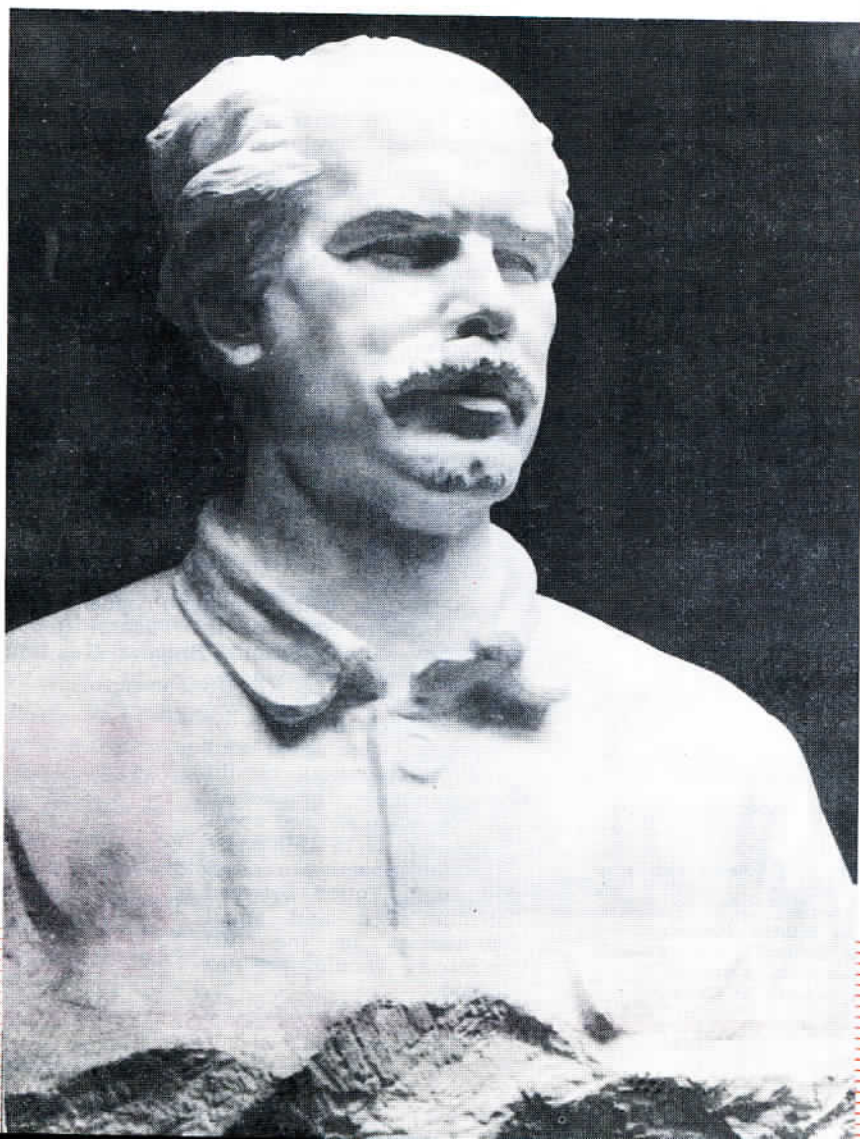


北京周報

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BEIJING REVIEW



Change in Class
Structure



China's Population
Problem



Norman Bethune
Commemorated

BEIJING REVIEW

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COVER: A bust of Norman Bethune, a great internationalist fighter.

by Pan He and Cheng Yunxian

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CHRONICLE

November 5

• The Red Cross Society of China is donating relief materials to Kampuchean refugees and has asked its Thai counterpart to distribute the materials among the refugees. The contribution includes 3.49 tons of medicine, 12.97 tons of canned food and 18,120 metres of cloth.

November 6

• Xinhua News Agency reported that from October 21 to 30, Vietnamese personnel had made armed provocations on 50 occasions along China's Yunnan and Guangxi border with Viet Nam, firing 150 artillery shells and over 2,000 bullets.

November 8

• Ji Pengfei, Head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, feted a delegation of the Popular Revolutionary Movement of Zaïre led by Kithima Bin Ramazani, Executive Secretary and Member of the Political Bureau of the movement.

November 9

• Foreign Minister Huang Hua ended a three-day visit to Yugoslavia. During his visit, he called on President Tito and spoke to him about Premier Hua's visit to Western Europe. The Chinese Foreign Minister also held talks with his Yugoslav counterpart J. Vrhovec, exchanging views with him on international problems of common concern and friendly bilateral relations.

November 10

• Premier Hua Guofeng returned to Beijing after visiting four West European countries. Party and state leaders Deng Xiaoping and others were at the airport to welcome him. The Premier had stopped over for a while in Urumqi, capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

November 11

• Meeting with Minister-President of Baden-Wuerttemberg State of the Federal Republic of Germany Lothar Spaeth, Premier Hua said that political and economic relations between China and the Federal Republic of Germany were good and that co-operation should be gradually broadened. The Premier showed special interest in Minister-President Spaeth's proposal that co-operation between medium-sized and small enterprises in the two countries should be enlarged.



30th Anniversary of Chinese Academy of Sciences

A tea party was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on November 1 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The keynote at the gathering was to discover, train and make good use of talents, which is of crucial importance to China's modernization. Attention was drawn to the need of changing the old practice of over-stressing seniority. Middle-aged scientists who have become the backbone force in scientific research should be promoted to important posts, and encouragement should be given to young scientists. In addition, it was pointed out that democracy should be practised in academic discussions, and leadership and guidance in scientific work should be in conformity with the laws governing the development of science and technology. Scientific research personnel must be provided with the necessary conditions so that they may concentrate on their work and study and achieve fruitful results.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences, founded in November 1949, is the biggest research centre in the country, with 23,000 researchers and 13,000 technicians in 12 branch academies engaged in research work of a fairly high level in the various disciplines of the basic sciences and new-emerging sciences and technologies. Its predecessor was the Central Academy and the Academy of Beijing before liberation, which

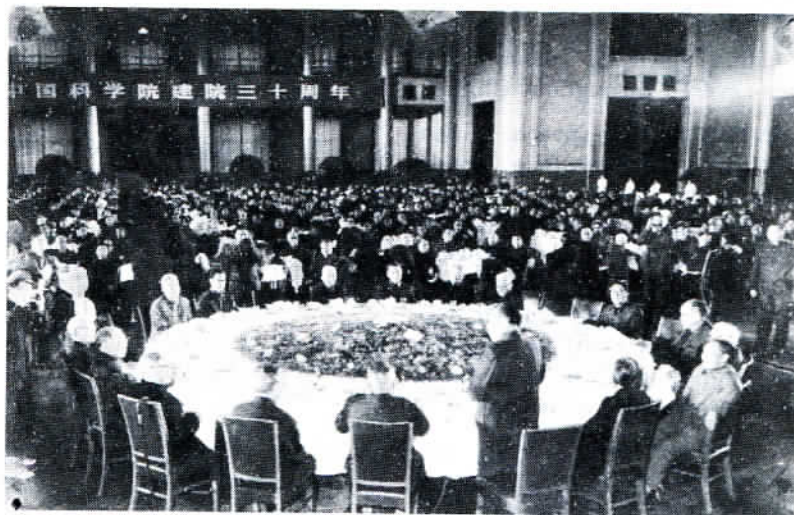
had only about 200 research workers in 20 research organizations.

Following the founding of the academy, the People's Government set up in succession various specialized research organizations, thereby forming a scientific and technological research network embracing the Chinese Academy of Sciences, institutes of higher learning, industrial departments, national defence units and local scientific and research units.

