, scared by the hailstones, reared up and refused to obey him. The storm raging around us as if the very sky were falling. All we could hear were the confused shouts of people and deafening thunder claps. Then came a hoarse voice from above us.

"Comrades!" it said. "Hold on! Don't give up! Persistence means victory!" As I lifted my head and looked up I saw red flags flying from the top of the pass.

whirling snow bowed to their bright colours. I looked enquiringly at Chairman Mao.

"Who's that shouting there?"

"Comrades from the propaganda team," Chairman Mao replied. "We must learn from them. They've got a stubborn spirit!"

The snowstorm dropped as suddenly as it had started, and the warm, red sun came out again. Chairman Mao left the oilskin shelter and stood up on the snowy mountainside. The last snow flakes still whirled around him.

"Well, how did we come out of that battle?" he asked.

"Anyone wounded?"

No one reported any hurts. Only Lao Yu led his horse up and announced, "A hailstone's made my arm swell up!"

Chairman Mao immediately called to Chung Fu-chang, the Red Cross man, to put some salve on Lao Yu's arm. But Lao Yu smiled, refused any help and led his horse on. I was walking with Tseng Hsien-chi, my fellow bodyguard, and teased him, "Well, chum, how do you like it?"

He pointed to Chairman Mao and said: "If he can take it, so can we!" Then he looked at his own feet buried deep in the snow and groaned jokingly: "Only look at this stuff! It's confiscated my feet!" It was true. Numb with the cold, it felt as if you had no feet!

As we went up higher, the going grew more difficult. When we were still at the foot of the mountain, the local people had told us: "When you get to the top of the mountain don't talk nor laugh, otherwise the god of the mountain will choke you to death." We weren't superstitious, but there was some harsh truth in what they said. Now I could hardly breathe. It seemed as if my chest was being pressed between two millstones.
heartbeats were fast and I had difficulty in talking, let alone laughing. I felt as if my heart would pop out of my mouth if I opened it. Then I looked at Chairman Mao again. He was walking ahead, stepping firmly against the wind and snow. At the top of the mountain the propaganda people shouted again:

"Comrades, step up! Look forward! Keep going!"

Victory

Finally we gained the summit of the mountain pass. White snow blanketed everything. People sat in groups of three or five. Some were so exhausted that they lay down. When they saw Chairman Mao, several comrades came up calling: "Chairman Mao! Come and take a rest!"

When Chairman Mao saw all this he immediately went up to them and said gently: "Comrades, we can't rest here: The air is too rarefied. Make another effort and we'll meet the Fourth Field Army down on the other side."

With this, our spirits rose again, and we began to scramble down the slope. I don't know whether it was because of joy of the victory of reaching the top or for some other reason, but suddenly I grew dizzy. It seemed that the mountain shook beneath my feet. I lost control of my limbs and began to shiver violently. I stumbled up to Chairman Mao, cried out: "Chairman...!" and collapsed. But I was not wholly unconscious. I felt Chairman Mao supporting me with his arm and calling me by name. It was as if I was in some fairyland, swimming in air. I had difficulty in breathing and could not speak. But a sudden strong wind lashed the snow flakes in my face. It brought me to and my eyes cleared. Comrades were crowded around me wondering what was the matter. I heard Chairman Mao asking me: "What's wrong? Are you all right now?" I struggled to my feet and on we went.

Chairman Mao's feet plunged deep in the snow at every step. He turned his head to look at the comrades who still hadn't made it to the top. They walked slowly and the column looked like a snake winding its way to the summit. He waved them on encouragingly.

Going down was easier than going up, but since there was no sunshine on this side of the mountain it was colder. We were all wearing the same thin cotton clothes, and we shivered with cold. I tied a blanket round my waist and so went walking, slipping and rolling down the snowy slopes.

Not long after we met comrades of the Fourth Field Army carrying banners with the words: "Expand the revolutionary base in northwest Szechuan!" We felt new strength come into our limbs. We felt for them like brothers we had parted from long ago.

As we came down the last slopes, I turned back and looked upwards. The red flags were still fluttering on the top of the snow-covered mountain. The unfiring voice of the propaganda officer was still ringing in my ears.

NEW TREND IN EDUCATION

by WU PIN

"Work While You Study" — the integration of classroom study and direct participation in production and practical work — is the dominant trend in China's education today. Universities and colleges throughout the country are adapting their curricula to this socialist policy and are solving the practical problems involved.

To provide their students with the facilities and opportunities for participation in productive labour, higher educational institutions are building factories of their own. By mid-July, more than 200 industrial establishments set up by the institutions of higher learning in Peking went into operation. Most of them were built in the past month or so. The University of Wuhan in Hubei alone plans to set up about one hundred industrial establishments this year, in addition to several large farms.

Factories Run by Students

Some of these factories are actually expanded laboratories and experimental factories while some are entirely new. They range from brick kilns, paper mills and carpentry workshops, which are technically simple, to plants manufacturing semi-conductors, electronic calculating machines, precision instruments established for the purpose of developing modern branches of industry in China.

The time students are required to devote to practical labour varies in different colleges and universities. In some places, they are required to work one to two days a week; in other places, the students will spend three months out of the year in the factories or on the farms, eight months in classrooms and have one month's vacation.

