

PEKING REVIEW

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April 7, 1978

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Springtime for Science

— Kuo Mo-jo's speech at the National Science Conference

Why Soviet "Foreign Legion" Hangs on in Africa

Declining Population Growth

— Family Planning in Jutung County, Kiangsu

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A New Long March Begins

The National Science Conference which attracted the attention of the nation from start to finish closed on March 31. Its opening session held at the Great Hall of the People on March 18 was presided over by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng. This fortnight-long mammoth gathering of heroes and heroines of scientific and technological circles was attended by nearly 6,000 representatives from all parts of the country, the youngest being a 22-year-old woman and the oldest a 90-year-old male professor of geology. There were 300 women representatives and 170 representatives of minority nationalities. It was the first time since the founding of the People's Republic that a conference on science and technology was held on such a big scale, with such a broad representation and in such an ebullient atmosphere.

The convocation of this conference was a major move in fulfilling the general task for the new period of development. New in that it is the beginning of a new period of development in China's socialist revolution and socialist construction following the overthrow of the "gang of four" and the successful conclusion of the first Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. China's general task is to persevere in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat, carry on the three great revolutionary movements of class struggle,

the struggle for production and scientific experiment, and make China a great, powerful socialist country with modern agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology by the end of the century.

In buoyant spirits, the representatives spoke of this general task at plenary sessions and group meetings. They were particularly inspired by the very important speeches by Chairman Hua and Vice-Chairman Teng (see our issue Nos. 13 and 12 respectively) and Vice-Premier Fang Yi's report on the outline national plan for the development of science and technology, 1978-85 (for excerpts see p. 6 in this issue), which contain programmatic directives for scientists and technicians, who make up the advance party of the march towards socialist modernization and for the 900 million Chinese people, as well.

As representatives to the conference put it, Chairman Mao led the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army in undertaking the epic 25,000-li Long March more than 40 years ago and today the Chinese people, under the leadership of the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua, are setting out on a new Long March to achieve the general task for the new period. The current Long March is as significant, the tasks ahead are as arduous and the difficulties are as numerous as the one that took place in the mid-30s, but all present at the conference are

firmly convinced that this new Long March, too, will eventually attain its goal.

Vice-Chairmen of the C.P.C. Central Committee Teng Hsiao-ping and Li Hsien-nien and other Party and state leaders attended the closing ceremony on March 31, at which citations were presented to outstanding scientists and technicians and collectives that the people honour and respect for what they have achieved in their work and research. With a big red flower on their chests, the representatives of these advanced elements and units were seated in the central front rows of the meeting. A warmly worded message from Kuo Mo-jo, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences who is in his 80s, was read out at the meeting. It was entitled "Springtime for Science." (See p. 15.)

Vice-Premier Chi Teng-kuei made the closing speech in which he declared that the National Science Conference was a great success and that this conference, with its tremendous immediate and far-reaching historic significance, would go down in the glorious annals of the Communist Party of China and the People's Republic of China.

He said: Enormously raising the scientific and cultural level of the whole Chinese nation, putting an end to the backward state of our science and technology as quickly as possible and building a modern, powerful

socialist country — this is the great mission history has assigned us and also a common task for the whole nation. There is no job that has nothing to do with it, and there is none who can stand aloof from it. We must carry through to the end the struggle to expose and criticize the "gang of four" and we must do hard and solid work. "The year 2000 is only 22 years away. Time is really pressing and we cannot afford to lose any time. We must seize the day and seize the hour, defy all hardships and reach the pinnacles of world science at the earliest possible date!"

Thai Prime Minister Visits China

On March 29 when the distinguished Thai guests stepped out onto the tarmac at Peking Airport there was a nip in the spring air but the warmth of the welcome was unmistakable.

Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan and his wife were here for a week-long visit to China at the invitation of the Chinese Government. At the airport to greet them were Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, Vice-Premiers Teng Hsiao-ping, Keng Piao and Chen Mu-hua, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Chi Peng-fei, and Foreign Minister Huang Hua.

That evening Vice-Premier Teng gave a banquet in honour of Prime Minister and Madame Kriangsak and their party including Foreign Minister and

Madame Upadit Pachariyangkun and other high-ranking officials.

Speaking at the banquet, Vice-Premier Teng reviewed the development of friendship between the people of the two countries since Prime Minister Kukrit Pramoj's visit to China in 1975. He recalled that since the establishment of diplomatic relations the traditional friendship between China and Thailand has been enhanced on a new basis. He also said that ASEAN as a regional organization of the third world has steadily increased its activities and role in the international arena.

Prime Minister Kriangsak said that it was the common aspiration of Thailand and China to strengthen their friendship and co-operation. He was confident, he said, that the constructive relationship between the two countries would contribute significantly to peace and stability in Southeast Asia. He was very pleased to see that China appreciates the merits of ASEAN and supports its aims, he noted.

That afternoon Yeh Chien-ying, Chairman of the N.P.C. Standing Committee, met Prime Minister Kriangsak.

The next day, Vice-Premier Teng and Prime Minister Kriangsak began their talks.

On March 31 Chairman Hua met Prime Minister and Madame Kriangsak and other Thai guests. Chairman Hua said that Sino-Thai relations have broad prospects for development and that China

appreciates the foreign policy pursued by Prime Minister Kriangsak since he came to office.

Prime Minister Kriangsak said in reply that during his visit to China, the two sides have conducted sincere and wide-ranging talks that will benefit both countries. He wished China new victories in her economic development.

On the same day, a trade agreement and an agreement on scientific and technical co-operation between the Governments of China and Thailand were signed in Peking. Vice-Premier Teng and Prime Minister Kriangsak attended the signing ceremony.

Prime Minister and Madame Kriangsak and their party visited Shanghai, Kweilin and Kwangchow before returning home.

First Quarter Production Plans Overfulfilled

Good tidings have been pouring in from the industrial front since the year began.

Iron and Steel. First quarter production quotas for steel and pig iron were met seven and six days ahead of schedule respectively, with the Maanshan Iron and Steel Company, one of China's ten major iron and steel bases, fulfilling its quarterly steel production plan by March 10.

In the past few years, iron and steel production used to



The Shoutu Iron and Steel Company's iron-smelting plant overfulfilled its first quarter production plan.

get off to a slow start in the first half of the year and pick up steam in the latter half. This "rule" has been broken by this first quarter's output topping last fourth quarter's. Daily output of pig iron and steel was 20 per cent over that of last year, bettering the daily average targeted for this year.

Coal. Output continued to rise on the basis of a considerable increase last year. State target for the first quarter was fulfilled eight days ahead of time, with total output up 22.9 per cent over the corresponding period last year.

Petroleum. In the drive to build a dozen more oilfields the size of Taching, leading cadres of the Ministry of Petroleum Industry went to oilfields and oil refineries on New Year's Day and during the Spring Festival in February to work alongside workers, technicians and cadres of grass-roots units in the spirit of "there being no winters for oil workers." The result: production plans were

fulfilled every day and every month.

First quarter state plans were overfulfilled again, with total output of crude oil and natural gas 10 and 12 per cent higher than in the same period last year.

Electricity. The first quarter plan was fulfilled two days ahead of schedule. Eleven of the country's 12 major grids boosted output by a big margin as compared with the corresponding period last year.

Railways. The volume of freight handled by the 20 railway bureaus in the first quarter showed a big increase over that of the same period last year. There were 15 million more passengers.

Textiles. Total output value of the textile industry in the first three months was 40 per cent higher than in the same 1977 period. State plans for the production of chemical fibres, cotton yarn and cotton piece-goods and eight other products were all overfulfilled. To

date 27 per cent of the 1978 plan for chemical fibres has been fulfilled, registering a 170 per cent increase over the output in the first quarter of 1977. Output of cotton yarn and cotton piece-goods in the first quarter was 33 per cent higher than in the same 1977 period.

Light Industry. Output of major manufactured goods such as paper, cardboard, cigarettes, synthetic detergents, light bulbs, sewing machines and large and special-purpose scales listed under the state plan was higher than planned.

IN THE NEWS

- Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien on March 30 met with the delegation of noted Belgian personages led by Van Eynde Theophile, Minister of State, with Laurent Vandendriessche, Rector of the University of Anvers, as its deputy leader.

- Keng Piao, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on April 1 met with C. Petersen, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Netherlands.

- Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping on April 2 met with the Nepalese National Panchayat Delegation led by Gunjeswari Prasad Singh. Vice-Chairman of the N.P.C. Standing Committee Ngapo Ngawang-Jigme also was present. Vice-Premier Teng said he was very cordially received when he was in Nepal not long ago. He pointed out: "The relations between China and Nepal are very good. We trust each other."

Outline National Plan for the Development Of Science and Technology, Relevant Policies and Measures

Fang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, Vice-Premier of the State Council and concurrently Minister in Charge of the State Scientific and Technological Commission, made a report at the National Science Conference on March 18. He spoke on the following three questions:

1. *A new stage in the development of China's socialist science and technology.*

2. *Foster lofty ideals, set high goals, march towards the modernization of science and technology.*

3. *Mobilize the whole Party to develop science energetically.*

We publish below excerpts of his report on the last two questions. — Ed.

Outline Plan (1978-85)

CHAIRMAN Mao and Premier Chou mapped out a gigantic plan for us to make China a modern, powerful socialist country. By the end of this century, all departments and localities in China that can use machines must be fully mechanized, electrification must be realized in both urban and rural areas, the production processes in major industrial departments automated, advanced techniques extensively applied, labour productivity raised by big margins, and a radical change brought about in industrial and agricultural production so that our national economy can take its place in the front ranks of the world. We must equip our armed forces with the advanced achievements in science and

technology and greatly enhance our national defence capabilities. We shall build a vast army of working-class scientists and technicians who are both red and expert, and we must have our own experts in science and technology who are first rate by world standards. It is also necessary to acquire the most sophisticated equipment for scientific experimentation so that we can approach advanced world levels of that time in most branches of science and technology, catch up with them in some other branches and take the lead in certain branches. With the accomplishment of these tasks, we can say that we have realized by and large our objective of modernizing agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology. China will radiate even more brilliantly throughout the world.