In 1956, China's first long-term plan for developing science and technology was drawn up to serve the country's socialist construction. It was fulfilled five years ahead of schedule in 1962. The second long-term plan which was drawn up later was undermined during the Cultural Revolution. It was only after Comrade Hua Guofeng made the call to "raise the scientific and cultural level of the entire Chinese nation" at the National Science Conference in March 1978 that

China's scientific research began to make fresh progress. By the first half of 1979, China already had 300,000 personnel working in 2,400 national research organizations, more than 600 universities and colleges and over 80 national associations of various specialities.

In the last three decades, Chinese scientists and technicians have achieved encouraging results in theoretical study and experimental work in mathematics, solid physics, nuclear physics, high energy physics, optics, acoustics and other fields. Electronics, computer, transistor, automatic control, laser, infra-red ray and space techniques which were practically non-existent before have been developed. Research in biology, chemistry and earth science has also made rapid progress. As an important force on the scientific and technical front, the Chinese Academy of Sciences has made significant contributions to the development of these branches of knowledge.



At the tea party in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

In Memory of Norman Bethune

Three thousand people in Beijing gathered at the Great Hall of the People on the afternoon of November 12 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the death of Comrade Norman Bethune, a great internationalist fighter and a close friend of the Chinese people.

Nie Rongzhen, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and commander of the units in which Dr. Bethune had served, sent a message to the meeting.

The distinguished Canadian surgeon Norman Bethune came to China in 1937 during the War of Resistance Against Japan at the head of a medical team made up of Canadians and Americans, and served in the Liberated Areas for nearly two years. He died in Tangxian County, Hebei Province, on November 12, 1939 after he had contracted blood poisoning while operating on the wounded at the frontline. Dr. Bethune's lofty internationalist spirit is remembered and revered throughout China.

In his written speech to the meeting, Comrade Nie Rongzhen said:

—“Comrade Norman Bethune offered us his selfless support at a time when our people's revolutionary struggle was in difficulties. This will be remembered by our people from generation to generation.”

—“In commemorating Dr. Bethune at this historic period of the new Long March, we should continue to learn from him, carry forward the Bethune

spirit, strive to be revolutionaries and scientists of the Bethune type, and dedicate our talent and energy to the four modernizations and to the cause of the emancipation of mankind.”

—“He boldly challenged the old world. He dedicated his all to the realization of his communist ideal and heroically laid down his life. We should learn from him the revolutionary spirit and the scientific approach in seeking truth and fighting for it so as to study and solve the new problems that crop up in our new Long March today.”

—“In commemorating Comrade Bethune, we should learn from his communist spirit of utter devotion to others without any thought of himself. He stayed in the Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei Military Area for more than a year, and all that time he worked hard day and night, sometimes neglecting his meals and sleep. He was always there wherever he was needed.”

—“In commemorating Bethune, we should learn from his practical approach of combining politics with professional work and constantly perfecting his skill.”

—“In commemorating Bethune, we should also learn from him his internationalist spirit of adopting the cause of liberation of other people as his own. In the course of the War of Resistance Against Japan and the Liberation War, the Chinese people received much valuable support and assistance from foreign friends like Comrade Bethune. Since we achieved victory, we have done our best to assist other people in their struggles for

national independence and liberation. We Chinese people will never forget all those old friends who had helped us.”

Nie Rongzhen added that Bethune's spirit is not only praised by hundreds of millions of Chinese people, his influence among the masses in Canada and other countries of the world is also growing. Not only the Chinese people feel honoured to have Bethune as their comrade in work and in arms, but the Canadian people are also proud of him as their outstanding representative. Bethune was a hero shared by the Chinese and Canadian peoples.

Dr. William E. Barootes, leader of the Canadian delegation for the commemorative activities in China, also spoke at the meeting. He said: Dr. Bethune was an important bridge that linked China with Canada. He arrived in China at a time when its independence was threatened, but he believed in the future of this great country.

“Today,” he added, “China is again at a crucial point in its history. Its fields and mountains are not a battleground as they were in Bethune's time. But it faces a gigantic task as outlined in the four modernizations programme. China's leaders are rightly confident of the ability and determination of the Chinese people to meet these new challenges as they did those of 40 years ago.” He assured his audience that in this endeavour the Chinese people could count on the friendship and support of the people of many friendly countries, including Canada.

On November 12, an exhibition on the life of Dr. Norman

Bethune opened at the Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution in Beijing.

On November 8, a memorial meeting attended by 1,000 people was held in the Norman Bethune International Peace Hospital of the Chinese People's Liberation Army in north China's Shijiazhuang. The hospital was named after him following his death. In 1974, the Bethune Memorial Hall was set up in the hospital in accordance with instructions by the late Premier Zhou Enlai.

Strengthening Organizational Work

The Organization Department of the C.P.C. Central Committee recently called a national meeting in Beijing. The central topic of discussion was how to make organizational work suit the needs of the new period so as to ensure the success of the four modernizations. The meeting decided to strengthen all leading bodies, train more middle-aged and young cadres and reform the cadre system.

In his speech at the meeting, Member of the Political Bureau of the C.P.C. Central Committee Hu Yaobang pointed out: To put it in simple terms, the Party's ideological line means to seek truth from facts, and its political line is to accomplish the four modernizations. This being the case, its organizational line should enable the Party's organizational and personnel work to promote and ensure the modernization of the country. The emphasis should be on heightening the resolve, initiative and creativity of all Party members for accomplishing the modernization programme. Hu Yaobang laid special stress on care-

fully selecting and training a large number of competent people in the prime of life so that they will be worthy successors to the leadership at all levels.

Song Renqiong, Director of the Organization Department of the C.P.C. Central Committee, also spoke at the meeting. He said that veteran cadres should take upon themselves the task of choosing and training middle-aged and young successors. Leading cadres at all levels must (1) firmly support the Party's political line and ideological line; (2) they must be selfless and strictly obey the law and Party discipline; (3) they must dedicate themselves to the revolutionary cause and have a strong sense of political responsibility and the proficiency to do their work well.

Song Renqiong said that it was essential to change the structure of the cadre force and institute or improve the systems of selecting, examining, supervising, rewarding, punishing, removing, rotating and transferring cadres, and there should be regulations concerning retirement. He called on all local authorities to train a large number of competent professionals by sending their cadres to training courses group by group within the next three to five years. Existing scientific and technical personnel should be put to good use; they should be provided with the best possible training facilities and assigned to appropriate jobs.

In view of the fact that new Party members enrolled during the Cultural Revolution account for half of the total membership today, Song Renqiong stressed the importance of strengthening the education of Party members. He said that

within the next two or three years all Party members should go through a period of training in the following subjects: (1) practice is the sole criterion for testing truth; (2) the goals of communism and the situation and tasks of the new period; (3) socialist democracy and the socialist legal system; (4) the Party's fine tradition, which must be upheld and carried forward.

The Correct Path for Youth

Young people of the nation should choose the correct path so as to make contributions to the people. This was the call made recently in an article by commentator in *Zhongguo Qingnian Bao* (Chinese Youth News). The gist of the article follows:

Task of the Youth. The task of Chinese youth today is to work for the modernization of the country in the Chinese way and realize the ideals of scientific socialism. To this end large numbers of young people are working assiduously and they have made outstanding achievements in production, technical innovation, scientific research, literature and art. They deserve admiration and praise. From among them will emerge model workers, scientists, economists, educators, writers and artists. However, there are some young people who, because of their wrong approach, do not have a correct analysis of the overall picture of the country. They have unrealistic ideas with regard to the ways of solving the questions confronting the nation. They do not settle down to study science and technology and to master vocational skills, unaware of the fact that great efforts have to be made to accomplish modernization. What is really needed is

solid knowledge and skills, which can be acquired only through persistent study.

Since the overthrow of the gang of four, the nation has made great achievements. With regard to problems awaiting solution, the state is taking active measures to tackle them. Many of them cannot be solved overnight as they are connected with the low economic level and the backwardness of China's science and technology. They can be solved only step by step with the expansion of production. That is why the youth should, together with the rest of the people in the country, strive to ensure stability and unity and make all-out efforts to achieve modernization.