Technical institutes of various kinds have not only opened factories of their own, like other colleges and universities, but have also worked out other forms of the "Work While You Study" programme. The Tangshan Railway Engineering College in Hopei Province, for instance, has undertaken to build a 160-kilometre railway in the province. The faculty and students of the college are doing the complete job — from surveying and designing to actual construction. The college is ready to build another 150 kilometres of railway lines this year and in the future will undertake to build at least 400 kilometres of railways every year.

More than a thousand students and teachers of the East China Institute of Water Conservancy have participated in water conservancy work in Kiangsu Province. They surveyed more than 1,000 kilometres of irrigation canals in north Kiangsu and helped the people in the province design 42 medium and small reservoirs, 38 rural hydro-electric power stations and irrigation systems for an area of 8.7 million mu.

The Civil Engineering School of Changchun has established a company that undertakes civil engineering work in the city. The school president has become the manager of the company. The faculty members are the engineers, section foremen or technicians and the students are the building workers. In this school, the system of
half-time at work and half-time at study has been introduced. Classroom work is conducted in the winter and spring while work at the construction sites proceeds in summer and autumn. During the working seasons there is study in the evening and work at the construction site during the day. Rainy days are devoted to studying.

The Geological Prospecting Institute in Changchun recently took an even bolder step. Commissioned by the People's Council of Kirin Province, this institute has begun to take charge of the work of the Provincial Geological Bureau. The president of the institute was appointed director of the bureau and the faculty members and students will serve as engineers and prospecting personnel. This helps reduce the size of administrative organs, brings the potentialities of the technical forces and equipment of the educational institutions into full play and brings them into direct participation in national construction. It is a new form for integrating theoretical study with on-the-job training. During the summer vacation this year, most of the faculty members and students of the institute will go out to the fields on geological prospecting missions.

**Graduation Designs**

As a result of the "Work While You Study" programme, the designs the students submit as their graduation work have been quite different this year than in the past. The experience of the Harbin Technological University is typical. This summer over 600 students will finish their studies. Under the guidance of their teachers, they are working on graduation designs in accordance with actual needs in production — factories, buildings, machinery and tools, etc.

Both the teachers and the students call this sort of designing which is linked with actual production needs "real designing" in contrast with the imaginary designs made by the graduates in the past who, for instance, would design a pompous railway station with accommodations for 400,000 passengers daily, or an extravagant workshop producing 1,500 giant excavators annually.

Experience shows that there are many advantages in linking designs submitted for graduation with the needs of real life. First of all, the teachers and students, feeling that they are making a real contribution to the country's gigantic construction, are more interested in and stimulated by their work. Secondly, the unexpectedly complex problems which appear in the course of actual work provide an opportunity to train the students to think and work independently. Thirdly, in linking graduation designing with production the students have to pay attention to the question of cost; so they are not only concerned with beauty and theory but with practical values and real economic problems, how to build at less cost, etc. Fourthly, the teachers and students face many new problems, the solution of which can be found only on the basis of extensive research work. Some teachers of the Machine-Building Department of Harbin Technological University have already taken problems that have arisen on the production front as their own research subjects. In this way their scientific research work is linked with the practical problems of the country's economy.

The Peking Agricultural University was one of the first agricultural colleges and universities in the country to reform its educational programme thoroughly. During the farming season, from April to September, its students are required to work on the farms, participating in sow- ing, harvesting and other kinds of field work. This farming season is planned as a school term. The months from October to March are another term which is devoted to classroom work. It has been proved that practical work in actual production is the best way to help the students to consolidate what they have learnt from textbooks. In studying plant pests, for instance, no longer do the students study dried or preserved specimens displayed in the laboratories, but they go out to see the real pests as they exist in the fields. Through close observation on the spot they study their habits and behaviour, the actual harm they do and how best to combat them.

In addition to running their own farms, many agricultural colleges and universities have signed contracts of mutual support and co-ordination with neighbouring farm co-ops.

**Experimental Department Stores**

Besides factories and farms, there are also other enterprises run by the students. In a main street in the triple-city of Wuhan there is a small but popular department store run by students of the Central-South College of Finance and Economics. This department store popped up three months ago. It was proposed by students of the Department of Trade and Economics during the rectification campaign, and was supported by the school authorities and the local government.

In this experimental department store the students do field work in specialized subjects. They serve at the counters in rotation. In this way they acquire practical knowledge for such courses as “Studies on Market Conditions,” “Organization and Techniques of Trade,” “Science of Commodities,” etc.

Now many colleges of finance and economics have followed suit and established experimental department stores of their own.

The students of fine arts too have their own "Work While You Study" programmes. In the Shanghai Academy of Music every student devotes half a day and two evenings a week to actual performances, and to advising amateur students of music in the factories and on the farms, adapting plays for local theatrical troupes, running spare-time musical evening schools, making records, writing songs and doing some manual work in the college. During the summer and winter holidays, except for those who travel to give performances, the students will work in the countryside and the factories for a month.

These activities bring the students face to face with the realities of life, with the broad masses of workers and peasants. This enriches their studies profoundly.

The advantages of the "Work While You Study" programme are clearly apparent although only a few months have passed since it was put into effect throughout the country. It is the best way to link education and production, to combine theory and practice, manual work and brain work, and to merge the intellectuals with the workers and peasants.