The eight years from now through 1985 are crucial for the perspective long-term plan mentioned above. We must foster lofty ideals and set high goals, work out a strategic plan, fully mobilize all positive factors and organize all our forces well.

Our plan should serve the needs of realizing the four modernizations which hinge on modernizing science and technology. The plan on science and technology must dovetail with the plan on production and construction and the two must be organically combined. Research in applied sciences and in basic theories and the immediate and long-term tasks must be properly arranged to avoid over-emphasizing one to the neglect of the other.

Our plan should be aimed at high-speed development. Compared with advanced world

levels in science and technology, our country is now lagging 15 to 20 years behind in many branches and more still in some others. Modern science and technology are developing rapidly. Only by developing at a higher speed can we catch up with or surpass the capitalist countries. We fulfilled five years ahead of schedule the major targets specified in the 12-year plan for the development of science and technology mapped out in 1956. In the mid-1960s we approached advanced world levels at the time in some scientific and technical spheres, which helped the popularization of some new techniques and the building of some new, rising industries. Now that we have much better conditions and a more solid foundation than in those days, a much higher speed is entirely possible.

Our plan should be one with the present-day advanced levels as its starting point. We must be good at learning from the advanced. We should conscientiously assimilate the experience and lessons of our predecessors so as to avoid the detour they went through. In carrying out the first plan for the development of science and technology, we took semi-conductor technology, which was an advanced branch of science at the time, as our starting point for studying and developing electronic computers. As a result, we soon passed the stage of the electron tube and gained time. In the years to come, we must work hard to raise all our scientific research work to advanced levels as quickly as possible. Scientific experiments by the masses should also be steadily improved on the basis of popularization.

Since last June, departments under the State Council and various localities and units have, through repeated discussions and revisions, mapped out the draft Outline National Plan for the Development of Science and Technology, 1978-1985.

The draft outline plan sets forth the following goals to be attained in the next eight years:

(1) Approach or reach the advanced world levels of the 1970s in a number of important branches of science and technology.

(2) Increase the number of professional scientific researchers to 800,000.

(3) Build a number of up-to-date centres for scientific experiment.

(4) Complete a nationwide system of scientific and technological research.

The eight-year outline plan (draft) makes all-round dispositions for the tasks of research in 27 spheres, including natural resources, agriculture, industry, national defence, transport and communication, oceanography, environmental protection, medicine, finance and trade, culture and education, in addition to the two major departments of basic and technical sciences. Of these, 108 items have been chosen as key projects in the nationwide endeavour for scientific and technological research. When this plan is fulfilled, our country will approach or reach the advanced world levels of the 1970s in a number of important branches of science and technology, thus narrowing the gap to about ten years and laying a solid foundation for catching up with or surpassing advanced world levels in all branches in the following 15 years.

The eight-year outline plan (draft) gives prominence to the eight comprehensive scientific and technical spheres, important new techniques and pace-setting disciplines that have a bearing on the overall situation. It calls for concentrating all forces and achieving remarkable successes so as to promote the high-speed development of science and technology as a whole and of the entire national economy.

Agriculture. In accordance with the principle of "taking grain as the key link and ensuring an all-round development," we will in the next three to five years actively carry out comprehensive surveys of our resources in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline production and fisheries, study the rational exploitation and utilization of the resources and the protection of the ecological system, and study the rational arrangement of these undertakings.

We should implement in its entirety the Eight-Point Charter for Agriculture [soil, fertilizer, water conservancy, seeds, close planting, plant protection, field management and improved farm tools] and raise our level of scientific farming. We should study and evolve a farming system and cultivating techniques that will carry forward our tradition of intensive farming and at the same time suit mechaniza-



Presenting red scarves to the representatives who received awards.

tion, and study and manufacture farm machines and tools of high quality and efficiency. We will study science and technology for improving soil, controlling water, and making our farmland give stable and high yields. In order to improve as quickly as possible the low-yielding farmland that accounts for about one-third or more of the country's total, we must make major progress in improving alkaline, lateritic, clay and other kinds of poor soil, in preventing soil erosion and in combating sandstorms and drought. We will study projects for diverting water from the south to the north and the relevant scientific and technical problems; study and develop new compound fertilizers and biological nitrogen fixation, methods of applying fertilizer scientifically and techniques for drainage and irrigation; breed new seed strains, work out new techniques in seed breeding and improve the fine crop varieties in an all-round way so that they will give still higher yields, produce seeds of better quality and can better resist natural adversities. We should quickly find out new insecticides that are highly effective and are harmless to the environment, and develop comprehensive techniques for preventing and treating different kinds of plant diseases and pests.

We need to step up scientific and technological research in forestry, animal husbandry, sideline production and fisheries. We

should provide new tree varieties and techniques that will make the woods grow fast and yield more and better timber, develop multipurpose utilization of forest resources and study techniques and measures for preventing and extinguishing forest fires; step up research on building pasturelands, improving breeds of animals and poultry, mechanizing the process of animal husbandry, increasing the output of aquatic products, breeding aquatic products and marine fishing and processing.

We will set up up-to-date centres for scientific experiments in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fisheries.

We must lay great emphasis on research in the basic theories of agricultural science, step up our study in the application of agricultural biology, agricultural engineering and new techniques to agriculture.

Energy. We must make big efforts to accelerate the development of energy science and technology so as to carry out full and rational exploitation and utilization of our energy resources.

We have our own inventions in the science and technology of the oil industry, and in some fields we have caught up with or surpassed advanced levels in other countries. We must continue our efforts to catch up with and surpass advanced world levels in an all-round way. We should study the laws and characteristics of the genesis and distribution of the oil and gas in the principal sedimentary regions, develop the theories of petroleum geology and extend oil and gas exploration to wider areas; study new processes, techniques and equipment for exploration and exploitation and raise the standards of well drilling and the rate of oil and gas recovery; and actively develop crude oil processing techniques, use the resources rationally and contribute to the building of some ten more oilfields, each as big as Taching.

China has extremely rich resources of coal, which will remain our chief source of energy for a fairly long time to come. In the next eight years, we should mechanize the key coal mines, achieve complex mechanization in some of them and proceed to automation. The small and

medium-sized coal mines should also raise their level of mechanization. Scientific and technical work in the coal industry should centre around this task, with active research in basic theory, mining technology, technical equipment and safety measures. At the same time research should be carried out in the gasification, liquefaction and multipurpose utilization of coal and new ways explored for the exploitation, transport and utilization of different kinds of coal.

We must push up the power industry as a pressing task. We should take as our chief research subjects the key technical problems in building large hydroelectric power stations and thermal power stations at pit mouths, large power grids and super-high-voltage power transmission lines. We must concentrate our efforts on comprehensive research in the techniques involved in building huge dams and giant power-generating units and in geology, hydrology, meteorology, reservoir-induced earthquakes and engineering protection which are closely linked with large-scale key hydroelectric power projects.

New sources of energy should be explored. We should accelerate our research in atomic power generation and speed up the building of atomic power plants. We should also step up research in solar energy, geothermal energy, wind power, tide energy and controlled thermonuclear fusion, pay close attention to low-calorie fuels, such as bone coal, gangue and oil shale and marsh gas resources in the rural areas.

Attention should be paid to the rational utilization and saving of energy, such as making full use of surplus heat, studying and manufacturing fine and efficient equipment for this purpose, lowering energy consumption by every means and particularly coke consumption in iron smelting, coal consumption in power generation and energy consumption in the chemical and metallurgical industries.

Materials. Steel must be taken as the key link in industry. It is imperative to make a breakthrough in the technology of intensified mining and solve the scientific and technological problems of beneficiating hematite. We should speed up research work on the paragenetic deposits at Panchihua, Paotow and Chinchuan where many closely associated metals have been

formed, solve the major technical problems in multipurpose utilization, intensify research on the exploitation of copper and aluminium resources, make China one of the biggest producers of titanium and vanadium in the world and approach or reach advanced world levels in the techniques of refining copper, aluminium, nickel, cobalt and rare-earth metals. We should master new modern metallurgical technology quickly, increase varieties and improve quality; study and grasp the laws governing the formation of high-grade iron ore deposits and the methods of locating them; establish a system of ferrous and non-ferrous materials and extend it in the light of the characteristics of our resources.

We should make full use of our rich natural resources and industrial dregs and increase at high speed the production of cement and new types of building materials which are light and of high strength and serve a variety of purposes; step up research in the technology of mining and dressing non-metal ores and in the processing techniques; lay stress on research in the techniques of organic synthesis with petroleum, natural gas and coal as the chief raw materials, step up our studies of catalysts and develop the technology of direct synthesis; renovate the techniques of making plastics, synthetic rubber and synthetic fibre and raise the level of equipment and automation in the petrochemical industry. We must solve the key scientific and technical problems in producing special materials necessary for our national defence industry and new technology and evolve new materials characteristic of China's resources.

We should devote great efforts to basic research on the science of materials, develop new experimental techniques and testing methods and gradually be able to design new materials with specified properties.

Electronic computer. China must make a big new advance in computer science and technology. We should lose no time in solving the scientific and technical problems in the industrial production of large-scale integrated circuits, and make a breakthrough in the technology of ultra-large-scale integrated circuits. We should study and turn out giant computers, put a whole range of computers into serial pro-

duction, step up study on peripheral equipment and software of computers and on applied mathematics, and energetically extend the application of computers. We aim to acquire by 1985 a comparatively advanced force in research in computer science and build a fair-sized modern computer industry. Microcomputers will be popularized and giant ultra-high-speed computers put into operation. We will also establish a number of computer networks and data bases. A number of key enterprises will use computers to control the major processes of production and management.

Laser. We will study and develop laser physics, laser spectroscopy and non-linear optics in the next three years. We should solve a series of scientific and technical problems in optical communications, raise the level of the routine laser quickly and intensify our studies of detectors. We expect to make discoveries and creations in the next eight years in exploring new types of laser devices, developing new wave-lengths of the laser and studying new mechanisms of laser generation, making contributions in the application of the laser to studying the structure of matter. We plan to build experimental lines of optical communications and achieve big progress in studying such important projects of laser applications as separation of isotopes and laser-induced nuclear fusion. Laser technology should be popularized in all departments of the national economy and national defence.