A Handful of Anarchists. There are a few people who are for anarchism and who hanker after power and position. They try to hoodwink some naive young people and rig up their own "forces" so as to gain political "influence." Obviously this is a hangover of the evil influence of Lin Biao and the gang of four. In fact, some of these people have been followers of the gang and they are trying to use their old tactics under the guise of new slogans to incite the masses so that they can fish in troubled waters. The socialist road and the leadership of the Communist Party are the foundation of the People's Republic of China. Anyone who discards these principles will only find himself in a blind alley.

Stable Market

Since the prices of eight non-staple food were raised on November 1 (see our last issue), the market has been basically stable throughout the country.

On the first day when the prices were raised, responsible members of the Beijing municipal authorities and financial and trade departments made the rounds of stores and markets in the city to check the situation and listen to the opinions of the shoppers. The manager of a non-staple food store outside the Dongzhi Gate in the eastern part of the city invited residents in the neighbourhood and representatives of workers of factories and other units in the vicinity to a meeting during which he explained to them matters concerning the price hikes. Then they went together to the retail shops to check the prices.

In Beijing, Shanghai and many provinces, the price of vegetables has not been raised. The marketing price of Chinese cabbages in the capital for winter this year will be the same as last winter and the marketing price of vegetables in general for next year will be more or less the same as this year's. This is important to maintaining the people's living standard, for vegetables are a major non-staple food in the cities.

As a result of cutting production costs and adopting such measures as increasing production and practising economy by the foodstuff industry in Shanghai, the prices of 76.7 per cent of candies and 73 per cent of biscuits in that city have not been raised, and the prices of nine kinds of quick-selling bread are the same as before. In Hangzhou, the provincial capital of Zhejiang, the prices of cakes and candies popular among the masses and food in the restaurants have remained unchanged or been raised slightly.

The State Council issued a circular on November 5 calling on the local authorities all over the country to have a general check of prices. Wilful raising of prices not in conformity with the regulations, lowering of quality of goods or of standard of service and other malpractices are to be rectified immediately. Actually, since the latter half of September, many big and medium-sized cities have already begun the checking of prices and have taken measures to stop the raising of prices against the regulations.

In addition, beginning from November, the Ministry of Education has decided to grant more subsidies to students of colleges and secondary technical schools to make up for the price hikes of non-staple food.

Rural Bank Loans and Savings Increase

According to the Agricultural Bank of China, both the bank savings and loans in the rural areas hit an all-time high in the first eight months of this year. Bank savings totalled 6,200 million yuan, a 32.6 per cent increase over that of the corresponding period of last year. For the same period, the bank issued 13,030 million yuan of loans to the people's communes and production brigades, an increase of 3,000 million yuan over last year. Of these, 11,600 million yuan were used for agricultural development and commune-run industries.

A spokesman of the bank said that the main reasons for such big rises were: the steady implementation of rural economic policies adopted last December at the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee, higher prices for agricultural and side-line products

purchased by the state, development of commune- and brigade-run enterprises and peasants' side-line occupations, flourishing rural fairs and the rich harvest in summer this year.

The issuance of loans is one of the measures adopted by the state in aid of farm production. In Henan, Shandong and Shanxi Provinces such loans which totalled nearly 700 million yuan in the first six months of this year were used to purchase chemical fertilizer, tractors and other means of production. In the same period, bank loans in coastal Zhejiang Province for enterprises run by the communes and brigades ran to 263 million yuan, or more than double the amount of last year. This promoted the development of light and textile industries, the building-material industry and enterprises for processing farm and side-line products.

To increase the peasants' income and encourage side-line occupations, such as cattle and poultry raising, weaving, plaiting and sewing, the agricultural bank has issued 320 million yuan in loans to commune members since February this year.

The Agricultural Bank of China specializes in the unified management of funds in aid of agriculture. It issues loans in the rural areas, directs the rural credit co-ops and helps develop rural finance. It has a huge network of branches from the provinces down to the communes.

Eight Mountain Peaks Open To Foreign Climbers

Beginning from 1980, eight mountain peaks in China will be open to foreign climbers. They are:

— Mount Qomolangma, the

world's highest peak, on China's border with Nepal. It is 8,848 metres above sea level. Its northern slope is in China's Tibet.

— Mount Xixabangma in Tibet, 8,012 metres high.

— Mount Muztagata in Xinjiang, 7,546 metres high.

— Mount Kongur and Mount Kongur Tiubie Tagh in Xinjiang. These two sister peaks are 7,719 metres and 7,595 metres above sea level respectively.

— Mount Bogda in Xinjiang, 5,445 metres above sea level. It is the highest peak in the eastern part of the Tianshan Mountains. It consists of seven peaks, at the foot of which lies the world-famous Tian Chi (Heavenly Pond).

— Mount Gongga in Sichuan, 7,590 metres high.

— Mount Anyemaqen in Qinghai, 7,160 metres high.

The Chinese Mountaineering Association will make arrangements for foreign climbers coming to China, including the signing of protocols and matters concerning permits, fees and support services.

There are many high peaks in southwest and northwest China. With the increase of foreign mountaineering expeditions, more peaks will be open in subsequent years with a view to promoting international mountaineering and strengthening the friendship between the people of China and other countries.



Mount Xixabangma.



Mount Kongur Tiubie Tagh.



Mount Gongga.

Premier Hua's Historic Visit

"Renmin Ribao" editorial

COMRADE Hua Guofeng, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, returned to Beijing on November 10, after concluding his successful official visit to France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Britain and Italy from October 15 to November 6. We extend our warm congratulations on the success achieved by the visit in promoting understanding, strengthening friendship and enhancing co-operation between China and those West European countries and in jointly safeguarding peace.

With the 70s almost over and the 80s about to start, Premier Hua, China's most senior leader, visited Western Europe. During his visit, he exchanged views with leaders of four West European countries on bilateral relations and major international issues of common interest. An extensive consensus of views and positive results were achieved. This not only marks a milestone in the history of China's relations with Western Europe, but will also help to exert far-reaching influence on the maintenance of world peace.

The people of Western Europe have made brilliant contributions to human civilization and progress in the past. Western Europe today is an entity which holds the balance in current international political and economic affairs. At present, the world is faced with serious threats from hegemonists who have intensified their penetration and expansion and stirred up trouble in regions extending from Europe and Africa to Asia, and from the Atlantic Ocean, the Red Sea, the Gulf, and the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. They have disturbed the world situation. Though China and the West European countries are widely separated geographically, and have different social systems, their people all wish for a peaceful international environment in which they can build and develop their economies and cultures without external threats. Therefore, it is imperative that the people of China and

Western Europe work together to defend world peace and security in both the eastern and western sides of the globe—the Asian and European continents. During his visit Premier Hua Guofeng was warmly welcomed by the governments and people of the four West European countries. The peace-loving governments and people all over the world also paid great attention to this visit. This fully shows that the strengthening of ties of friendly co-operation between China and Western Europe not only accords with the fundamental interests of their people, but also constitutes an important development which will curb aggression and expansion and promote world peace.

During his visit, Premier Hua deepened mutual understanding and established good relations with the leaders of the four countries. In their harmonious, constructive and fruitful talks, they reviewed the smooth development of relations between China and the four countries and expressed their common desire to further develop political, economic and cultural co-operation in the future. China and the four West European countries reached some agreements and signed relevant documents, greatly promoting exchanges and co-operation in various fields, and opening brilliant prospect for further developing friendly relations. The strengthening of the relations of friendship and co-operation on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence between China and the four West European countries and the positive role they play in the present struggle to oppose aggression and maintain peace will certainly be an important influence on the development of world history.

On the firm basis of what has been achieved in Premier Hua's visit, the Chinese people, full of confidence, will develop their country's friendly relations with the West European countries and push forward the common cause of safeguarding peace.