The schools have increased their earnings from the "Work While You Study" programme. Some of them have already attained complete financial self-support. This makes it possible for the government to allocate funds they saved to open more schools and to expand the existing ones so that more new students can be enrolled.
Summer Harvest Best Ever

"The best ever" were the words used by the Ministry of Agriculture in the bulletin just released to describe the bumper summer harvest this year. China's peasants have brought in summer food crops totalling 101,000 million jin (50.5 million tons), 69 per cent above last year's harvest.

Of the food crops gathered into the bins, winter wheat accounted for 68,000 million jin (34.45 million tons). This is 27,900 million jin (13.95 million tons), or 68 per cent, more than the total winter wheat output of 1957. In addition, an estimated 9,000 million jin (4.5 million tons) of spring wheat are expected to be harvested. This will put the grand total of wheat output in China at 77,900 million jin (38.95 million tons) this year.

Thus, in wheat production China has outstripped the United States for the first time. Estimates of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on July 10 show that the winter and spring wheat in the United States this year will reach 343.49 million bushels (36.56 million tons), while China's wheat output will reach nearly 39 million tons, exceeding that of the United States by at least two million tons. In 1949, however, when the country was set free from Chiang Kai-shek's rule, China's total wheat output was only 44 per cent that of the United States. This rate of increase is unprecedented in world history, the Ministry of Agriculture declared.

In an editorial commenting on the Ministry of Agriculture's bulletin, Renmin Ribao stated that all this indicates the phenomenal growth of China's agriculture. It has entered a new stage—in gradual advance to flying leaps. For in spite of the fact that the weather had not been favourable, what with all the major wheat-producing areas suffering from varying degrees of drought, some lasting months on end, an unparalleled rich harvest had nevertheless been wrested from the land. This shows that there are great possibilities to raise China's wheat output to still greater heights.

As a matter of fact, steps are being taken to achieve this end. At a recent conference of the Ministry of Agriculture held in Honan, the leading wheat-producing province of China, representatives from nine provinces, including Hopei, Shansi, Shensi, Shantung, and the municipality of Peking, exchanged views on the steps to be taken to reap a still richer harvest in 1959. Among the measures agreed upon were timely sowing of wheat in the coming winter, continued use of tested quality seeds, making close planting a general practice, accumulation of fertilizer to begin in the summer and still more attention to irrigation and drainage work in the wheat lands. The conference also called for further improvement of all farm tools used in wheat production and the preparation of sufficient insecticide to wipe out wheat pests before the winter sets in.

China in the Atomic Age

With the construction of an atomic reactor and cyclotron China has definitely embarked upon the development of atomic energy. This is what Kuo Mo-jo told the correspondent of ShiJie Zhishi (World Culture), a Chinese language fortnightly review of international affairs, when asked to comment on the operation of China's first atomic reactor.

In the interview, published in the current issue of the magazine, the President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences discusses the development of science as a whole in China, and the tremendous advance of nuclear physics in particular. In 1949, he recalled, when the country came under the people's rule only two rooms were allotted by the Academy for research work in atomic energy. Today the institute of atomic energy is one of the largest research bodies, with a staff exceeding that of the entire Academy at the time of liberation. The study of cosmic rays and isotopes is making big strides forward, too. He predicted that the 12-yea Programme for Scientific Development, which was carefully mapped out in 1956, will now be accomplished in much less time, in eight or perhaps even in only five years' time.

Kuo Mo-jo ascribed China's rapid progress in science mainly to the vigorous leadership given by the Communist Party and the advantages that are derived from the system of socialism. He was confident, in view of the stress on the integration of theory and practice, that the present high-powered industrial and agricultural expansion would further stimulate the development of science in the country. With a China dedicated to peace, mastering the know-how of atomic energy and progressing by leaps and bounds in both industry and agriculture, there is much that China can contribute to the cause of world peace, Kuo Mo-jo concluded.

Military Affairs Commission Meets

An enlarged session of the Military Affairs Commission of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee, attended by over a thousand high-ranking cadres, was held from May 27 to July 22. Proceeding under the guidance of the Central Committee and Chairman Mao Tse-tung and employing the methods of the current rectification campaign, the session reviewed the over-all strengthening of the People's Liberation Army since the founding of the People's Republic and defined the lines of policy for the future. At the same time, taking cognizance of the present world situation, it discussed the country's national defence and made decisions accordingly. Chairman Mao Tse-tung addressed the meeting. Minister of Defence Peng Teh-huai made the concluding speech summarizing the discussions.

Co-ordination in Transport

Never has transport on Chinese railways been in such great demand. In the first quarter of this year railway freight showed a 20 per cent increase over the same period last year. In the second quarter, the upward trend continued; the figure was 33 per cent over the first. At the present rate of increase, the last quarter of the year will probably top the first by 50 per cent. Industrial and agricultural production are shooting ahead so fast that things are piling up at the depots. 300,000 tons of coal from the Yangtze collieries in Shansi Province, for example, were not transported in time. Bottlenecks loomed on the highways and on the ships, too. The tempo of produc-
tion is indeed putting heavy strains on the transport system.