Space. We should attach importance to the study of space science, remote sensing techniques and the application of satellites; build modern centres for space research and systems for the application of satellites; step up the development of the vehicle series, and study, manufacture and launch a variety of scientific and applied satellites; actively carry out research in the launching of skylabs and space probes; and conduct extensive research in the basic theory of space science and the application of space technology.

High energy physics. We expect to build a modern high energy physics experimental base in ten years, completing a proton accelerator with a capacity of 30,000 million to 50,000 million electron volts in the first five years and

a giant one with a still larger capacity in the second five years.

We should from now on set about the task in real earnest and make full preparations for experiments in high energy physics, with particular stress on studying and manufacturing detectors and training laboratory workers. We should step up research in the theory of high energy physics and cosmic rays, consciously promote the interpenetration of high energy physics and the neighbouring disciplines, actively carry out research in the application of accelerator technology to industry, agriculture, medicine and other spheres, and pay attention to the exploration of subjects which promise important prospects of application.

Genetic engineering. We must in the next three years step up the tempo of building and improving the related laboratories and conduct basic studies in genetic engineering. In the next eight years, we should combine them with the studies in molecular biology, molecular genetics and cell biology and achieve fairly big progress. We should study the use of the new technology of genetic engineering in the pharmaceutical industry and explore new feasible ways to treat and prevent certain difficult and baffling diseases and evolve new high-yield crop varieties capable of fixing nitrogen.

We must grasp firmly and effectively the above eight important spheres. But this in no way means that we can neglect work in other spheres. All branches of science and technology have their specific positions and roles in our socialist construction, and none can be dispensed with or replaced. We should grasp the key spheres well on the one hand and make overall planning and give all-round consideration on the other. Make all-round arrangements while laying emphasis on the key points — this is our policy.

Here I would like to mention in particular the question of multipurpose utilization. Chairman Hua has given this instruction, "We must attach importance to multipurpose utilization which makes full use of natural resources and alleviates pollution of the environment. The three industrial wastes (liquids, gases and dregs) will bring harm if they are discarded but will

become treasures if they are turned to good account." People working in all professions and trades should go in for multipurpose utilization and the departments concerned should be organized to concentrate their forces on tackling major scientific and technical problems.

Policies and Measures

The march towards the modernization of science and technology means in essence a comprehensive and fundamental technical transformation of all fields of material production in our country. This is a great technical revolution that history has entrusted to us. Accomplishment of this revolution depends on leadership by the Party and on the people of the whole country. Our Party organizations at all levels, first of all the leading Party groups of the ministries and commissions under the State Council and the Party committees of the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, must earnestly implement the instructions of Chairman Hua, simultaneously grasp the three great revolutionary movements of class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment, and do the following work well in a down-to-earth manner.

(1) Consolidate the Scientific Research Institutions and Build Up a Scientific and Technological Research System

In the next eight years, we must create a nationwide scientific and technological research system which covers all branches of study, which should complement each other and be rationally distributed and developed in co-ordination, and which integrates professionals with the masses and military research efforts with those undertaken in the civilian sector.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences, the various departments under the State Council

and the key universities and colleges must restore, strengthen and build a number of key scientific research institutions. They must pay particular attention to strengthening research in those disciplines where the work has been weak and to building and expanding a number of research institutions in the basic sciences and new branches of science and technology where there is an urgent need.

The provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions must establish and strengthen research institutions. Special attention should be paid to the establishment and development of scientific research institutions in the interior and in areas inhabited by the minority nationalities.

All large industrial and mining enterprises should take active steps to establish and strengthen research institutions. Small and medium-sized factories and mines may establish research institutions according to the situation. Scientific research groups, technical innovation groups or teams for tackling difficult scientific and technical problems should be set up wherever possible.

Big efforts should be made to strengthen research institutions in agronomy and farm machinery and tools at the county level and, with these as the nucleus, consolidate and expand the network of agro-science institutions and agrotechnical stations at county, commune, production brigade and production team levels.

No time should be lost in consolidating the existing scientific research institutions, particularly the key ones. We must first of all consolidate their leading bodies. It is imperative

Part of the representatives receiving awards.



that Party committee secretaries are selected from among comrades who have a good understanding of Party policies and are eager to promote science, that experts or near-experts are appointed to leading professional posts, and that conscientious and hard-working comrades are given charge of supply services.

The system of institute directors assuming responsibility under the leadership of the Party committees must be applied in scientific research institutions. The orientation, tasks and personnel of the research institutes and their subdivisions should be determined after extensive discussions by the masses.

(2) Open Broad Avenues to Able People and Recruit Them Without Overstressing Qualifications

Resolute measures must be taken to train able people in greater numbers and at a faster rate.

Conscientious efforts must be made to run universities and colleges, middle schools and primary schools well and the key colleges and schools must be run successfully. It is necessary to modernize the means of education step by step, develop television and radio courses and increase and improve the equipment of school laboratories. We should take active steps to set up college television courses, correspondence universities and evening schools. Diverse forms must be employed to expand student enrolment.

Great efforts must be made to strengthen postgraduate training. The Chinese Academy of Sciences and institutions of higher learning should take active steps to increase postgraduate enrolment, and all production departments and local research institutions that have the required facilities should do the same.

We should discover and select talented people from among young people who participate in scientific contests, readers of scientific journals, people recommended by various departments and inventors and innovators on the industrial and agricultural fronts.

Outstanding students can graduate from school ahead of time. Key colleges and universities can break with conventional practices and

enrol exceptionally outstanding young people at any time.

We must take resolute steps to transfer to scientific and technical posts those competent and well-trained scientific and technical personnel whose specialties are not being put to use.

(3) Institute Regulations for Training, Appraising, Promoting and Rewarding Scientific and Technical Personnel

We must encourage scientific and technical personnel to make a diligent study of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, constantly raise their political consciousness and remould their world outlook in the three great revolutionary movements, so as to make steady progress along the road of becoming both red and expert.

It is highly important to train a core force of scientific workers and top-notch scientists. Scientific and technical personnel who have attained the level of assistant research fellow, lecturer and engineer or higher should be given a certain period of time for advanced study every two or three years. Plans should be worked out to select and send scientific and technical personnel abroad for advanced study or for short-term work. Various measures should be taken to help scientific and technical workers in general study basic theory and acquire specialized knowledge.

We must firmly establish the moral code under which it is an honour to produce good results in scientific research for the socialist motherland. Technical titles should be restored, the system of individual responsibility established for all technical work, and the appraising and promotion of scientific and technical personnel undertaken at regular intervals.

Scientific and technical personnel who have made important contributions to the country should be rewarded.

(4) Uphold the Policy of Letting a Hundred Schools of Thought Contend

"Let a hundred schools of thought contend" is the correct policy Chairman Mao formulated for developing China's socialist cause of science. Free contention among different schools should be encouraged and fostered in science. With regard to academic problems, we should have

both freedom for criticism and freedom for refuting criticism; we should foster the attitude of upholding truth and correcting mistakes and strictly prohibit the practice of affixing political labels indiscriminately. Scientific papers and reports must not be withheld from publication, so long as they do not divulge state secrets or involve charlatanism. Those scientific and technical personnel who have aired erroneous views on academic questions should not be discriminated against, but should be helped so that they will work better.

The National Scientific and Technical Association and the societies of natural sciences should broaden their academic activities. Scientific research institutions, universities and colleges and all scientific and technical organizations should make it a regular practice to carry out academic activities.

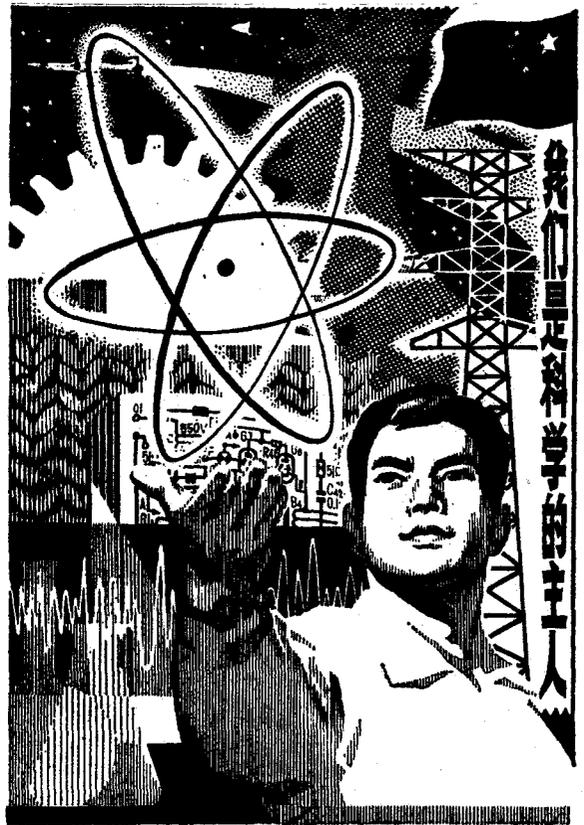
We actively advocate the study of Marxist philosophy by scientific and technical workers and should encourage and help them to do so. It is necessary to hold different kinds of forums regularly, begin publishing journals on dialectics of nature, carry out research on the history of natural science, and encourage scientific and technical personnel to guide their scientific research with Marxist philosophical concepts.

(5) Learn Advanced Science and Technology From Other Countries and Increase International Academic Exchanges

An important way to develop science and technology at high speed is to utilize fully the latest achievements in the world in science and technology and absorb their quintessence.

We should introduce selected advanced techniques that play a key and pace-setting role.

We must strengthen scientific and technical co-operation and academic exchanges with other countries and keep abreast of the results, trends, policies and measures of their scientific and technological research as well as their experience in organization and management. We should actively and systematically enlarge the scope of sending scientific and technical personnel, returned students and postgraduates abroad to study, receive advanced training, make study tours and take part in international academic



We Are Masters of Science.
Poster by Liao Tsung-yi and Ou Huan-chang

conferences and other academic activities. Meanwhile, we will also invite foreign scientists, engineering and technical experts to China to give lectures, serve as advisers or join us in scientific research.

(6) Ensure Adequate Work Hours for Scientific Research

We must make sure that scientific research workers can devote at least five-sixths of their work hours each week to professional work.