(November 11)

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In his Report on the Work of the Government to the Second Session of the Fifth National People's Congress, Premier Hua Guofeng pointed out: "In our country (except for Taiwan) the feudal and capitalist systems of exploitation have been abolished and the system of small-scale production has been transformed through appropriate and reasonable measures favoured by the vast majority of the people, and the socialist system, having undergone rigorous tests, has finally become firmly established. As classes the landlords and the rich peasants have ceased to exist. For historical reasons, the capitalists of our country constitute a part of the people. Our government adopted a correct policy of buying them out and successfully transformed the capitalist industry and commerce. The capitalists no longer exist as a class. After nearly 30 years of struggle and education, most members of these classes who are able to work have been transformed into working people earning their own living in socialist society."

November 16, 1979

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capital in their possession, open factories or operate enterprises of one kind or another to appropriate workers' labour and exploit them by taking away the surplus value.

If we apply Marxist criteria for differentiating classes to the reality of our country today, we find that landlord, rich peasant and capitalist classes no longer exist in their formal historical entirety.

These classes are gradually becoming extinct in the course of the ever-deepening socialist revolution. The socialist transformation of agriculture in our country has passed through the phases of mutual-aid teams, elementary co-operatives and later advanced co-operatives. The socialist transformation of the capitalist industry and commerce in our country, too, has gone through the phases of processing goods for the state and accepting orders from the state, of unified purchasing and marketing and state-private joint operations. The nationwide high tide of agricultural co-operation in the autumn and winter of 1955 set in motion an upsurge in the switch-over of capitalist industry and commerce to joint state-private operation by whole trades. It also promoted a high tide in the merger of individual handicraftsmen into handicraft co-operatives, thereby completing in the main the socialist revolution of the ownership of the means of production. Rural people's communes were universally founded in 1958.

In the course of this transformation, our Party adopted the policy of confiscating the landlords' and rich peasants' means of production which they had used to exploit other people, while reforming them through productive labour and placing them under supervision. The Party's policy towards the capitalists was to buy them out, and to unite with, educate and remould them. Practice shows that these policies were very successful. After more than 20 years of struggle and education and remoulding, the overwhelming majority of landlords and rich peasants have become law-abiding and well-behaved people and the overwhelming majority of the capitalists have expressed their readiness to follow the Communist Party and take the socialist road. The great majority of these people who are able to work have already been transformed into labourers earning their own living in our socialist society.

Some people, however, are surprised by the thesis on the fundamental change in our country's class situation and find it incomprehensible. They think that landlords, rich peasants

and capitalists of the exploiting classes will never change. This is a metaphysical point of view. Under certain conditions, everything in the world is transformed into its opposite in the struggle between contradictions. Classes, too, are not immutable. Members of an exploiting class are capable of being remoulded into labourers who earn their own living. Comrade Mao Zedong pointed out in 1949 in his article *On the People's Democratic Dictatorship*: "As for the members of the reactionary classes and individual reactionaries, so long as they do not rebel, sabotage or create trouble after their political power has been overthrown, land and work will be given to them as well in order to allow them to live and remould themselves through labour into new people."

At the time of the founding of advanced agricultural co-operatives, the Party Central Committee and Comrade Mao Zedong pointed out that landlords and rich peasants who had given up exploiting other people could, if they behaved themselves, be admitted separately into the co-operatives as members or alternate members. In 1965, the Party Central Committee and Comrade Mao Zedong once again said that removing the designations of landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries, bad elements and degenerates could be considered if they had laboured in real earnest and had not engaged in wrongdoings for the last decade or more.

As for the national bourgeoisie, Comrade Mao Zedong pointed out in *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People*: "Members of the bourgeoisie have become administrative personnel in joint state-private enterprises and are being transformed from exploiters into working people living by their own labour." At the same time he dealt with the question of removing the "bourgeois" label after they had stopped drawing their fixed interest payments, pointing out that they would still need ideological remoulding for quite some time even after the label was removed. When reacquainted with this policy which was adhered to by the Party Central Committee and Comrade Mao Zedong, we find that Premier Hua Guofeng's statement that landlords, rich peasants and capitalist classes are now no longer in existence conforms with the development of history and is logical.

One of the reasons why some comrades are puzzled by the statement that a fundamental change has taken place in the class situation in

our country is that they were influenced for years by Lin Biao and the gang of four's ultra-Left line which distorted the objective facts about class and class struggle in the historical stage of socialism and which contained a subjective, idealist estimation of classes. Lin Biao and the gang of four painted the countryside black, though it had been organized into people's communes for quite some time. They deliberately gave the impression that landlords and rich peasants had all along been dreaming of a comeback, spontaneous capitalist forces were launching increasingly fierce attacks and the struggle between the two classes and the two roads was becoming increasingly acute and fierce. They treated without exception all capitalists who love the country and are willing to follow the Party and accept transformation as "demons and monsters" over whom "dictatorship should be exercised." They confused people among ourselves and enemies, clamouring about "the new changes in class relations." They alleged that there was a bourgeois class within the Party which was "the last form" of the bourgeoisie and was even greedier and fiercer than the old bourgeoisie.

The influence of their idealist class analysis was far-reaching and quite pernicious. Some comrades who have listened to such things for many years think that Marxism-Leninism means to keep the class struggle in great tension and revolution means to keep knocking down the landlords, rich peasants and capitalists. This is why they find the Party Central Committee announcement that the landlord, rich peasant and capitalist classes are no longer in existence surprising and incomprehensible. In order to have a correct understanding of the fundamental change in the class situation in our country, these comrades must completely break free from Lin Biao and the gang of four's shackles of idealist class analysis.

Eliminating Exploiting Classes and Remoulding Their Members

The basic programme of our Party in the historical period of socialism is to gradually eliminate the bourgeoisie and all other exploiting classes, to bring about the triumph of socialism over capitalism and ultimately to realize communism. Today, after long years of revolutionary struggle, by relying on the powerful dictatorship of the proletariat, we have at last eliminated the exploiting classes of landlords, rich peasants and capitalists from the Chinese soil. This is a victory for the Party's proletarian

policy and for the socialist revolution. The vast majority of workers, peasants, intellectuals and cadres rejoice at this.

But there are also people who have taken a sceptical attitude. If the landlords, rich peasants and capitalists are still around, they ask, how can it be said that these classes have been eliminated? Such a question indicates an improper understanding of the dialectical relationship between the elimination of classes and the remoulding of the members of the exploiting classes. Our socialist revolution aims to eliminate the exploiting classes of landlords, rich peasants and capitalists in China, to make them a thing of the past. As the proletariat's historical mission, this will certainly be achieved.

As Comrade Mao Zedong repeatedly pointed out, the exploiting classes are to be eliminated but their members are to be remoulded. Eliminating the exploiting classes does not mean that members of these classes will be physically wiped out, but that they will be gradually changed into labourers earning their own living. Today, as we have already succeeded in transforming the overwhelming majority of people belonging to these classes into new people, is it not true that these classes as an entity no longer exist?

The proletariat as a class is the most progressive, the most far-sighted and the most broad-minded in human history. The greatness of the proletarian revolution in our country lies not only in the fact that it has overthrown the exploitative system, eliminated the exploiting classes and replaced the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie with the dictatorship of the proletariat, but also that it has succeeded in transforming the overwhelming majority of the members of the exploiting classes into new men. This was a strategic measure taken by the Chinese proletariat after their seizure of political power; it was also an effective means of uprooting the exploiting classes.

As the capitalists have recently been given back their bank deposits and have been allowed to once again draw high pay, some people think that the capitalists are still exploiting others and wonder why it is said that the capitalist class no longer exists. Such people lack an understanding of the Party's policy of buying out the capitalists.