To solve the difficulties that arose with the great production upswing, the Transport Department of the Communist Party's Central Committee recently held a conference to discuss the question of co-ordination in transport work. The representatives from the various provinces were agreed that better co-ordination between regions and between different units would go far to ease congestion. The Loshan area in Szechuan Province, for example, had been piling up a vast amount of goods since the factories and stores there turned out much more than in ordinary years. The Communist Party committee in the area called together the transport departments, the units that commissioned wagons and other transport space and other parties concerned to discuss and organize emulation and co-ordination in transport. The result was that the rate of usage of the rolling stocks, the lorries, the ships and other means of transport reached 85 per cent. Or take Tientsin for example. Before co-ordination was strengthened all the means of transport in the city could only manage to carry 50,000 tons of goods. This has now been raised to 80,000 tons.

While co-ordination on a limited scale has been the practice in various parts of the country, the conference decided that there must be co-ordination on a national scale, in order to tap the full potential of the country's transport system.

**Yellow River Vigil**

The Yellow River has been kept within its banks despite an unusually heavy and swift flow at its lower reaches this year. The water crest in Shantung Province, considered the highest for years, has safely passed one of the most vulnerable points of the river and is now treading its way towards the sea.

For days and weeks dyke protection teams consisting of peasants, government cadres, armymen, young and old, men and women, numbering millions in Shantung Province and neighbouring Honan, maintained a round-the-clock vigil all along the roaring river. The fight put up by the people of Chengchow, in Honan Province, is typical of the response of millions of sentinels posted all the way to the estuary.

In the small hours of July 18 thirty thousand people in this rail and textile centre turned out—though only 10,000 were called for—to man the dykes at nearby Huayuankow, together with leading members of the local government and the Communist Party committee. Huayuankow was the scene of the dastardly crime with which the people of Honan Province in particular will always identify Chiang Kai-shek's rotten regime. In 1938 he breached the dyke here. Fifty-eight counties were submerged and half a million people lost their lives. Today, many still remember how twenty years ago they were compelled at bayonet point to breach the dykes at Huayuankow. One old peasant was told to stay behind to look after draught animals, but he stole away from his farm several times a day to go to the dykes, just in case he could be useful. Members of a co-op farm at Huayuankow said, "In the old days, the government sent jackbooted officers and their henchmen to breach the dykes. Today the People's Government sends cadres and soldiers to protect them." This co-op farm alone supplied more than 2,000 men and women to the dyke protection teams.

Everywhere along the banks of the Yellow River much the same spirit and atmosphere prevailed. But this year the stress is on turning the battle against the flood waters of the Yellow River, as of other rivers, from a defensive to an offensive one—to control and use the flood waters for agricultural purposes. The multitude of water conservancy projects completed in the winter and spring went a long way to help keep the torrential waters of many rivers under control and to serve the needs of the farmers. The peasants say: "In the past we feared water, today we long for it. In the old days, water meant trouble, today it is the source of happiness."

**Science on the Farm**

In the last month or so more than 10,000 scientific centres of varying sizes have been born in Chekiang Province on the east coast of China. In the more developed parts of the province there is a scientific centre in every township and every farm co-op and a scientific worker for every village. This means that the rural area of Chekiang Province is pretty well covered by an organized effort to provide the co-op farmers with the sort of aid and information they need for modern agriculture.

In the Kinhua area, famous for its ham, there are 45,000 such scientific research workers. In Chiahsing the figure reaches 80,000. In most cases, they consist of secretaries of Communist Party committees, technicians and peasants. But people of other callings are drawn into these centres too. Of the 80,000 research workers in Chiahsing, for instance, the overwhelming majority—90 per cent—are workers and peasants, but 10 per cent come from other walks of life—government cadres, school teachers, students, engineers and technicians.

The work of these scientific centres is marked by their intimate relationship to production—a constant summing up of valuable experience and finding solutions to key problems arising from production. Take Chiahsing, for example, again. The scientific centres in the area accounted for the invention and improvement of over 500 kinds of farm tools in recent weeks which are raising labour productivity for some twenty types of field work. These centres of scientific research are also tackling industrial problems, such as the construction of small hydro-electric power stations, the smelting of iron and steel, etc.

**Tackling Labour Shortages**

Shansi, the leading coal-producing province in north China, which has been feeling the pinch of labour shortage along with other parts of the country in the "big leap" of industrial and agricultural production, exemplifies how this problem is being coped with.

The unprecedented expansion of local industries and the national industries situated in the province made great demands on manpower. Earlier in the year an additional 39,000 apprentices and 150,000 temporary workers were needed for the factories and mines. Various measures were taken—mainly streamlining labour organization and accelerating the technical revolution—but manpower still fell short by 25 per cent and 43 per cent for the two categories cited above.

A new source had to be found. Wives and other members of the families of the workers and employees were encouraged to take up suitable jobs in the factories or in commercial establishments, to release male workers for the heavier work.

The response was immediate. In Taiyuan, the provincial capital, many shops, restaurants, photo studios, etc. which hitherto had been run by male workers were today entirely staffed by women. In this way, many extra pairs of hands have been found and the question of labour shortage in the industrial towns of Shansi is showing signs of solution.