Scientific research workers should be encouraged to study and improve their professional competence in their spare time:

Core research workers should be provided with assistants and their administrative duties cut down.

We should carry out lively political work and strive to achieve practical results in all our work.

Supply services in scientific research institutions must serve scientific research and improve the living as well as working conditions for scientific and technical workers.

(7) Strive to Modernize Laboratory Facilities And Information and Library Work

In the next eight years we should build a number of modern experimental installations and centres. We should give a high priority to refitting the existing laboratories so as to modernize them as quickly as possible.

Emergency measures must be taken to push forward the designing and production of instruments and equipment. Efforts must be made to expand, renovate and build a number of factories specializing in scientific instruments and chemical reagents. Great attention should be paid to the study of new principles, new techniques and new products of instruments and equipment.

It is essential to strengthen the management of the designing, production, distribution and use of scientific instruments and bring them under an overall national plan.

We should improve and strengthen our scientific and technical information institutions, and collect foreign scientific and technical information and data extensively through diverse channels. Exchanges of domestic research results between various disciplines should be well organized and the analysis and study of scientific and technical information improved.

It is essential to equip information institutions with modern facilities in the shortest possible time. In eight years we will set up a number of documentation retrieval centres and data bases and build a preliminary nationwide computer network of scientific and technical information and documentation retrieval centres. We should also strengthen the publication of scientific and technological material.

(8) Close Co-operation With an Appropriate Division of Labour

The Chinese Academy of Sciences is the overall centre for research in natural science throughout the country. Its main task is to study and develop new theories and techniques

and to solve major scientific and technical problems involving many fields in our economic construction, in co-operation with the departments concerned. It should lay stress on basic theoretical research and aim at raising standards.

The institutions of higher learning serve as both educational and research centres; they are an important force in scientific research, covering both the basic and the applied sciences.

Research institutions of the various departments and localities should devote themselves mainly to the applied sciences, but they should also undertake appropriate research in basic science.

The above institutions and the non-professionals engaged in scientific experiment should work in close co-operation with an appropriate division of labour.

We must give play to the spirit of subordinating ourselves to the national interest. It is imperative to give scope to the initiative of both the central and local authorities. Scientific research must be integrated with production and utilization. All departments, regions and organizations should display a communist spirit of co-operation.

(9) Speed Up Popularization and Application Of Scientific and Technical Achievements And New Techniques

Work on the exchange and popularization of scientific and technical achievements needs improving.

Close attention should be paid to the intermediate links between scientific research and industrial and agricultural production, and essential pilot factories and workshops to trial-produce new products should be built or improved.

We should study and formulate appropriate technical and economic policies and encourage the popularization and application of scientific and technical achievements.

(10) Make Big Efforts to Popularize Science

We must arm our cadres and the masses with modern scientific and technical knowledge.

(Continued on p. 17.)

Springtime for Science

— Speech by Kuo Mo-jo, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences

Dear Comrades!

To the important speeches given by our wise leader Chairman Hua and our respected and beloved Vice-Chairman Teng, to the report made by Comrade Fang Yi, I give my wholehearted support with warm cheers. Springtime for science — the most splendid in the annals of the Chinese nation — has come and is here to stay. That I, a man born in the last century, have been able to attend a grand meeting such as this one, fills my mind with a myriad of thoughts and ideas.

There was the old society wherein many people involved in scientific and cultural endeavours longed for the prosperity of their motherland, for the revival of nationhood and the flowering of science and culture. But then, in those dark years, science did not have a place and scientists had no future! In the old society, it was the lot of science and scientists to suffer obstruction and humiliation, to be trampled on by the rulers of the feudal dynasties, trampled on by the Northern Warlords* and the Kuomintang reactionaries! Once we who took part in the May Fourth Movement** did utter the cry for the development of science, but all to no avail. So many men and women with high ideals, worried and frustrated, wished to do

* The reactionaries who ruled the country after the overthrow of the feudal dynasty in the Revolution of 1911.

** A popular revolutionary movement in 1919 against imperialism and feudalism.



Despite his illness, 86-year-old Kuo Mo-jo, noted scholar and poet, attends the opening session of the National Science Conference. He is seen with Chairman Hua who urges him to withdraw early for a rest.

something about it, only to find that, able as they were, they had no chance to carry out their ideals. Those were days of darkness, when many of us spent most of our lives wandering from place to place enduring all kinds of hardships. With the founding of New China born of arduous struggles waged by the Chinese Communist Party under the leadership of our great leader and teacher Chairman Mao, our people, and science as well, won emancipation. Chairman Mao and Premier Chou then personally drew up a magnificent blueprint for transforming China into a modern, powerful, socialist country; it was they who showed the most thoughtful solicitude for our scientific undertakings and our scientists. This made it possible for science in our country to advance with

seven league strides. In my reverie, all these past events rush to my mind as if they happened just yesterday. When one drinks water, one must not forget where it comes from; when we think of these things, how can we not show our profound gratitude to our great leader Chairman Mao and our respected and beloved Premier Chou and cherish their memory? Then there was the vicious "gang of four" who rode roughshod over the work in science in many ways and wantonly persecuted our scientists, in an attempt to draw our motherland back into the old society where ignorance, backwardness and darkness reigned. But, they were like "mayflies lightly plotting to topple the giant tree." At one stroke the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua swept away these pests which played havoc with the nation and the people, bringing us liberation for the second time. Today, suffering humiliation no more, we can say this with our chins up: The time when the reactionaries can trample on science has indeed gone for ever! The spring-time of science is here! Vindicated by my life-long experience, one unassailable truth has dawned upon me: only socialism can liberate science, and the building of socialism is possible only when it is done on the basis of science. Socialism is indispensable to science; science is all the more indispensable to socialism. In the face of such a gratifying situation today, I feel greatly excited and am filled with delight. "Happy I made an ode to dusk, seeing the green mountains bathed in sunset glory."* These brilliant lines by our respected and beloved Vice-Chairman Yeh express every bit of what people of my generation feel.

In the past we the Chinese nation made outstanding contributions to the development of human civilization. Right now, led by the Communist Party, our nation is undergoing a great renaissance. Engels once referred to the Renaissance in the 16th-century Europe as an epoch which, in need of giants, gave birth to giants. Today, the great revolution and construction in our socialist motherland

* These are lines taken from a poem *Thoughts on Reaching Eighty* written by Vice-Chairman Yeh Chien-ying on May 14, 1977.

even more urgently need large numbers of giants of this epoch of socialism. We need not only political and cultural giants, but giants in natural science and other fields as well. It is our conviction that these giants are certain to emerge in large numbers.

Science deals with things in a practical way. Science means honest, solid knowledge, allowing not an iota of falsehood, and it involves herculean efforts and gruelling toil. At the same time, science also calls for creativeness and imagination; only with imagination is it possible to break away from the confines of conventionalities and to make headway in science. Comrade scientists, I appeal to you not to let poets alone have the exclusive use of imagination. "Chang Ngo flying to the moon,"** probing the underwater treasure-trove in the "palace of the Dragon King," and many fabulous things related in *Apotheosis of Heroes**** . . . most of these, thanks to the advance of science, have today come true. Copernicus, the great astronomer, said that it is man's duty to be courageous enough to seek for truth. Our people have always been courageous enough to probe into things, to make inventions and make revolution. We must break through conventions, blaze new trails and open up our own road of scientific development. Lend wings to the imagination while doing things in a down-to-earth manner—this is the style typical of scientific workers. So let us explore the boundless universe in quest of never ending truth.

I wish our scientific workers of the older generation many more years of life and strength, may you follow our wise leader Chairman Hua on the new Long March, make new achievements in our scientific endeavour and contribute to the fostering and training of new scientific talents.

** A mythical figure of ancient folklore. It is said that after taking a certain tonic from fairyland, she is able to fly to the moon and becomes the goddess there.

*** A Chinese mythological novel written in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

I hope our scientific workers of the younger generation earnestly set themselves to engage in still more magnificent undertakings, do things in a revolutionary way, and through hard work, scale the heights of world science. You people are the mainstays in catching up with and surpassing the world's advanced scientific levels; the task entrusted to you are heavy and your road ahead is a long one. If people in ancient times were so painstaking in their studies as to tie their hair on the house beam and jab their side with a needle to keep themselves awake, you who are working for the great ideal of communism can certainly concentrate on your work with ever greater devotion and storm strongholds in defiance of difficulties. In catching up with and surpassing the world's advanced levels, time is the key factor. Time means life, time means speed, time means strength. You who are in the prime of life, come forth with greater contributions for the benefit of the people!

I hope our young people all over the country make up their minds to dedicate themselves to the grand cause of communism, foster revolutionary ideals with all their might, study modern science and technology in a down-to-earth way, consider hard study as a matter of honour and cry shame on those who make no effort to seek progress. You are like

the rising sun and our hopes are placed on you. Revolution plus science will make you grow like winged-tigers and you will be able to take over the torch lit by the revolutionaries and scientists of the older generation and surpass them in all fields.

This speech I am making, I must say, is more than the voice of an old scientific worker; rather, it is the yearning for the creation of a magnum opus, a magnum opus of historic significance whose completion will depend on the joint and continued efforts of each and every scientific worker and the people of all nationalities in our country. It will not be written on limited reams of paper but in the universe that knows no bounds.

In solar terms, the Vernal Equinox is just over, to be followed by the Clear and Bright Day. "When the sun comes out, the crimson blossoms at the riverside look more fiery than flames; when spring sets in, the river water turns orchid green with life."* This is the springtime for the revolution, this is the springtime for the people, this is the springtime for science! Let us spread out both arms and warmly embrace it!

* From a poem by the poet Po Chu-yi who lived between 772 and 846.

(Continued from p. 14.)

We should organize popular science groups which combine the efforts of both professionals and the masses, expand the publication of popular science readers and the production of science and education films, run successfully halls of science and technology, museums, exhibition centres, technique-exchanging teams and various kinds of scientific and technical clubs. The press, radio and television should devote more space and time to the dissemination of science and technology. Public establishments should gradually extend their programmes to include popular science activities.