The historical mission of the dictatorship of the proletariat is to eliminate capitalism and the bourgeoisie, but Marxism has never confin-



Rong Yiren (second from left), a former capitalist, at a group meeting of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference held in summer this year.

ed itself to a specific method for eliminating capitalist ownership. Comrade Mao Zedong creatively tackled the important question of the bourgeoisie in our country. He scientifically analysed the difference between China's bureaucrat and comprador capitalists on the one hand and national capitalists on the other by applying the universal truth of Marxism to our revolutionary practice. He held that bureaucrat and comprador capitalists were the targets of the dictatorship of the proletariat and should be expropriated. The national bourgeoisie, however, had co-operated with our Party during the period of the democratic revolution and has a dual nature during the period of the socialist revolution — exploiting the working class for profit but willing to accept socialist transformation. Therefore, it is possible to handle the contradiction between the working class and the national bourgeoisie as a contradiction among the people. Thus a democratic method for dealing with them and a policy of buying them out were adopted in order to gradually guide these people along the road of accepting socialist transformation with the ultimate goal of eliminating this class and remoulding its members.

Accordingly, prior to 1956, our policy towards state-capitalist enterprises was to allocate about a quarter of their total profit to the capitalists. After the nationwide switch-over to state-private joint operation by whole trades in 1956, we began to pay the capitalists a fixed interest for their confirmed private shares in the enterprises at a rate of 5 per cent per annum. Originally it was decided that the payments would last seven years, but later, they were extended for another three years and terminated in September 1966. In addition to these fixed

interest payments, the state allowed the capitalists to retain their original high salaries.

This Party policy has proved to be highly successful in practice. As Comrade Zhou Enlai once said: The peaceful transformation of the national bourgeoisie by the working class is essentially a special form of class struggle waged by the proletariat against the bourgeoisie under the conditions that the proletariat has seized the state power after prolonged armed struggle and by relying on the powerful proletarian dictatorship. This transformation aims at completely eliminating the bourgeoisie and capitalism through prolonged and repeated class struggle.

The proletariat pays the national bourgeoisie a certain amount of redemption funds in order to, economically, make the latter hand over their enterprises and accept the socialist transformation of the system of ownership, and, politically, to deprive them of their political capital so that there is no reason for them not to keep on accepting transformation. Thanks to the correct implementation of this policy, the capitalist class in our country has been eliminated through peaceful transformation. True, we recently returned their bank deposits, which for the most part consisted of the fixed interest paid them, an income derived from exploitation. But this was paid before the termination of the fixed interest payments in 1966, according to the state's established policy of buying them out. So this income was legal and is protected by the Constitution.



Wang Liangcai (left), son of a rich peasant family, now heads a duck farm run by a production brigade in suburban Shanghai.

Lin Biao and the gang of four, running counter to the policy consistently upheld by Comrade Mao Zedong, violated the Constitution by actually confiscating their bank deposits and other property. How can we approve of such illegal actions? We have insisted on returning these bank deposits to the capitalists in order to earnestly adhere to the Party policy and uphold the credibility of the Constitution. Besides, the money refunded can only be used for consumption and is not allowed to be used for further exploitation.

High salaries for the capitalists, too, are

part of the policy of buying them out. In the past we paid them high salaries to facilitate their remoulding; today, it is better not to reduce the sum in the light of historical factors. According to preliminary estimates, there are only about 800 former capitalists in the country who receive a monthly salary of over 300 yuan. Most of them are representatives or technical and managerial personnel of the former national bourgeoisie. Their high pay accounts for only a very small fraction of the state's wage expenditure.

(To be continued.)

Japan

Storm Over Election of Prime Minister

FOLLOWING a month of political turmoil in Japan, Masayoshi Ohira was elected prime minister at a special session of the 89th Diet on November 6.

LDP's Factional Struggle. After the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) suffered an unexpected defeat in the recent general elections, the three large factions in the LDP led by Takeo Fukuda, Takeo Miki and Yasuhiro Nakasone formed a "united camp" together with the smaller Nakagawa faction. In the name of investigating and affixing responsibility for the so-called "election failure" and to "purify the LDP," they challenged the principal faction headed by Masayoshi Ohira and Kakuei Tanaka. The contentious struggle which ensued delayed the convening of the special session for a week. The Japanese press commented that the opposition factions were willing to quibble endlessly in the hope of "obtaining a greater voice in the cabinet" and "capturing the premiership." Commenting on the struggle, Japanese public figures from all walks of life have noted: "There seems to be no limit to this personal power struggle."

There have been several factional struggles over the election for prime minister since the Liberal and Democratic Parties merged into the Liberal Democratic Party in 1955. However, during previous struggles, there were disunity, contention and the threat of a split before the election but then a compromise would be reached at the crucial moment and a "gentleman's agreement" concluded to tide over the difficulty.

But the latest election sharply departed from previous practice. Although certain agreements were reached during the behind-the-scenes negotiations between the principal and opposition factions, they were unable to reach a consensus on a candidate for the prime minister. As a result, the issue was decided by a showdown vote in the Diet. Ohira, the candidate of the principal faction, was re-elected to the post of prime minister over Fukuda, the opposition candidate, by a margin of 17 votes in a runoff ballot.

Why a Split? Why is the LDP so badly split? Some Japanese reporters have asserted that the main reason is that the heads of the LDP, which have ruled Japan for a long time, are determined to gain power. Never before have the interests of the party been eclipsed by a power struggle as they were in the latest election.

Second, the LDP seems unable to cope with its intra-party contradictions. The Vice-President of the LDP, Eiichi Nishimura, tried unsuccessfully to mediate the differences between the principal and opposition factions. On the afternoon of November 5, Fukuda expressed his desire to abandon his bid for prime minister, but less than an hour later, his faction adopted an uncompromising attitude, asserting that it wanted to "fight to the last" and "compel Ohira to give up his post." The Japanese Broadcasting and Television Station believes that this showdown vote indicates that the customary measures taken to solve inner-party contradictions have been ineffectual. The

Japanese press commented that the LDP is not going downhill as often happens but rather is facing a serious crisis.

Third, the other political parties are quite weak. An observer noted that if the opposition parties could unite, they would pose a serious menace to the LDP, thus forcing it to unite against an outside enemy and reduce its internal friction. But just the opposite situation presently exists. Because the opposition parties are very antagonistic to one another, the LDP does not regard them as a threat and therefore engages in endless internal strife.

Though the contention for the premiership is the focus of the latest struggle, it was regarded by the quarters concerned as an inevitable eruption of the grievances which have piled up over the years between the factions in the LDP. The opposition factions have their eye on the next election for the party's president. On November 5 Fukuda openly proposed that

the presidential election be held next January, ahead of schedule, and urged Ohira not to run for the position.

The stormy election is over, but Japanese financial and press circles believe that "the LDP has no reason to be optimistic in the face of this serious situation." There are tremendous differences in this ruling party. Moreover, during the coming period when the new will supersede the old, there will be more disputes on the management of the LDP. At the same time, Japan will have to cope with serious political and economic problems arising from its financial deficit of 59,000,000 million yen as well as its mounting inflation in the wake of the oil crisis. As the 1970s draw to an end, it is clear that the political situation will be more complicated in the 1980s and thorny problems will exist regardless of who is prime minister.

— "Renmin Ribao" Correspondent
Zhang Yunfang

Iran

Bazargan's Resignation

THE resignation of Prime Minister Bazargan and his cabinet on November 6 and its immediate acceptance by Ayatollah Khomeini indicate that Iran is still in a state of upheaval.

In a recent speech, Khomeini said: "We realize that a result of the revolution is turmoil." He also cautioned people that there were divisions in his ranks. Bazargan reportedly submitted his resignation because of serious political differences with Khomeini. Bazargan once said that unity was required for handling state affairs, but it did not exist in Iranian leading circles.