The cities are also solving the question of labour shortage by drawing housewives into jobs. The housework left behind, cooking, washing, sewing, caring of children, etc. is shared out in an organized and co-operative way. Communal canteens, laundries, and nurseries have been set up, as we reported last week. The Chinese women welcome the chance and the change because, for one thing, they are taking part in building socialism just like their menfolk, and for another they find the collective way of performing many of their household duties more efficient and less burdensome.
The Middle East Crisis

Peace in the Middle East and the world is gravely endangered. As the Peking press, which has followed Middle East developments closely during the past week, sees it, the U.S.-British aggressors are concentrating large military forces in Lebanon, Jordan, Libya and other points in the Middle East and plotting fresh aggressions on an even bigger scale. If the hands of the aggressors are to be stayed and peace defended, those who love peace must mobilize all the forces at their command.

Renmin Ribao (July 25) notes: The concentration of U.S.-British military forces in the Middle East is not only a naked threat of war against the countries of that area, but a perilous playing with fire that threatens the world. The Arab peoples who stand firm in defence of their national independence, and the socialist countries who treasure peace will not let U.S.-British imperialist aggression go unchallenged. An attempt by the aggressors to expand their aggression can all too easily lead to an uncontrollable extension of war.

Soviet Proposal

At this critical moment, the Soviet proposal for a meeting of heads of governments in the U.N. Security Council has been greeted by the Chinese papers as a major step for peace. Renmin Ribao (July 25) writes: Peace-loving people the world over welcome and support this Soviet proposal to quench the flame already enkindled by the aggressors, because it entirely conforms with their aspirations and interests. Da Gong Bao (July 21) calling the Soviet initiative for a summit meeting “most timely,” declares that those who cherish peace cannot remain indifferent in face of increasingly threatening U.S.-British moves in the Middle East. A “wait and see” policy and procrastination will lead to disaster.

As Renmin Ribao says: “The situation is clear. The U.S.-British imperialists, once they have got a strong foothold in Lebanon and Jordan, are aiming to attack Iraq from two flanks, smother this new republic and then threaten the United Arab Republic. They hope thus to re-establish their ‘prestige’ in the Middle East and throughout the entire Asian-African region.”

U.A.R.-Iraq Solidarity

But the Chinese press also expresses confidence that the Arab people will not give way before the U.S.-British imperialists. They point to the firm stand taken by the United Arab Republic and the new Republic of Iraq and prominently reported the mutual defence agreement signed by the two countries.

In an editorial entitled “Unity Is Strength,” Renmin Ribao underlines the vital significance of this agreement. Describing it as the best answer of the independent Arab countries to the military threat of the imperialists, the paper predicts that the treaty will greatly strengthen the Arab people’s struggle against imperialist aggression and encourage the whole Arab nation to unite as one in their fight for national independence.

The agreement is particularly important, the paper stresses, because the imperialists have invariably invoked the method of “divide and rule” in their attempt to lord it over the Arab people. This trick has lost its effectiveness now. In face of imperialist threats and provocations the Arab people are more united than ever. With the exception of a handful of traitors, the entire Arab people will stand by the two countries.

Warning to Chiang Kai-shek

While the peoples of the world are mobilizing to halt U.S.-British aggression in the Middle East, the “running dogs” of the U.S. imperialists are showing their teeth. Among these is the Chiang Kai-shek clique in Taiwan. While echoing support for U.S. aggression in Lebanon, they are yelping about preparations for launching an “attack on the mainland.” The Chiang Kai-shek clique lives on the vain hope of a third world war. Now it is grabbing at the present crisis as its last chance. But Renmin Ribao warns them: Faced by the resolute opposition of the Arab people and the people of the whole world, the U.S. imperialists are themselves in a quandary. As the Chinese saying has it, “clay idols crossing a river, should look to their own feet!” Any adventurer move on the part of the Chiang Kai-shek clique will be shattered by the Chinese people.”
China and Cambodia: to Exchange Ambassadors

China and Cambodia have decided to establish diplomatic relations and exchange ambassadors.

On July 18, the Cambodian Premier Prince Sihanouk wrote to Premier Chou En-lai, informing him of the decision of the Cambodian Government to extend de jure recognition to the People's Republic of China and proposing establishment of diplomatic relations.

Premier Chou En-lai, in his reply on July 19, welcomed the Cambodian Government's decision. He wrote: "I am deeply convinced that this important step will further consolidate friendship between the peoples of our two countries, which has been steadily developing since the Asian-African Conference, and is thus in the interest of the common cause of promoting friendly co-operation among the Asian and African countries and defending world peace."

Friendly relations between the two countries have developed rapidly since the 1955 Asian-African Conference in Bandung. Prince Sihanouk visited China in February 1956 and in November that year, Premier Chou paid a return visit to Cambodia. In June 1956, an agreement for Chinese economic assistance to Cambodia was signed in Peking and shortly after economic missions were set up in Peking and Phnom Penh to implement the agreement. There have been frequent exchanges of delegations during the past few years.

News of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Cambodia was frontpaged by all major Peking papers. They greeted this development in relations between the two countries as a noteworthy example of peaceful co-existence among countries with different social systems.

Long-term Trade with Rumania

A long-term trade agreement between China and Rumania covering the period 1959-1962 was signed in Peking on July 21.

China will provide Rumania with soya beans, rice, minerals, machines and instruments, consumer goods, etc. She will receive from Rumania in return installa-

tions for power stations and cement works, drilling machines, oil tank wagons, blast furnace blowers, petroleum and other products.