Special efforts should be made to interest our cadres at various levels in science and technology. Arrangements should be made for scientific and technical workers and teachers to acquaint cadres with the latest trends, basic knowledge and current research results in China and the rest of the world.

In popularizing science, we must give full scope to the active role of educated young people settling in the countryside.

All sectors must pool their efforts to foster among the cadres, the masses and the young people the habit of loving, studying and applying science.

Declining Population Growth

by Our Correspondent Tso An-hua

Beginning with this issue we are publishing a series of articles about family planning in Jutung, a county in Kiangsu Province.

The progress of family planning in our country is uneven as in some provinces the birthrate is still relatively high. Even in a county like Jutung, where family planning as a whole has been carried out fairly well, there are places where the work is not all that could be desired. Experience is being summed up by authorities concerned to improve work in this field. — Ed.

JUTUNG County in east China on the Yellow Sea coast has 94,700 hectares of cultivated land and a population of 1.065 million, averaging 669 persons per square kilometre.

It is one of the models of family planning in the country's rural areas. Since 1971 the population growth there has swiftly fallen. In 1977 its birthrate was 10.5 per thousand, mortality rate was 6.82 per thousand, so the natural increase was 3.68 per thousand; 92 per cent of married couples in the county practise planned parenthood.

Before liberation working people in Jutung, like elsewhere in China, were oppressed and exploited by imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism, haunted by poverty and unemployment. Many died in wars, epidemics and famines.

Wei Chih-tien, 60-year-old chairman of the county poor and lower-middle peasants' association, told me that his parents had a family prolific of children — ten brothers and sisters

all told. But they did not have the means to feed them. Three of them were drowned in their infancy, another three sent to an orphanage and one died. He and two brothers who survived became landlords' labourers in their early teens. What they earned was hardly enough to keep their body and soul together. In spring when they were on short commons, if they were to borrow from the landlord a sack of grain they had to return a sack and a half after autumn harvest. Miscellaneous taxes extorted by the government (salt, tobacco, marriage, road taxes and so on) virtually bled the poor white. When cholera struck Jutung in 1936, because the reactionary government did nothing to help and the working people could not afford medical treatment, the death toll was heavy, so heavy that there wasn't even enough pallbearers.

In those days the working people could hardly keep themselves alive let alone bring up children. Many children were born and many died. People called childbirth or a family with too many children an "infantile disaster."

After liberation in 1949 the feudal exploitative system was overthrown and the working people became masters of society.

Since the co-operative transformation of agriculture in 1956, particularly after the setting up of rural people's communes in 1958, the peasants of Jutung, relying on the strength of the collective, built water conservancy projects, practised scientific farming, established farm machinery plants, chemical fertilizer plants, and built pumping stations to bring about a tremendous change in production. Life got bet-

ter and "infantile disaster" was never heard of again.

Here is a table comparing the county's per-hectare yields of grain and cotton and its gross industrial and agricultural output value with the population growth for 1949 and 1976:

	1949	1976	Percentage increase
Grain	2,340 kg.	8,630 kg.	368
Cotton	67.5 kg.	788.3 kg.	1,167.8
Gross industrial and agricultural output value	67.689 million yuan	427.24 million yuan	631.2
Population	699,700	1,065,300	52.3

These figures show that the increase of material product far outpaced the population growth. Chairman Mao on the eve of nationwide liberation in 1949 said in his article "The Bankruptcy of the Idealist Conception of History" refuting a Western bourgeois economist who claimed that increases in food cannot keep pace with increases in population: "Revolution plus production can solve the problem of feeding the population." Jutung County has accomplished just that.

Here, today in Jutung, everybody has enough food, clothing and a job. Culture, education, medicine and health have all swiftly developed.

At the time of liberation Jutung had only two hospitals and 610 private doctors. In those days it was hard even to find treatment for a case of appendicitis. It now boasts 2,516 full-time medical personnel reinforced by 1,797 bare-foot doctors in the production brigades who spend their time in production when not treating patients. All its people's communes today have a co-operative medical care service*. The county hospital today can handle most cases of illness.

In education, there was only one junior middle school in the whole county in 1949. In

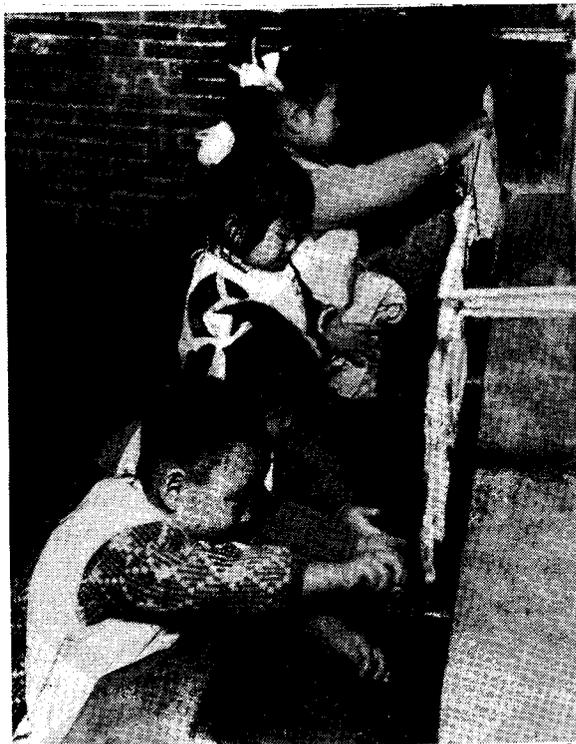
1977 the number of senior and junior middle schools jumped to 190. By 1975 junior middle school education became universal and the following year 90 per cent of junior middle school graduates were able to continue their studies in senior middle schools.

Most peasant households today have enough food and to spare and live in houses of brick with tile roofs.

Widespread family planning which began in Jutung in 1970 has borne notable results.

Why the planned population increase? Ours is a socialist country with public ownership of the means of production. The national economy develops according to plan and this requires that population increase must also take place according to plan. While man is chiefly a pro-

* Co-operative medical care service is funded by production brigades from their collective welfare accumulation. Each commune member needs only pay a small annual fee to receive medical treatment with no further charges.



Production brigade creche in Jutung County.



A workers' troupe of Jutung publicizing family planning.

ducer he is also a consumer. China has a vast population which is still growing. It is true the rates of growth in agriculture and industry over the past 28 years have been greater than the rate of population growth and this has ensured an increasingly better life for the people year after year, but if the population growth is slowed down somewhat then there will be more grain and other material products available for national construction and for the further betterment of the people's living standard.

Family planning also helps liberate women from onerous household chores to enable them to take a direct part in socialist construction. This is conducive to women's liberation and to socialist construction.

Family planning also improves women's health and has proved to be a boon to their children's upbringing and education.

The emphasis in planned population growth is "planning." It is more than birth control. There are two aspects to family planning. One is late marriage and the other is fewer births. By late marriage we mean young people must not get married as early as 17 or 18 and some-

times even 14 or 15 as was the practice in the past. This also means that these married couples will have children at an older age which helps control population growth.

In the rural areas men are not encouraged to get married until they have reached 25 and women until they are 23; in the urban areas men until they have reached 27 and women, 25. Each couple may have no more than two children and it is encouraged that the interval between births should be reasonably extended.

Because of the introduction of family planning the natural increase of population in Jutung County fell from 17.3 per thousand in 1970 to 4 per thousand in 1975.

Family planning is encouraged only in areas of dense population. In sparsely populated national minority areas and certain other areas population growth is encouraged. Over the past 20-odd years minority nationalities in the country have registered fairly rapid increases in population. In the case of members of minority nationalities with a big family who have the wish for family planning, proper advice and facilities are provided.



Australian "Vanguard"

Unite All Marxist-Leninists In Oceania

Following are excerpts from an article published in the March 2 issue of the Australian paper "Vanguard." — Ed.

MARXISM-LENINISM was born in struggle. Marxism-Leninism arose because it accurately reflected the decisive role in social change, of changes and advances in the productive forces. Those advances in the productive forces necessarily compelled changes in the relations of production. Society had gone through epochs of primitive communism, slavery, feudalism and capitalism — each an advance on its predecessor.

Chairman Mao Tsetung became the greatest inheritor, defender and developer of Marxism-Leninism of our time. He was of a stature equal to that of Marx and Lenin. Within the Chinese Communist Party he led the struggle against a succession of ten sets of representatives of the bourgeoisie and commenced that against the 11th set of such representatives — the "gang of four." On a world scale, he initiated and led the great struggle against the modern revisionists headed by Khrushchov. This struggle was of the most momentous importance. At the very crisis of imperialism and on the eve of its worldwide defeat, Khrushchov jumped out within the communist movement to try to save imperialism and defeat the socialist revolution. Throughout the world communist movement, hitherto concealed representatives of the bourgeoisie jumped out in response to Khrushchov's cue. A worldwide debate and struggle ensued.

In this part of the world, the battle occurred within the Communist Parties of Australia and New Zealand. In Australia, the leadership of Sharkey, Dixon, Aarons, revealed its bourgeois

character and attacked Marxism-Leninism. However, within the Communist Party of Australia a solid core of proletarian revolutionaries remained loyal to Marxism-Leninism. The revisionists Sharkey, Aarons, Dixon, split away. The ranks of Australian Communists were cleansed. Of course, this did not end the struggle for the purity of Marxism-Leninism. That continues to this day. Lesser representatives of the bourgeoisie have arisen and been defeated. This process will continue. The rise and fall of the bourgeois representatives called the "gang of four" has found its reflection in parties outside the Communist Party of China. Around it, a new form of revisionism is developing. A new international centre for this form of revisionism has arisen. This is because on a world scale, the proletarians produce and strengthen their Marxist-Leninist Party and the bourgeoisie makes more and more desperate efforts to get its representatives within the Communist Party to subvert that Party. This is nothing but the continuation of the process that commenced in Marx's time. It will continue till the worldwide victory of communism.

At the time of the struggle against Khrushchov's revisionism, the leadership of the Communist Party of New Zealand, headed by Comrade V.G. Wilcox, adhered to Marxism-Leninism, unlike the Sharkey, Dixon, Aarons leadership. The New Zealand Party, and in particular Comrade Wilcox, played an outstanding role in the international struggle and internally, the New Zealand Party rid itself of bourgeois elements. As a fraternal delegate to the critical Australian Party Central Committee of February 1962, Comrade Wilcox dissociated himself and the New Zealand Party from the revisionist line of Sharkey, Dixon, Aarons and

Co. His action was of international significance and a great encouragement and support for Australian Marxist-Leninists.