The immediate cause of Bazargan's resignation was his government's inability to do anything about the occupation of the U.S. Embassy by Iranian students, an action which was supported by some high-ranking clergy.

On the order of Khomeini, the Revolutionary Council has now taken charge of state affairs.

Khomeini appointed Bazargan Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Iran last February after the overthrow of the Shah Pahlavi. Foreign newspapers all maintained at

the time that the government would face strong differences of opinion among various forces on the state system, the limits of authority between the government and the Revolutionary Council and the policy towards minority nationalities and that a rift had already occurred among these forces which had united during the struggle against the Shah. Things have developed as predicted.

For example, regarding the limits of authority between the Provisional Government and the Revolutionary Council, Bazargan complained to Khomeini on several occasions that he had difficulty carrying out his routine work without interference. He once told an Italian correspondent: "It is untrue that I am in power. . . . Khomeini and his Revolutionary Council control the country. I do not have a free rein." He said again and again that he would resign.

Recent events hastened Bazargan's resignation. Not long ago, members of the Provisional Government were opposed to some new provisions passed by the Constituent Assembly of Experts composed mainly of clergy. These pro-

visions gave the highest religious and political power to Khomeini, such as the power to appoint the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, proclaim war and veto presidential candidates. At the end of a mass rally in support of Khomeini in Teheran in late October, a resolution was read which strongly criticized the Provisional Government for failing to carry out the policies of Islamism. The resolution said: "We earnestly demand that revolutionary and resolute measures be adopted to reform and purge the government." It was reported that this statement showed Khomeini's condemnation of Bazargan's moderate policies.

After the Iranian students occupied the U.S. Embassy on November 4, they issued a statement vigorously attacking the "counter-revolutionary plot" of the Bazargan government. Earlier, the students had charged that Bazargan's talks with Zbigniew Brzezinski in Algiers had not been approved by Khomeini. The Bazargan government, however, announced that Khomeini had known about the meeting beforehand and that Bazargan had used the opportunity of the talks to officially lodge a protest with the United States against allowing the Shah of Iran to enter the country. Reuters reported that the Iranian students directed their attacks both at the United States and the Iranian Government.

The minority nationality problem is another factor affecting the turbulent situation. Iran is a multi-national country. After the Shah was deposed, the national

minorities renewed their demand for autonomy. The Kurds in western Iran were particularly vociferous. But though the new Iranian Government stated that it would take their opinions into consideration, no definite stipulation was made in the draft constitution. Several bloody conflicts ensued. In mid-August, Khomeini issued a general mobilization order; government troops advanced on the Kurdish region and in early September they took control of the important city of Mahabad. Meanwhile, the Democratic Party of Kurd was declared illegal. The armed forces led by the party went underground and repeatedly attacked the government troops, inflicting considerable casualties and material losses. As a condition for a negotiated settlement with the Kurdish people, Khomeini was compelled to withdraw the troops from the Kurdish region and disband the Islamic court set up there. A work group consisting of Kurdish ministers of state affairs, national defence, home affairs and budget and planning are now authorized to solve problems arising from Kurdish demands for their rights of autonomy.

The complicated contradictions in Iran cannot be resolved overnight. It seems that various political forces will continue to test their strength. This and the interference and sabotage from outside forces mean that the political situation in Iran will remain precarious.

— Chang Yun

The People's Verdict

— Wei Jingsheng's appeal rejected

THE Beijing Municipal Higher People's Court on November 6 rejected the appeal by Wei Jingsheng and upheld the public trial judgment.

This is the ruling of final instance and the accused has no further right to appeal.

Wei Jingsheng lodged an appeal against the judgment of the first instance after the Beijing Intermediate People's Court sentenced him on October 16 to 15 years' imprisonment and with

no political rights for a further three years. He was convicted of providing a foreigner with Chinese military intelligence and carrying out counter-revolutionary agitation (see *Beijing Review*, issue No. 43). Liu Shufen, a woman lawyer of the Beijing Lawyers' Association, was entrusted by Wei Jingsheng to defend him.

The court heard the appeal lodged by Wei Jingsheng against the judgment of the first in-

stance, the indictment of the public prosecutors and the defence by Wei Jingsheng and his advocate.

It was established in the court that the ascertainment of facts and application of law in the original judgment were correct and the penalty discretion proper. Additional evidence was given to show that Wei Jingsheng had supplied the foreigner not only with the names of commanders and the number of Chinese troops, battle developments and the number of casualties shortly after China launched her self-defensive counterattack against the Vietnamese aggressors, but also with information about the date of a conference held by the Military Commission before the counterattack began and the name of the leading official who presided.

Wei Jingsheng admitted these facts but denied that the information was secret. He also denied that he had agitated for the overthrow of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the socialist system, asserting that it was his freedom of speech to write and distribute articles.

The public prosecutor refuted with facts all Wei Jingsheng said. He quoted the "Provisional Regulations Concerning the Safeguarding of State Secrets" issued by the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government on June 8, 1951. In the second article of the provisional regulations it is stipulated that "all national defence and military plans, measures for military construction, details of military establishments, designations, strength, equipment, defence works, movement and deployment of the armed forces were state secrets." He pointed out that the Constitution also stipulated that all citizens should strictly guard state secrets. Wei Jingsheng had served in the army for four years, yet he consciously provided the foreigner with top state secrets, including information about a conference of the Military Commission. Was that not enough to constitute a crime?

The prosecutor read passages from Wei Jingsheng's articles and pointed out that in these articles he openly calumniated Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought which has been laid down in the Constitution as the guiding principle of the People's Republic of China, vilified the dictatorship of the proletariat as "autocratic" and "despotic," denigrated the socialist system as "feudal monarchism" and slandered Party and state leaders as "autocratic careerists." He called on the people not to "serve as implements for the modernization of the expansionist and

careerist rulers" and not to "believe in the unity and stability preached by dictators" and urged them to "act and seize power from the hands of these overlords." He also denigrated the 30 years of the People's Republic of China, declaring that "the people had been defrauded of their most precious power for decades."

The prosecutor pointed out that this was not helping to perfect the present social system or simply a case of raising criticism. It was aimed at overthrowing our socialist system and the people's political power. This was the fundamental aim of Wei Jingsheng's counter-revolutionary agitation. Citing Article II of the Penal Code Against Counter-Revolutionaries, the prosecutor said that all counter-revolutionary criminals aiming at overthrowing the democratic power of the people and undermining the people's democratic cause must be punished accordingly.

He also refuted Wei Jingsheng's absurdities about democracy and his charge that the appointments of China's premier and vice-premiers and the convocation of the Fifth National People's Congress were illegal. The prosecutor pointed out that, in Wei Jingsheng's view, everything in the People's Republic of China was illegal because what he wanted was out-and-out egoistic democracy.

Democracy has a class character, the prosecutor said. In socialist China, there is extensive democracy, a democracy enjoyed by the overwhelming majority of the people. It is democracy under the protection of the Constitution. People who try to sabotage the socialist revolution and construction must be denied democracy and every criminal must be punished according to law, the prosecutor added.

After an exchange between defendant and prosecutor, the court was adjourned for a collegiate bench meeting. The conclusion reached by the collegiate bench was reported to the judicial committee for final ruling.

When the court resumed, the chief judge announced the final ruling that the original sentence of 15 years' imprisonment and a further three years' deprivation of political rights passed by the court of the first instance was found to be correct according to Article II, item 1 of Article III, item 3 of Article X and Articles XVI and XVII of the Penal Code Against Counter-Revolutionaries. The court ruled that Wei Jingsheng's appeal was groundless and must be rejected and the original sentence affirmed.

The Question of Population in China

The population of China (including Taiwan Province) was 975.23 million by the end of 1978, according to a communique issued by the State Statistical Bureau in June this year. What problems have arisen because of such a huge population? And how are they to be solved? Our special feature on this subject includes an article on policy expounded by Vice-Premier Chen Muhua, background knowledge contributed by population specialist Liu Zheng during an interview, and two reports, which illustrate achievements in the control of population growth, from the most populous province of Sichuan and from the city of Tianjin.