The agreement is in line with the current stress on economic co-ordination among the socialist countries. It is the third such agreement China has signed this year, the others being with Poland and Hungary.

Shipment to Iraq: Shanghai has sent its first shipment of goods to the new Republic of Iraq. The cargo includes tiles, glass, plywood and other building materials, textiles, radios, batteries, etc. Tienisin is also preparing to fill an Iraqi order for radio batteries.

Sinkiang Melons: The Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region plans to export three million kilogrammes of honey dew melons this year. These famed melons will go to Norway, Denmark, West Germany, and Italy for the first time.

Last year 90,000 kilogrammes of honey dew melons were exported from Sinkiang to Hongkong, Southeast-Asia and Japan.

Indian Flagship Ends Visit

The Mysore, flagship of Rear-Admiral A. Chakraverti, Commander of the Indian Fleet, sailed from Shanghai on July 23 after a week's visit.

The Mysore got a warm reception from the Chinese naval forces and Shanghai residents when it arrived on July 17. Thousands came down to the wharf to give it and its crew a gala welcome. Rear-Admiral Chakraverti and officers of the Mysore were guests of honour at banquets given by the Commander of the East China Sea Naval Force and city officials.

The Indian visitors had a full schedule of sight-seeing and social activities. Besides visiting city sights and beauty spots, they took in the Kiangnan shipyard, the Shanghai Steam Turbine Plant, textile mills, workers' housing estates and co-op farms on the city's outskirts. They were entertained at a variety show. The Mysore's football team played a game with a local team. Friendly cheers and applause greeted them wherever they were noticed in public places.

A highlight of the visit was a display put on by Chinese naval units. Jet fighters, torpedo planes and torpedo boats of the young Chinese navy simulated an attack on an invading enemy task force.

Rear-Admiral Chakraverti paid a flying visit to Peking. He called on Marshal Peng Teh-huai, Chinese Minister of Defence, and Admiral Hsiao Ching-kuang, Commander of the Chinese Navy.

In a farewell message the Indian naval commander thanked the Chinese people for their warm hospitality and promised them to "carry to the people of India your message of peace and goodwill." He also expressed the hope that Chinese naval vessels will pay a return visit to India in the near future.

BRIEFS


A Young Communist League Delegation from Tsitsihar, capital of China's northeast province of Heilungkiang bordering the Soviet Far East, is visiting the city of Komsomolsk-on-Amur. The story of this Soviet city, built on virgin soil by members of the Soviet All-Union (Lenin) Young Communist League in the early thirties, has long been an inspiration to young people in China.

A group of Chinese Muslims led by Mohammed Ali Chang Chieh, General Secretary of the Chinese Islamic Association, recently completed the pilgrimage to Mecca. During their stay in Mecca and Jeddah, they were received by King Saud and the Prime Minister Crown Prince Faisal. On their way home, they also visited the United Arab Republic.

VISITORS

M. Pierre Mendes-France, former French premier and National Assembly Deputy of the Radical Socialist Party, accompanied by Deputy M. Roland Dumas. They arrived in Peking on July 24 and were received by Premier Chou En-lai on July 25.

Jesus Marcos Roces, Vice-Mayor of Manila and a party of six colleagues. They arrived in Peking on July 18 and a reception was given in their honour on July 20 by Chang Hsi-jo, President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, which is their host.

U.A.R. Weight-lifters in Peking

A weight-lifting team from the United Arab Republic competed with Chinese weight-lifters at the Peking Gymnasium on July 22. China won in five of the seven classes, while the visitors carried away the honours for the featherweight and heavyweight classes.

Mostafa Ahmed led the featherweights with a total lift of 327.5 kg. Hassan Bajram in the heavyweight class lifted a total of 375 kg. The Arab weight-lifters, who are now touring and competing in other Chinese cities, are getting a particularly warm welcome from Chinese sports fans at a time when the whole country is throwing itself into the movement to support the Arab people in their struggle against imperialist aggression.
Pianist Liu Shih-kun

China's young pianist Liu Shih-kun, who won second prize at the Tchaikovsky International Violin and Piano Competition in Moscow earlier this year, gave two recitals recently in Peking. Both concerts were packed. He played works by Tchaikovsky, Bach, Liszt, Chopin, Kabalevsky, Shostakovich, and the Chinese composers Chu Wei and Ting Shan-teh, and received a great ovation on both occasions. His execution was masterly; his musical understanding sure and deep.

It was a remarkable performance, all the more so because he is still only eighteen and is continuing his studies at the Central Conservatory of Music in Tientsin. Liu Shih-kun is a musical product of the new China. He was only ten when the country was liberated. His talents were detected while he was studying in the elementary classes of the Conservatory, and he was put under the care of the expert Soviet pianists who were teaching there.

Last April in Moscow, his playing of Tchaikovsky's Concerto No. 1 during the competition carried his audience away. They broke all conventions and burst into applause as soon as the first movement ended.

The competition is a stiff trial for any pianist. Liu Shih-kun, one of the youngest contestants, faced tough competition from the world's top young musicians, among whom were Van Cliburn (U.S.A.) who won the first prize, Roger Boutry (France), Lev Vlasenko (U.S.S.R.), Jerome Lowenthal (U.S.A.), Daniel Pollack (U.S.A.), Alexei Skavronsky (U.S.S.R.), and Naum Shliarman (U.S.S.R.) all of whom have won prizes at various international competitions.