The particular phase of the struggle expressed in the struggle against Khrushchov revisionism resulted in a great strengthening of Marxism-Leninism. New Communist Parties and Marxist-Leninist groups arose.

New tasks arose, new opponents of Marxism-Leninism arose.

The Communist Party of Australia (M-L) and comrades like Comrade Wilcox adhered to Marxism-Leninism and the new development of it by Chairman Mao. Comrade Wilcox and leaders of the Communist Party of Australia (M-L) on one occasion jointly met Chairman Mao. The Australian Party leaders and Comrade Wilcox have long been comrades-in-arms. Together they have striven to uphold Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. In the present new phase of the struggle against revisionism — Left in form, but Right in essence — new questions arise. Communists are compelled to define their attitudes to them.

Chairman Mao's theory of the differentiation of the three worlds, the continuing of the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat, the estimate of Chairman Mao as a classic developer of Marxism-Leninism, are questions which have become touchstones in the struggle.

This whole question affects revolutionaries in Oceania. The three worlds theory elucidates the tasks for the countries of Oceania which are composed of countries of the second world (Australia and New Zealand) and of the third world, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Nauru, Fiji, Western Samoa, etc., and showed how they were menaced by the superpowers and particularly Soviet social-imperialism. It showed the main force as the third world and the fact that the second world countries could, on some issues, be united with in struggle against the superpowers.

Again, such proletarian revolutionaries as the Communist Party of Australia (M-L), Comrade Wilcox and others both inside and outside the Parties, upheld these great truths. Others deserted either outright or by muttering and mumbling or by silence or by failing to uphold Chairman Mao's great statement "Practise Marxism and not revisionism; unite and

don't split; be open and aboveboard, and don't intrigue and conspire."

In the contemporary world, the struggle and contention between the superpowers acutely affects Oceania. The solidarity of all Marxist-Leninists of Oceania, which includes Australia and New Zealand, is of great importance. Both within and without the Parties, Marxist-Leninists have the job of uniting ever more closely in the great cause of national independence, national liberation and socialism. They will certainly defeat all those who in the name of communism oppose the revolutionary essence of communism either by silence, attempted suppression of comrades like Comrade Wilcox, lies, slanders, intrigues and conspiracies. The truth is certain to triumph. The handful of Australian supporters of the "gang of four" along with all such people, are nothing but bourgeois representatives. Engels said: "The development of the proletariat proceeds everywhere amidst internal struggles. . . . And when, like Marx and myself one has fought harder all one's life long against the alleged socialists than against anyone else (for we only regarded the bourgeoisie as a class and hardly ever involved ourselves in conflicts with individual bourgeois), one cannot greatly grieve that the inevitable struggle has broken out. . . ."

l'Humanite Rouge

To Build a Unified Marxist-Leninist Party

THE French journal *l'Humanite Rouge* on March 17 carried an article and highlights of a speech made by its Political Director Jacques Jurquet as well as highlights of a speech made by Marx Cluzot, responsible member of the Marxist-Leninist Revolutionary Communist Party of France. The article and the excerpts from the texts of the two speeches stressed the necessity of uniting to build a unified Marxist-Leninist political Party.

In his article "The Party and the United Front," Jurquet pointed out: "The progress made in the unification process leading to the emergence of a unified Marxist-Leninist Party is being watched in France with great hopes, confidence and enthusiasm."

As early as 1963, he continued, the founding of a Marxist-Leninist Party was regarded as a task that must be completed as soon as possible. "Today, as in 1963, the question of the founding of the Party is of great historical, primary and decisive importance. Every militant who adheres to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Tsetung Thought must be fully aware of that," he said.

"The interest kindled by the prospect of unity at present is not confined to the organized ranks of Marxist-Leninist militants. The dynamic of this unity will be demonstrated in a qualitative and quantitative growth of the Party."

"The present endeavour to develop a current of the masses against capitalism and revisionism, as initiated by the Marxist-Leninist Revolutionary Communist Party and the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of France, has already achieved positive results."

"The progress in the unification of Marxist-Leninists in the past month or so was more

decisive than that in the past two years," Jurquet said in his speech. "The existence in France of a sole authentic Party adhering to the principles of Marxism, Leninism and Mao Tsetung Thought is a historical necessity."

Cluzot pointed out in his speech: "Both the demands of the class struggle and the positive balance-sheet of our common work call for the unification of Marxist-Leninists, and we declare solemnly here this evening that on our part, we will do everything possible so that this year will not pass without the realization of unification of our two Parties."

"Therefore," he went on, "we sincerely rejoice over the decision of the Political Bureau of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of France to stick to the joint initiative on the establishment of 'the worker and peasant union for proletarian democracy.' Because we are convinced that in doing so, our common struggle will be reinforced and the process of unification will be decisively promoted."

COMMENTARIES

Why Soviet "Foreign Legion" Hangs on in Africa

MORE than a fortnight has gone by since Somalia completed its troop withdrawal from Ogaden on March 14. There is, however, not a sign that the Cuban troops — the "foreign legion" of the Soviet Union in the lexicon of world public opinion — are ready to pull out of the Horn of Africa. Instead, the word spreads that Havana is about to send fresh reinforcements to the Horn of Africa and southeastern Africa.

As they can no longer use any pretext to intervene militarily, why do the Soviet mercenaries refuse withdrawal from the Horn of Africa as they have done in Angola? Where

will the Kremlin direct the peril in its next move on the African continent?

One lesson that can be drawn is this: Once the Soviet mercenary troops step on the soil of an African region or country, they will not quit easily. This is because the military intervention is not directed merely against one region or one country, but is closely connected with the social-imperialist bid for world domination and its increasingly intense rivalry with the other superpower. The Soviet "foreign legion," to wit, the Cuban troops, is nothing but a tool of the Kremlin for world hegemony.

That Khrushchov introduced missiles into Cuba in 1962 shows that, as early as the 1960s when the Soviet Union was in the early stage of its degeneration into social-imperialism and of its contention for supremacy with U.S. imperialism, the men in the Kremlin already chose Cuba as their base for confrontation and rivalry with the United States. Over the past decade during which the Soviet Union has grown into full-fledged social-imperialism, Moscow, while turning Cuba into a military springboard in the Caribbean, has actually succeeded in placing the Cuban armed forces into its clutches. Today the 20-odd Cuba-based Soviet long-range Tu-95 B reconnaissance bombers are making regular flights near the United States. Cuba's Cienfuegos is now a base of the Soviet task fleet which frequently patrols the Caribbean. A strategic highway now under construction on the island can be used by military aircraft in time of war. The Soviet Union has poured more than 3,000 million U.S. dollars' worth of military hardware into Cuba to make the Cuban armed forces the second strongest combat units in the Western Hemisphere after those of the United States.

Today, as the rivalry between the two superpowers in Europe and its flanks has become ever more acute, the Cuban troops have made their appearance in some parts of the world as a Soviet "foreign legion." Shipped from the far-off Caribbean into Angola where they were armed with Soviet weapons and commanded by Soviet generals, they started the drive to conquer the African continent. This was followed by the armed invasion of Zaire with Moscow and Havana as the wire-pullers. Their latest move was, of course, the armed intervention in the Horn of Africa.

On February 10, the French paper *Le Monde* carried an article by defence expert Jacques Isnard discussing the strategic significance of the presence of the Soviet "foreign legion" in Africa. He said: "Under the umbrella of nuclear deterrent aimed at 'freezing' the situation in certain regions of the world, notably in Europe, the Soviet Union has perfected a military capacity of long-distance intervention which relies on the existence of a new 'foreign legion' in its service: Cuban units and the technicians of Central Europe." The Kremlin has seen to it that an expeditionary force composed of profes-

sional Cuban soldiers "can be put in the first line of the scene where the Soviets would not like very much to occupy themselves."

It is plain enough that in supplying the Cubans with money and arms for the conquest of Africa, the Soviet Union aims to establish its own spheres of influence there and so to outflank Europe and pose a threat to the West's vital line on the sea for petroleum transport. The use of Cuban troops to carry out armed intervention in Africa also indicates that social-imperialism would not scruple to launch a limited conventional war to realize its strategic move for world supremacy.

At a time when the Soviet hirelings staged their armed intervention in Angola, the U.S. weekly *The Call* pointed out that Cuba had become a Trojan Horse introduced by the Soviet Union within the third world. Cuba's status as a weak and small country having suffered prolonged colonial oppression, the "revolutionary" mantle donned by its leadership and even the physical appearances of its officers and men of Negro ancestry which look almost the same as the native Africans — all these are factors in the Kremlin choice of Cuba as a cat's paw in its veiled armed expansion in Africa.

Western information agencies estimated that there are now more than 40,000 Cuban troops in Africa, nearly one-third of the strength of the Cuban regular force. The armaments shipped by Moscow to Africa for this "foreign legion" were estimated at over 1,000 million U.S. dollars. To send the Cubans to Africa the Soviet Union has organized the largest long-range air and marine transport since World War II. The Kremlin's heavy stake in its adventure and the repeated military operations of the Soviet mercenaries in Africa in the past three years — Do these not speak for the long premeditated, ambitious strategic move which the Soviet Union will not give up lightly?

In 1962 after the U.S. planes spotted the missiles brought into Cuba by Khrushchov, the then U.S. President Kennedy, in a grim trial of strength with the Soviet Union, ordered a naval blockade of Cuba. Reeling back from his acts of adventurism, Khrushchov turned to capitulationism. He pulled the missiles and bombers out

of Cuba and even accepted the demand for inspection by the U.S. Navy on the way home.

Today, 16 years after the said incident, the Soviet Union and Cuba are indulging in military actions in Africa. In the words of the British M.P. Winston S. Churchill, "this new crisis finds the West in acute disarray, lacking the will to challenge the brazen Soviet aggression at any point. The United States sits paralysed as reinforcements leave Cuba by sea and by air, beneath their very nose."