Controlling Population Growth In a Planned Way

by Chen Muhua

Following are excerpts from an article by Vice-Premier Chen Muhua in which she discusses the significance of bringing population growth under control in a planned way in relation to the four modernizations and its benefits in terms of promoting people's health and well-being. She also deals with the goal of reducing China's population growth rate to five per thousand by 1985 and to zero by the turn of the century.

MARXISM holds that social production itself is of a twofold character: "On the one hand, the production of the means of subsistence, of food, clothing and shelter and the tools requisite therefore; on the other, the production of human beings themselves, the propagation of the species." (Engels: *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*.) Between the two there is an inherent connection and each has its own objective law.

It is the mode of social production that determines the law of population and "in fact every special historic mode of production has its own special laws of population, historically valid within its limits alone." (Marx: *Capital*.) As to the law of population under the socialist system, it needs to be studied, probed and discussed. But one thing is definite and beyond dispute, that is, the development of the



national economy on the basis of public ownership of the means of production must follow the law of development in a planned and proportionate way, which not only calls for planned development of material things but also for planned development of the production of human beings.

It should have been possible for a socialist planned economy to regulate the production of human beings in a planned way so that the population growth corresponded to the growth of material things. But, because we failed to understand this problem years ago, our population has been multiplying uncontrolled. In 1949 China had a population of 540 million. Now it has increased to over 970 million (including the population of Taiwan Province) with 600 million born since liberation which alone is almost three times that of the United States or six times that of Japan. The rate of population growth averaged 20 per thousand.

This rapid population growth has brought many difficulties in the economic development of the country, in improving the people's livelihood and in providing sufficient employment opportunities.

Major Condition for Four Modernizations

The ability of a country to accumulate funds and its speed in raising the people's living standards are, to a great extent, determined by the ratio of growth between its economy and population. Although there has been considerable economic growth in our country since liberation, the average per-capita increases of products and national income have not been large enough; this is because the original level of economic development was low and the growth of the population has been too fast. Although the tempo of economic growth in certain developed capitalist countries has, as a whole, been slower than ours during the same period, their average per-capita increases of products and national income have been much faster. This is because they had a strong economic basis and their population has grown at a lower rate. The following table will illustrate the point.

China's Average Per-Capita Grain Output and National Income in Contrast With the U.S., France and Japan

		1950	1955	1965	1970	1976
Average Per-Capita Grain Output (jin)*	CHINA	479	599	536	589	614
	U.S.	2,001	1,938	2,166	2,164	2,750
	FRANCE	810	992	1,292	1,328	1,262
Average Per-Capita National Income (US dollars)	CHINA	28	49	78	95	139
	U.S.	1,746	2,194	3,245	4,352	7,028
	JAPAN	195	245	785	1,630	4,139

* 1 jin = 1/2 kilogramme.

To the great disadvantage of the four modernizations, the growth of the Chinese population has been too rapid.

To begin with, it has impeded the acceleration of accumulation. According to estimates based on our present standard, we need 1,600 yuan to bring up an infant in the countryside to the age of 16, and 4,800 yuan in a medium-sized city or town, and 6,900 yuan in a big city. Thus, the burden of the 600 million people born since 1949 to the state, collectives and individual families exceeds 1,000,000 million yuan, about 30 per cent of the aggregate national income in the post-liberation years.

Next, it has hampered a rapid raising of the nation's scientific and cultural level. China, with a weak economic foundation, can only appropriate a limited amount of its annual na-

tional income for education, but the number of people who need training and raising their scientific and cultural level is not a mere few million or just tens of millions, but several hundred million. This is a big contradiction. In our country today, about 6 per cent of the children reaching school age cannot go to school, 12 per cent of the children having finished primary school cannot continue their studies in junior middle school, and more than one-half of the junior middle school graduates cannot enter senior middle school. Only about 5 per cent of senior middle school graduates have a chance to get a college education. Alongside this problem is the difficulty in seeking employment. One of the major reasons for the backwardness of China's educational undertakings and inadequate job opportunities is the huge size of its population, which grows rapidly, especially the enormous size of the younger generation.

Thirdly, the rapid population growth has had an unfavourable impact on the improvement of the people's livelihood. In the 25 years from 1953 to 1978, the money allotted for consumers in our country increased 3.8-fold, which is not at all small, but our population in the same period increased by 66.7 per cent so that the average amount for each consumer was only a 2.3-fold increase. Take grain for instance. Its output in 1977 was 282.75 million tons, a 97 per cent increase over that of 1951, but the average amount of grain per head only increased from 255 to 299 kilogrammes, a 17.3 per cent increase. At present, our textile and other light industries are not in a position to meet people's needs, an indication of our failure to produce enough as well as of the effect of the population pressure.

Targets and Measures

Proceeding from the actual conditions in China, we are striving to control the population growth permanently, consciously and in a planned way. We should make efforts to achieve a zero population growth rate by the turn of the century.

To this end, we envisage carrying out the work in two stages. During the first stage, we should try to reduce the present growth rate of 12 per thousand to about 5 per thousand in 1985; in the second stage, we expect to bring the growth to a standstill by the year 2000.

This is a herculean task. As the birth rate in our country has already been reduced from

40 per thousand to 18.34 per thousand, it is rather difficult to effect a steady, large-scale reduction. Besides, people under 21 now constitute one-half of the nation's population and they will get married and have children before the end of this century. Moreover, when those born in the two peak periods in the 60s reach marriageable age and have children, another baby boom will probably occur. In addition, it is more difficult to control population growth in the countryside than in the cities.

Nevertheless, we have many favourable conditions as well. We have made achievements and become more experienced in controlling population growth since the beginning of the 70s. The rate of natural population growth had gone down from 23.4 per thousand in 1971 to 12.05 per thousand in 1978, a sign that our efforts are in the fundamental interests of the people and are supported by them.

To achieve this goal for the first stage, we should lower the rate of people having many children and encourage each couple to have only one child.

At present, about 30 per cent of every year's newborn babies come into families that already have two or more children. This is where we can further reduce the birth rate. We expect that by 1985 no one will have a third child, which means there will be five million babies fewer every year and a drop in the population growth rate to 7 per thousand or less. If more parents have only one child, then by 1985 the rate will fall to about 5 per thousand.

The main way to attain a zero population growth rate is to energetically encourage each couple to have only one child. In the Heping District in Tianjin, 50 per cent of women of child-bearing age have decided not to have a second child. In Beijing's Haidian District, a suburban area embracing a huge rural population, about 36 per cent of the women want only one child.

We must sum up our experiences in this endeavour since 1971 and take the appropriate measures.

(1) Strengthen Party leadership and put family planning work on the agenda of the Party committees and the people's governments at all levels. The rate of population growth in Sichuan Province was as high as 31.21 per thousand in 1970 but it dropped to 6.06 per thousand in 1978. One major reason for this remarkable feat is that the first secretaries of

the Party committees have personally given leadership to this work.

(2) More publicity and education. Foster popular opinion for controlled population growth, widely publicize the need of family planning and make late marriages and family planning a way of life.

(3) Promulgate a law and work out the necessary economic measures. Introduce a policy which awards those who adhere to family planning regulations and penalizes those who do not. The Chinese Constitution says: "The state advocates and encourages family planning." This is the legal basis for holding the population growth in check. The central authorities, in the light of the experiences gathered from all parts of the country, have already drafted a family planning law and opinions are being solicited for its revision.