Preparing for the competition he practised up to fourteen hours a day coached by some of the leading pianoforte teachers in Moscow. "Every bit of news about the great progress back home in China was an encouragement to me," said Liu to his friends in Moscow. "The example of the people back home kept me at it, and heartened me when I thought that I'd have to compete with the world's best young pianists." Competent critics and popular acclaim attest that he well deserved the second prize which he won. Britain's Sir Arthur Bliss, who was one of the judges at the competition, discussing Liu Shih-kun, said: "No words of praise are too high to indicate the delicacy of his finger work, his beauty of tone and phrasing, and the poetic conception of the music he played. He captivated the audience, and no wonder!" — P.C.

Briefs

Sitson Ma, famous violinist and composer, is now at work on a symphony dedicated to the heroes of the revolution. It is planned as an epic of the heroic struggles of the Chinese people against their oppressors over the last hundred years. He is writing it in an unconventional symphonic form of eight movements.

The building of the Ming Tombs Reservoir near the capital has already inspired many stories, pictures, songs and musical compositions. Composer Ho Luhting is now writing a cantata in tribute to its builders. The words will be by three poets: Wang Ya-fan, Sha Ou and Chung Ling. It will describe the revolutionary fervour of the men and women who worked day and night in any weather to complete the work before the summer floods came.

Hsien Hsin-hai, who wrote the Yellow River Cantata, died in 1945. He did not live to see the liberation of his country and its happy life today. But Kuang Wei-jan who wrote the words for his cantata, is now writing verses for a New Yellow River Cantata, the music for which will be composed by Chu Hsi-hsien, a famous woman composer.

The new cantata describes how the people are harnessing the Yellow River and building a great reservoir at Sammen Gorge. The cantata is in six parts: Battle Between the Dragon and the Tiger; Sunrise; Battlefield at Sammen Gorge; Song of the Heroes of the Yellow River; The Evening Breeze Blows over the Mountain-top and In Praise of the New Yellow River.

Chinese Films at Karlovy Vary

China's entries at the eleventh annual international film festival at Karlovy Vary this month are Flames on the Border, a colour feature film; At the Foot of Mt. Jolma Longma and The Yangtse Bridge, two documentaries; and two films for children—A New Football, a puppet film, and Crossing Monkey Mountain, a cartoon.

The Karlovy Vary festival, since it was instituted in Czechoslovakia in 1946, has taken its place as one of the world's most important reviews of new films. But it is more than that. Over the years it has greatly helped to foster friendship, co-operation and the exchange of experience between film producers all over the world. Forty countries participated in it last year.

Since 1950, the year after liberation, Chinese film makers have sent in their best films each year to the festival. Daughters of China, The White-Haired Girl, Liang Shan-po and Chu Ying-tai, and New Year's Sacrifice have all won awards there.

Flames on the Border, produced by the Changchun Film Studio, is a story of the Chingpo people, a national minority living in China's southwest. In the old days they were ruthlessly oppressed by the Kuomintang rulers, and when after liberation units of the People's Liberation Army stationed there offered to help them build a reservoir to irrigate their fields, the offer seemed too good to be true. Their leader, a well-meaning old man, gets on well with the P.L.A. men, but owing to lack of real understanding of what changes have occurred among the Hans, he is easily influenced by a well-disguised Kuomintang agent, Tolung, his headstrong son, nursing a grudge against the Hans, simply discredits anything that concerns them. Playing on this the Kuomintang agent poisons his little son and puts the blame on a woman doctor of the P.L.A. Tolung, bent on revenge, joins a gang of Kuomintang bandits, but when he returns to his village to carry out a mission for the Kuomintang, he learns that the woman doctor has saved his little son's life and that the man who nearly killed his son is the Kuomintang agent. Finally convinced that the P.L.A. men are his real friends, he helps them capture the Kuomintang bandits.

Shot on location in China's picturesque borderlands, this makes a colourful and
exciting film. The characterization is good; Tolung, in particular, is well portrayed.

At the Foot of Mt. Jolmo Longma is a colour documentary about another of China's national minorities—the Tibetans who live at the foot of Mt. Jolmo Longma (also known as Mt. Everest). Freed from imperialist and reactionary oppression and intrigues, they can follow their religion today and lead a happy, new life. The Yangtse Bridge records the building of the great new bridge spanning the Yangtse River. It gives some revealing glimpses of the spirit of comradeship between the Chinese builders and the Soviet experts who came to help them and of the new, revolutionary methods used to build this bridge in record time.

Wei Ming, director of the Peking Film Studio, led the Chinese delegation to the festival. The delegation also took with it The Kite, the film for children, jointly made by French and Chinese film producers.

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc. —

Programmes are subject to change. Places of performances not listed consult theatre or daily press.