The United States has also taken no action as Soviet aircraft and warships, including nuclear-powered submarines, land or berth at Cuban bases with Soviet pilots flying the missions to the very gates of the United States for the Cuban pilots who have been sent to Africa.

The change taking place in the last 16 years reflects the decline of an old-time imperialist power and the meteoric rise of a social-imperialist upstart. Today, the Soviet Union has become the most dangerous source of war.

However, historical development is inexorable. The United States, the erstwhile world gendarme which suffered an abject fiasco in engineering an invasion of Cuba by driving Cuban exiles as mercenaries, is now going downhill. There is no doubt that Soviet social-imperialism, now throwing its weight around all over the world, will drift into the same rut of U.S. imperialism.

(*Hsinhua Correspondent, April 2*)

The Moro Incident and Goebbelsky

THE Soviet *New Times* [Russian edition], in its 13th issue this year, carried an article entitled "Features of Neo-Fascism." In this article, it tried to besmirch China by inventing the lie that "instructions directly or indirectly from Peking" had something to do with the recent kidnapping in Italy of the Christian Democratic leader Aldo Moro by the "Red Brigades." The editors and writers of *New Times* are proving to be true disciples of Goebbels,

making their living by churning out anti-communist, anti-popular smears and lies.

Moro's kidnapping has nothing whatsoever to do with China. But Moscow's mouthpieces wantonly link this terrorist act with China. And since they can produce not a shred of evidence, they simply resort to vile insinuation, such as "In all probability a disguised liaison bureau is at work." Out of their own mouth, *New Times* is telling the world that their "evidence" is nothing more than something they have thought up themselves.

By resorting to such despicable tactics, the Soviet propaganda machine aims to use this terrorist act to vilify China and sully its image. But who gives credence to such fantastic lies! To what depths the Soviet mouthpieces have sunk!

Spreading baseless rumours in slandering China has become an obsession with the new tsars in the Kremlin. At one moment they accuse China of "colluding with" South Africa and next they claim China is "inciting armed conflicts" in the Horn of Africa. These lies do not hurt China in the least but they do lay bare the stupidity of the rumourmongers themselves. Their allegations today concerning the kidnapping in Italy are made in the hope of gaining something for themselves but what a forlorn hope!

It is known to all that the Chinese Government and people have consistently disapproved of and never supported terrorist acts such as kidnapping and murder. We are Marxists and we always hold that revolutionary struggles are mass struggles which can win victory only by mobilizing and relying on the masses. Marxists are always opposed to terrorism, regarding it as injurious to the revolutionary struggles of the masses. This open and aboveboard stand of China can never be tarnished by Moscow's Goebbels and his ilk.

Still more preposterous is the article's insinuation that China is in some way connected with neo-fascism. Neo-fascism does exist in the world today, and the Soviet *New Times* and its like as disciples of Goebbels' philosophy are the inventors and purveyors of neo-fascist lies. History shows that Goebbels and his disciples never come to a good end.

A Visit to Four Countries

by the Chinese Journalists' Delegation

The first part of this article describing the delegation's visit to Syria and Tunisia was published in our last issue. — Ed.

WE reached Mogadishu after the nationwide festivities celebrating President Siad Barre's announcement of the four-point decision, which included abrogation of the Somali-Soviet "friendship treaty" and expulsion of Soviet experts. But joyous laughter would break out at the mere mention of those days of celebration when large numbers of people took to the streets, parading, singing, dancing and shouting "Russians, go home!" At one banquet two girls sang a popular song which the masses had made up in the parade.

*"Today, today,
Today is a great day!
Today
We gain our freedom,
We safeguard our sovereignty!"*

The heroic Somali people are proud of their struggle against foreign intervention and aggression. In the early 20th century when the imperialists were engaged in the wholesale carving up of Africa, the Somali national hero Mohammed Abdallah Hasan launched a raging 20-year-long armed struggle in the desert and the grasslands. Today in the square before the People's Hall in Mogadishu there is a bronze statue of the hero brandishing a sword astride a horse, erected as a symbol of national unity in struggle. Since independence, Somalia has resolutely safeguarded its state sovereignty. In the 60s, the Somali people drove out the "peace corps" of one superpower and last November President Siad Barre announced the four-point decision. Our Somali friends told us: "This is Somalia's second liberation." The decision in-

deed meant Somalia's second liberation and was a heavy blow to Soviet social-imperialism.

Seeing Through Soviet Social-Imperialism

Recalling the development of this struggle, Somali Minister of Information and National Guidance Abdulkassim Salad Hassan said: "The African people looked to Russia, the homeland of the October Revolution, and had sought its support in their liberation struggle. However, after Stalin's death, Russia gradually changed and became a superpower pursuing its own private interests. Of course, people didn't come to realize the true features of the Russians immediately. The Chinese were the first to expose them. Egypt and the Sudan one after the other also came to see through the Russians and it is now Somalia's turn." He told us that towards the end of the 60s, the Soviet Union started to provide military assistance and a small amount of economic aid to Somalia, proclaiming that it was "selfless," that it was "for opposing imperialism and colonialism" and that it "hoped that Somalia would become strong." "However," the Minister of Information and National Guidance continued, "we soon discovered that Russian policy towards Somalia required Somalia to take the Kremlin as being correct under whatever circumstances and on whatever issue." Things came to a head when the top Soviet leader came in person to put pressure on Somalia to change its policy, and to bring Somalia into Soviet machinations to control the Red Sea region and the Indian Ocean. This, of course, was unacceptable to the Somali Government which perseveres in safeguarding national independence and dignity.

Through the activities of the Soviet experts in Somalia, the masses of Somali people came to see the essence of Soviet social-imperialism.

Somalia is vulnerable to drought, therefore the building of water conservancy projects has a major bearing on the national economy and the life of the people. However, the modest Fanoli Dam which the Soviet Union was to help build dragged on for five years and wasted a great deal of manpower and materials. When the Soviet experts were driven out, only 20 per cent of the work on the project had been done. Thus, "Fanoli" has become a new Somali term meaning failure, a difficult delivery or something impossible to accomplish.

To try and poison the minds of Somali youth, Soviet social-imperialism took a good number of them to the Soviet Union to study. However, living in Moscow for a few years gave many of them a deeper insight into the true features of the Soviet Union. A Somali surgeon had very little opportunity to have practice in operating during the many years when he studied in the Soviet Union. He said indignantly: "How can they let us black people operate in the Soviet Union!"

As the days and weeks passed, people began to raise a host of questions about the Soviet activities in Somalia. Why does the Soviet Union drag its feet over economic construction projects urgently required by Somalia while being afire with keenness on military aid? Why is the Soviet Union so greatly interested in the Horn of Africa which is not rich? Why does the Soviet Union always pour oil on fire and try its utmost to provoke Africans to fight Africans whenever disputes break out among African states? Why is it that so many Soviet experts do nothing good for Somalia but go all out for material comfort? . . . An ordinary Somali remarked: "Though the Russians sent a lot of weapons here before, we soon realized that the ammunition dump was not in Somalia but in Moscow!"

After many years of dealing with the Soviet Union, the Somali Government and people came to see that the Soviet Union was social-imperialist and that it was pursuing hegemonism in Somalia and Africa.

Sino-Somali Friendship

Longstanding relations of friendship and co-operation exist between China and Somalia. During our visit, the historians there had much

April 7, 1978



The bronze statue of Hasan.

to say to us about this — from the 15th century, when Cheng Ho made a sea voyage to Somalia, to 1949 when 13 leaders of the Somali National League wrote a letter to the Chinese people. Looking at the draft of this letter, written at a time when the Somali people were waging an arduous struggle for national independence, we were told that five of the signers had laid down their lives for the cause of their motherland's liberation. There are many fine stories of Sino-Somali friendship and co-operation circulating at the experimental paddy-rice growing station, the newly built stadium, and at road-building sites. Our Somali journalist colleagues told us that Somali-Chinese friendship was time-honoured, sincere and profound and that today, the Somali people have an even deeper understanding of their old friends.

Since independence, Somalia has been overcoming difficulties and striving to develop the national economy and culture in a dauntless effort to build up the motherland. We are fully

convinced that the Horn of Africa's prosperity, the ideal which countless martyrs have fought all their lives for, is bound to be realized.

In the Heartland of Africa

The last leg of our itinerary was Burundi. From Mogadishu we arrived in the lovely scenic country of Burundi in the heart of Africa via Dar-es-Salaam. Though near the Equator, the high plateau on which the country stands moderates the climate and it is like spring all the year round. The fertile land enables farm crops to be grown in all seasons.

At an altitude of 800 metres above sea level, the capital Bujumbura has an average annual temperature of 23 degrees centigrade with a variance of only one degree. Facing Lake Tanganyika on one side and backed by high mountains on the other, Bujumbura is like a magnificent garden with shady green trees and flowers blossoming in profusion.

From Bujumbura, we went to visit Gitega, Teza and other places. Along both sides of the winding highway which hugs the hillsides stand towering trees with thick trunks which take several people to encompass with outstretched arms. Plots of bananas, mangoes, cassava, maize, peas, and beans and large, neat, flourishing tea plantations cover the valleys and hillsides. The industrious people of Burundi have made nature even more attractive.

The colonialists naturally did not let Burundi go easily. The country's history is also one of struggle against colonialist rule. In the latter part of the 19th century so-called explorers made their way there and in 1890 the German colonialists invaded and occupied Burundi, replaced in 1916 by the Belgian colonialists. For more than 70 years the people of Burundi struggled valiantly, finally winning their independence in 1962.

Our Burundi friends told us that when the German colonialists invaded the country they used guns and cannons to butcher the people

of Burundi who, armed only with such primitive weapons as bows and arrows, fought back bravely disregarding all sacrifices. In 1928, the people staged a mighty uprising against colonialism. This struggle grew even more vigorous towards the end of the 1950s.

On a hillside in the eastern suburbs of Bujumbura, we paid homage to the national hero of the Burundi people Prince Rwagasore at his tomb. The prince had led the Burundi people in opposing Belgian rule in 1959 and set up today's ruling party, the Unity and National Progress Party (Uprona), which has played an active role in Burundi's independence movement. The Belgian colonialists who feared and hated the prince had him assassinated on October 13, 1961 by the shore of Lake Tanganyika. Even his two young children were not spared.

