

Friendship Notes

Welcoming Thai Culture Mission

The Chinese people gave a warm welcome to the Thai Culture Mission during its China tour from April 15 to May 6. Members of the mission brought not only Thailand's dance artistry but also deep friendly feelings of the Thai people for the Chinese people.

Thai dancing has a tradition that goes back far into history and is accentuated by national flavour and colour. The rich programme the mission presented included lively, earthy folk dance, the martial art display with a distinctive national style plus traditional items.

The *Fishing Dance* portrays vividly the hardworking life of northeast Thailand's fishermen. Graceful movements and robust and humorous accompanying melody struck an immediate responsive chord among Chinese audience and artists. The Thai performers passed on their skills to interested Chinese dancers who wished to know how to dance the number.

Every performance was preceded by the *Thai-Chinese Friendship Dance*, created and rehearsed by the Thai artists in a short time before their coming to China. They said they would keep this item in their repertoire after their return home as a

token of furthering the friendship between Thailand and China.

During their stay in China they went to see factories and scenic spots. They also visited the School of Dance of the Central May 7 University of Arts as well as the art department of the Central Institute for Nationalities. The Thai artists took a great interest in the classroom training of the two institutions where they spent some time in learning the dance traits of China's nationalities. They also saw performances put on by teachers and students of the two institutions.

China Pavilion at Cairo International Fair

The China pavilion at the 9th Cairo International Fair held in March was another illustration of the growing friendship between the Chinese and Egyptian people. In the 20 days when the pavilion was on view it was visited by 400,000 people, including workers, peasants, students, clerks, officials, servicemen and people from all walks of life. Some took their whole families. Some came from cities or villages 100 to 150 kilometres away from Cairo. Some schools organized trips for students to see the exhibition from China.

Egyptian visitors spoke highly of the achievements of China's construction. An old seaman said: "I've been to the old China. At that time she was poor and backward. There have been great developments since the liberation. You are now capable of making fine machines."

Egypt is mainly an agricultural country which produces fine quality cotton, rice and other crops and

the industrious peasants have rich cultivation experience. A peasant of over 70 with his grandson supporting him showed a great interest in the exhibited Chinese agricultural and side-line produce. An agro-engineer said: "Taking agriculture as the foundation in developing the national economy is absolutely correct and Tachai is indeed a brilliant example. I hope Egypt and China will exchange experience and technique in developing agriculture and help each other."

Having read the introduction to China's oil production, one visitor made the following remarks to the Chinese staff: "China was short of oil before 1961. The Soviet Union exerted pressures on you. You never yielded but developed your oil industry by your own strength. It's indeed a wonder that you have made such big strides in developing your oil industry."

At the time when the Egyptian people abrogated the Egyptian-Soviet "treaty of friendship and co-operation," the fair was still on show. Many viewers in their conversations with China pavilion staff members expressed their support for this important decision taken by their government. One visitor said: "The Soviet Union is not friendly to us. It bullied and pushed us around. It uses the same despicable means they once used against you. It does not honour its word. The so-called Egyptian-Soviet 'treaty of friendship and co-operation' is in essence a fraud."

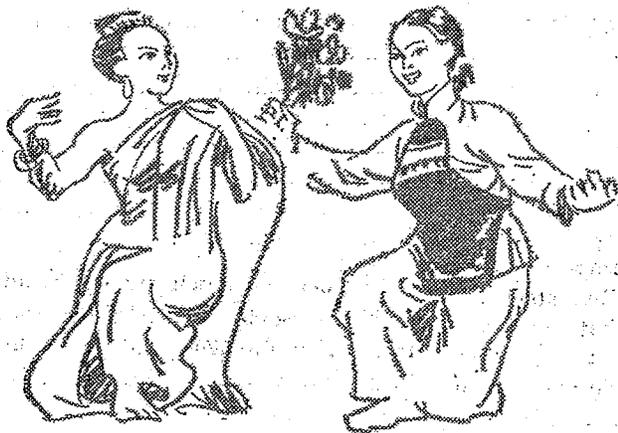
Foreign Sports Teams in China

- In early March, the Bucharest Women's Basketball Team had a friendly match with its Peking counterpart.

- Japanese and Chinese gymnasts gave a joint performance on March 26. Most of the gymnasts of both countries are in their teens.

- The Zambian Defence Force Men's Volleyball Team played a friendly match with the "August 1" Team of the Chinese People's Liberation Army on April 2.

- On May 5, a crowd of more than 18,000 turned out at the Peking's Capital Gymnasium to give a warm welcome to the French Army Hand-



The Thai-Chinese Friendship Dance.
Sketch by Chou Hai

ball Team, the first sports team of the French armed forces to visit China. It was the occasion of a friendly match between the French visitors and the "August 1" Handball Team of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

- The Malaysian National Football Team played a friendly match on May 6 with the Chinese Football Team after first visiting Kwangchow, Shanghai and Wuhsi.

- The Swedish men's and women's volleyball teams came to China on a visit in mid-May and had friendly matches with Peking men's and women's volleyball teams.

- A Mexican badminton team played a friendly match with a Chinese team on May 16.

News Briefs

France. The French exhibition of industrial and scientific instruments and of telecommunications was on view in Peking in late March. Electronic instruments for surveying, analysis, control and regulation, electronic medical apparatuses, telecommunications facilities and instruments for nuclear research are among the items on display at the exposition.

Yugoslavia. Yugoslav tools were exhibited in April at the Peking

Exhibition Centre. It was co-sponsored by the Tools Association of Yugoslavia and the Feroelektro-Export-Import Sarajevo-Yugoslavia. On display were various kinds of drills, cutters, spiral drills and electric tools.

German Democratic Republic. Its electronic, automation and scientific instruments exhibition closed in Shanghai at the end of April after its opening ten days before. Exhibits on display were optical, analytical and measuring and surveying instruments, telecommunications equipment, electronics computers and office equipment.

Another important cause for its