PEKING OPERA

- A FAMILY OF GENERALS The exploits of Yang Chi-ye and his seven sons who, together with the women of the family, are all famous generals of the Sung dynasty. Starring Tan Fu-ying. July 29 Chi Hsien Theatre

- THE ROMANCE OF THE CUPBOARD Fleeing from Chin forces, the son of a Sung general meets the daughter of the Liu family who helps him out by hiding him in a cupboard. Romance ensued. Starring Wu Su-chiu. July 31 Kuangho Theatre

- PAN CHIN-LIEN An episode taken from Water Margin about Pan Chin-luen, the beautiful but ill-fated servant girl who was forced by circumstances to go to her own ruin. Starring Wu Su-chiu. July 30 Kuangho Theatre

- A SECOND AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPRESS Some historical episodes about plots and counter-plots for the usurpation of the throne during the Ming dynasty. Starring Chang Chun-chiu, Tan Fu-ying and Chiu Sheng-jung. July 31 People's Theatre

- YANG NGO The story of a patriotic Ming dynasty woman who led the people in resisting foreign invaders. Starring Wu Su-chiu. July 31 Kuangho Theatre

HUCHU OPERA

- YANG NAI-WU AND HSIAO PAI-TSAI A well-known murder case of the Ching dynasty. Produced by the Shanghai Huchu Opera Company. July 29 & 31 Peking Theatre

CHU YI

- THE FIRST NATIONAL CHU YI FESTIVAL—Sponsored by the Ministry of Culture. August 1-10 Changpan Theatre

SONG AND DANCE

- TRADITIONAL FOLK SONGS AND DANCES—presented by the Tsienling Song and Dance Troupe which will soon leave for a tour abroad. July 28 & 29 People's Theatre

- NEW SONGS AND DANCES produced by the Central Song and Dance Troupe during the recent "big leap." Most of these numbers reflect life in China. July 29 Houchein Auditorium (outside Fu Hsin Men Gate)

THEATRE

- A DAUGHTER OF THE PARTY A heart-stirring story about a young peasant woman, a Communist Party member, who sacrificed her life for the revolution in the 1930s. Produced by the Central Drama School. July 29-31 Experimental Theatre

- WHITE HOUSE MADMEN One of the short plays produced recently by the Peking Experimental Theatre. It deals with the American-British aggression in the Middle East. July 29-31 Changpan Theatre


- UNFORGETTABLE TIMES A new play produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre on the heroic activities of underground Communist Party members in those unforgettable years before the revolution won final victory. August 2-4 Capital Theatre

- BALLAD OF THE MING TOMBS Tien Han's latest- a play on the past, present and future of the great Ming Tombs Reserve. Produced by the China Youth Art Theatre. July 30-August 3 Tienchao Theatre

FILMS

- SENTINELS OF THE HIGH SKY A feature film on the growth and maturing of the Chinese air force during the Korean war. August 2-4 Capital Theatre

- THE BATTLE OF HESHAN Feature film describing how a detachment of the P.L.A. destroyed enemy forces five times its number during the Liberation of Northeast China. August 2-4 Capital Theatre

- HUNG HSIA Coloured feature film about Hung Hsia, a peasant girl, who gave up her life in helping the Red Army forces in Kiangsi in its strategic retreat. August 2-4 Capital Theatre

- THE P.L.A. IN THE BIG LEAP Six short documentaries telling what the P.L.A. is contributing to the national "leap forward" in production. The above four films are all new productions of the "August 1" Film Studio made to celebrate the 31st anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. They will be shown simultaneously at all the major cinemas in the city from August 1 to 15.

- THE COURTESAN'S JEWEL BOX Coloured film of the Tshehuan opera. A beautiful and touching portrayal of love and happiness, marries a scholar. On discovering that he married her only to sell her for a high price, she throws her immensely valuable box of jewels into the river and drowns herself. July 29-31 Peking Theatre, Hsin Chung Kuo, Kuangho Theatre

EXHIBITIONS

- EXHIBITION OF BIRDS AND FLOWERS PAINTINGS Sponsored by the Traditional Chinese Painting Research Society of Peking. Open daily (except Mon.) 9 a.m.-6 p.m. till August 8. At Feihai Park

- EXHIBITION OF SOVIET PHOTOGRAPHY Over 100 works by famous Soviet photographers. Open daily: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. till August 8. At the Gallery of the Artists' Union on Shun Fu Yuan, off Wangfuching St.

- EXHIBITION OF SOVIET PAINTINGS, SCULPTURES AND WOODCUTS Over 500 representative works by Soviet artists produced during the period 1945-57. Daily (except Mon.). 9 a.m.-7 p.m. till August 8. At Palace Museum, inside Tung Hua Men Gate

MEMORIAL HALLS


- LU HSUN MUSEUM Covering 13,000 square metres, this museum includes an exhibition hall displaying photos and works by the great writer; Lu Hsun's own library of 6,000 volumes; and his home in Peking where he wrote many of his greatest works.

CIRCUS

- PEKING'S OWN CIRCUS now performing inside the Temple of Heaven Park. The newly set up circus troupe of the China Aerobatites Company.

SWIMMING

- OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS The Ten Tien Ting Swimming Pools Daily 12:30-3:30; 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Shih Cha Hai Swimming Pools Mon-Sat. 9-11 a.m.; 12:30-2:30; 3:30-5:30; 7-9 p.m. Sun. 9-11 a.m.; 12:30-2:30; 3:30-5:30 p.m. (With medical certificates)

PARKS

- Inside the Summer Palace—

* SWIMMING—In the Kunming Lake 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. * BOATING—rowboats and Chinese pleasure boats

- WAN SHOU SHAN HOTEL—on the Dragon King Temple Island (Lung Wang Miao) in the middle of the Kunming Lake.
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