Colonial rule in Burundi has ended once and for all. Like other African countries, Burundi is bustling with vitality and the people are making great efforts to consolidate national independence and develop the national economy and culture. Soon after taking office in November 1976, President Bagaza put forward the policy of giving priority to rural and agricultural development and adopted a series of measures including the abolition of the poll tax, readjustment of the prices of farm produce and the expulsion of foreign trading speculators. In just a little over a year this policy has already paid off.

In foreign affairs, Burundi follows a policy of non-alignment, advocates non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, supports

(Continued on p. 31.)

Tea pickers in Burundi.



ROUND THE WORLD

U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL

Smith's "Internal Settlement" Is Illegal

The United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution on March 14 declaring as illegal and unacceptable any "internal settlement" under the auspices of the illegal Smith regime and calling upon all states not to accord any recognition to such a settlement. The resolution deemed it necessary to take measures to terminate the Smith regime and form a government based on majority rule.

The Security Council from March 6 to 14 debated the question of Rhodesia at the request of the African Group of U.N. members. Many representatives condemned Smith for his concoction of the "internal settlement" fraud. In his speech of March 10, Chinese Representative Lai Ya-li expressed support for the stand taken by the representatives of a number of African and other countries, particularly the strong determination reaffirmed by the two leaders of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe to persist in armed struggle.

With the support of the African countries, the front-line countries in particular, Lai Ya-li went on, the people of Zimbabwe have won tremendous victories in their armed struggle whereas the Smith regime is getting more isolated than ever in the world. In the face of this situation, the Smith regime resorts to the so-called "internal settlement" and "par-

liamentary election." While intensifying its suppression of the Zimbabwean people, it is carrying out armed provocations against neighbouring countries. Recently, it has repeatedly committed armed intrusions into Botswana and Zambia. The Chinese delegation expressed indignation at these acts.

Lai Ya-li pointed out that the reason for the Smith regime's rampancy "is inseparable from the protection and abetment by one superpower, apart from the support given by the Pretoria racist authorities. This superpower, in collusion with one of its major allies, overtly or covertly supports the Smith regime in its so-called 'internal settlement' in an attempt to sabotage the Zimbabwean people's cause of genuine independence and liberation and to preserve their vested interests and the privileged status of the minority whites." "The other superpower," he said, "flaunting the banner of 'supporting the national-liberation movement,' is carrying on massive infiltration and expansion in southern Africa. It is trying by hook or by crook to sow dissension and interfere in and undermine the Zimbabwean people's struggle in the hope of bringing the struggle into its orbit of contention with the other superpower for hegemony in this area of strategic importance. With a covetous eye, it is now attempting to create greater confusion in the present situation in Zimbabwe so as to fish in troubled waters."

MONROVIA SUMMIT

Three West African States Normalize Relations

Heads of six West African states met in Monrovia on March 18 and 19 on the proposal of Liberian President William Tolbert. An agreement on normalizing relations between Guinea, Senegal and Ivory Coast was reached through the mediation of the heads of state of Liberia, Gambia and Togo. The agreement provides for the restoration of full diplomatic relations between the three states, the development of cooperation in all fields and at all levels, and the free exchange of personnel and commodities in accordance with the provisions of the Economic Community of West African States.

This is a positive result by African countries relying on their own efforts and following the African way. This vividly demonstrates the African countries' ability to iron out their differences and strengthen their unity through peaceful consultation without foreign interference. The African countries belonging to the third world have no conflict of fundamental interests. So long as they persist in friendship, unity and cooperation and proceed from the general situation of the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism, they can properly solve their disputes and differences left over by imperialism and colonialism.

The settlement reached by the three countries, which leaves no chance for superpower interference, is a blow to the hegemonic scheme to "divide and rule."

ON THE HOME FRONT

Chinese Postage Stamps

SINCE the People's Republic was founded 29 years ago, China has issued 1,426 varieties of commemorative and special stamps in 327 sets reflecting its political, economic and cultural life.

Commemorative stamps are issued to mark notable political events or days of special significance, such as anniversaries of the birth or death of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. They were issued last year on the first anniversaries of the death of Chairman Mao, Premier Chou and Chairman Chu Teh of the N.P.C. Standing Committee.

Men of renown in Chinese history are also signalized. There have been commemorative stamps to honour Dr. Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925), forerunner of the Chinese democratic revolution; Lu Hsun (1888-1936), man of letters, thinker and revolutionary; Tu Fu the poet (712-770); Chang Heng the astronomer (78-139); and Li Shih-chen the pharmacologist (1518-93).

Among other species are those issued to mark China's support for people's national-liberation struggles in other lands (such as the set commemorating the centennial of Romania's independence in 1977) and international friendship gatherings (such as the set celebrating the First Asian-African-Latin American Table Tennis Friendship Invitational Tournament held in Peking in 1973). Altogether more

than 150 stamps (in some 50 sets) of this kind have been issued.

Some special stamps take themes from achievements in China's socialist revolution and construction and persons who have distinguished themselves in certain fields. "The developing petroleum industry" is the theme of a recent set of this kind.

China also issues special stamps showing people's activities in sports, such as calisthenics, acrobatics and table tennis. "Our Great Motherland" was the general heading of a few sets showing science, art and other cultural achievements in ancient China as well as some of the well-known landscapes in the country.

There is also a set of 20 butterfly stamps bearing the most beautiful ones chosen out of the 1,300 species of butterflies to be found in China. The panda stamps, reproducing the paintings by the well-known artist Wu. Tso-jen, has caught

the fancy of philatelists both at home and abroad.

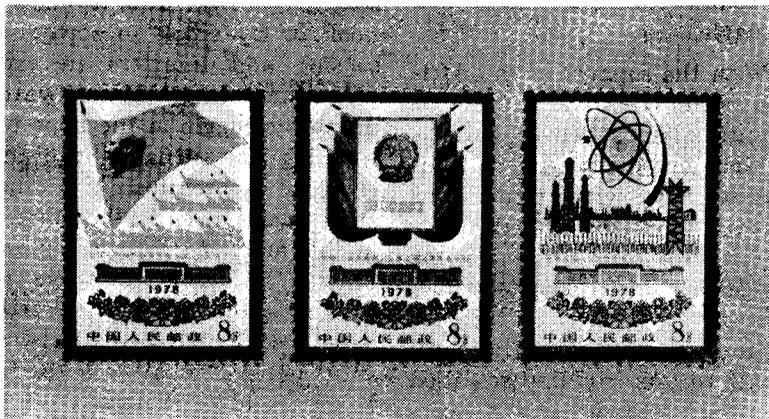
The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications has decided to reopen philatelic service in Peking, Tientsin, Shanghai and a number of other cities to cater to the needs of stamp-collectors. The journal about Chinese stamps will resume publication soon.

The value of Chinese stamps ranges from half a fen to 20 yuan, but most of them are four- and eight-fen stamps. The postage rate for local mail is four fen, and for inland mail is eight fen. These rates have remained unchanged since liberation.

China began to exchange stamps with foreign countries in 1955 and now has transactions with more than 80 countries and regions.

Spring Afforestation

AT the end of March, the Minister and Vice-Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry led 470 cadres to the countryside of Hopei Province and Peking suburbs where they joined commune members and local cadres in planting



A set of stamps commemorating the Fifth National People's Congress.

trees. They used this opportunity to hear peasants' opinions on how to develop forestry at high speed and discussed arboricultural problems, technical training and processing forestry products with responsible members of the localities.

Before liberation the forested area was unscrupulously plundered without any attempt at reforestation. When the country was liberated in 1949, the area under forest was only 5 per cent of the total land area.

Great efforts at afforestation over the past 20 years or so have raised the afforested area to about 12 per cent. However, most trees have not reached maturity and much remains to be done. The whole country is making vast endeavours to expand the afforested areas.

Renmin Ribao recently published an article by its Commentator calling on the people to make the fullest use of the

spring season to plant more trees so as to quickly enlarge forest cover of China.

Using Low-Calorie Fuels

GANGUE, a substandard product in mining districts, was considered waste. It was piled up everywhere and took up much space. For example at more than ten mines in Hantan, Hopei Province, some 30 million tons of gangue were kept year after year, and it occupied 133 hectares of land. Now the gangue has been turned into an important material.

A kilogramme of gangue produces 1,000 to 2,000 great calories of heat, some produce 2,500. This is a kind of low-calorie fuel. According to this feature, the Nanpiao Coal Mining Bureau (administering several coal

mines and factories) in Liaoning Province, northeast China, changed 29 of its 44 boilers so that gangue can be utilized. Every year the refitted boilers use 148,000 tons of gangue and thus saved 82,000 tons of coal. Besides, coal dregs can be used to turn out chemical products, cement and bricks.

Hopei Province consumed last year 3.3 million tons of gangue at a saving of 825,000 tons of coal.

Other places in the country are taking up multiple use of gangue.

China has rich resources of coal, petroleum and gas and yearly output is rising. But it still pays great attention to practising frugality in the use of fuel. To expand sources of energy, the country also makes full use of bone coal, peat, lignite, oil shale and other low-calorie fuels.

(Continued from p. 28.)

national-liberation movements, particularly the struggle of the African peoples for freedom and liberation, and opposes imperialism and colonialism.

When Prime Minister Nzambimana received the leader of our delegation, he said: "The Burundi Government resolutely opposes imperialism and hegemonism." He pointed out: "At present, the third world, particularly the African continent, is the victim of superpower contention for hegemony." He expressed the hope of strengthening unity and co-operation with China and other third world countries in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism.

Though China and Burundi are separated by thousands of miles, we found tangible signs of Sino-Burundi friendship everywhere during our week-long visit to Burundi. In Gitega we saw a magnificent performance of a vigorous national dance. As the performers sang and danced up to us, beating African drums, they shouted greetings to us in Chinese which reverberated over the square.

A street in Bujumbura has been named Mao Tsetung Boulevard in accordance with a decision passed by the municipal council. Looking at the new signpost we were keenly aware that the Burundi people cherish the memory of our great leader Chairman Mao Tsetung and treasure their friendship for the Chinese people.

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(A Quarterly)

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