To encourage people to have only one child, a series of social and economic measures will be adopted and enforced. This includes material awards, such as issuing health subsidies to children, awarding women in rural areas with only one child extra work points and increasing old age pensions. There will be other provisions that help promote family planning. Priority will be given to those with only one child when the state recruits workers in the city and the countryside. Priority will also be given to them in distributing housing in the cities and towns and distributing plots for personal use and for housing in the countryside. Those who insist on having more children after patient explanation will pay a special levy.

(4) Train medical personnel, raise the technique of medical treatment and produce contraceptives on a large scale to be supplied free of charge. The future training of medical personnel will be emphasized in hospitals at the county level and clinics at the commune level.

(5) Set up efficient offices for family planning.

The aim of family planning and controlled population growth is to help accomplish the four modernizations and raise the people's living standard. This is in the fundamental interests of the state and the whole people. In publicizing the need for family planning, efforts should be made to solve people's ideological as well as practical problems. The old concept that "the greatest filial impiety is the failure to have a male offspring" is still very much alive among a section of the people, especially among

the peasantry; still influenced by the old ideas, many keep having children until a son is born. But it must be admitted that there are some actual problems that need to be methodically solved, such as social insurance and welfare benefits.

We must uphold the principle of equal pay to men and women alike for equal work and carry out the policy of encouraging a son-in-law

to live with his wife's family. Apart from setting up homes for the aged and running them well, we must effectively introduce a retirement system in production brigades and teams where conditions permit and see to it that old people with few or no children can live a little better than those with an average income. Economic factors are the key to this problem. Once economic problems are solved, ideological resistance to family planning can be greatly reduced.

Interview With a Specialist On Population

by Our Correspondent Zhou Jinghua



LIU Zheng, leading member of the research institute on population theory and one of China's specialists in this field, was interviewed by this correspondent at his residence on the campus of the People's University of China in Beijing. He has been engaged in the study of population theory and problems of population in China ever since the establishment of the institute. At present, he is studying laws governing population growth in socialist society, the relations between population growth and the development of society, and Chinese policy on population.

Population in Various Periods

Liu Zheng, a man about 50 years old and of medium height, met me in his study and discussed basic facts in connection with China's population and existing problems.

He began by giving the following statistics for the various periods (their frontiers differing slightly from those of the present).

Period	Year	Population
Western Han Dynasty (Emperor Pingdi)	2 A.D.	59,594,978
Eastern Han (Emperor Huandi)	156	50,066,856
Three Kingdoms	220-280	7,672,881
Western Jin (Emperor Wudi)	280	16,163,863
Sui (Emperor Yangdi)	606	46,019,956

Tang (Emperor Xuanzong)	742	48,909,809
Song (Emperor Huizong)	1110	46,734,784
Yuan (Emperor Shizu)	1290	58,834,711
Ming (Emperor Taizu)	1393	60,545,812
Qing (Emperor Shizu)	1661	21,068,609
Qing (Emperor Gaozong)	1757	190,348,328
Qing (Emperor Dezong)	1901	426,447,325
The Republic of China	1928	474,787,386
The People's Re- public of China	1949	548,770,000

Then he went on: We now have more reliable data on China's population which indicate that in the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.) the population reached about 60 million. During the more than 1,400 years between the Han Dynasty and early Qing, the size of the population fluctuated because of dynastic changes and social turbulence. For instance, in the year 265 during the Three Kingdoms period, it plummeted to some 7 million, but climbed to 60 million in the Ming Dynasty. Then it declined again to about 20 million in the late Ming and the early Qing Dynasty during the war years. In the 240 years up to the early 20th century, the population rose sharply to over 420 million. After liberation, the death rate fell sharply as the system of exploitation was abolished, sanitary and medical conditions improved and

people's living standards rose. This is a concrete demonstration of the superiority of the socialist system in regard to population development. But at the same time, there is a problem of unchecked population growth arising from a rather high birth rate.

A Fair Judge

What is the reason for this? I asked.

If we had paid attention to the control of population growth at the beginning of the 50s, Liu Zheng explained, our population would have been kept within 750 million and we would now be leading a much better life.

But as things were, the population grew very rapidly. In 1949, China's population was about 548.77 million. The census of 1953 showed the figure at 601.93 million, with an annual natural growth rate of 2 per cent. At that time, many people foresaw the serious consequences of such a rapid population growth.

Ma Yinchu, then president of Beijing University, a noted economist and educator, was quite aware of the disadvantageous effects of such a rapid growth. In an article entitled "New Population Theory" written in 1957 when China's population was 656.63 million, he pointed out the need for birth control to check the rate of population growth. This would accelerate socialist accumulation of funds, promote the development of science and technology and raise the standard of the peasants' material and cultural life, he maintained. However, his proposal, instead of being adopted, was subjected to a series of criticisms stretching over three years. As a result, he was compelled to resign his post as president. After that, the question of population became a "forbidden zone," research institutes on population theory were dissolved, theoretical workers dared not study problems of population and those engaging in practical work found it impossible to institute effective measures for controlling the rate of population growth. As a result, in 20 years the population increased about 50 per cent.

Practice provides the fairest judgment; it proves that Ma Yinchu's view was correct and that criticism of his "New Population Theory" was wrong. Not long ago, he was rehabilitated in accordance with a decision of the Party Central Committee.

Population Growth Must Be Controlled

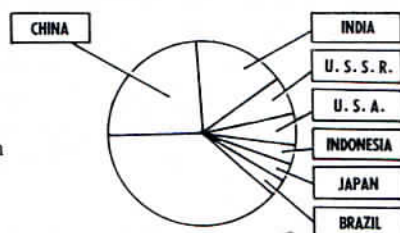
"As a specialist in the study of population, what do you think about the government's present policy on control of population growth?" I asked. "I'm all for it!" he exclaimed. He gave some figures (see box) and told me: Today China's population accounts for about a quarter of the world's total, and its density is three times the world's average.

China, with less than 100 million hectares of cultivated land or only 7 per cent of the world's total, ranks among the world's lowest in arable land on a per-capita basis. It is really amazing that this country with such a limited area under cultivation can feed its population of over 900 million. Owing to the rapid growth in population, the amount of grain per person is only about 300 kilogrammes. This presents a sharp contradiction between present level of grain production and the growing needs of the people as well as the requirements for accomplishing the four modernizations. Because of high birth-rate periods in the mid-1950s and in the 1960s, people under 21 account for half the population and will before long reach marriageable age. Without effective and timely control, there will be another period of high birth rate. Therefore it is now high time for China to check its population expansion.

Countries With a Big Population

The world's population in 1977 totalled 4,083 million. Each of the following countries had a population of over 100 million:

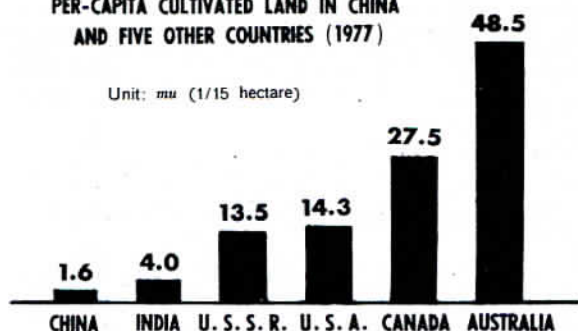
China: 975.2 million
India: 622.7 million
U.S.S.R.: 259.0 million
U.S.A.: 216.7 million
Indonesia: 136.9 million
Japan: 114.2 million
Brazil: 112.0 million



Note: China's population is based on the 1978 figure.

PER-CAPITA CULTIVATED LAND IN CHINA
AND FIVE OTHER COUNTRIES (1977)

Unit: mu (1/15 hectare)



Is Our Goal Attainable?

China's present population is huge and contains large numbers of people within the age-bracket for having children. The government has put forth the following targets in order to bring down the population growth.

Natural population growth rate:

1980 — 1 per cent

1985 — 0.5 per cent

2000 — 0 per cent

Can this arduous task be fulfilled?

Liu Zheng said with confidence: Now the question of population has attracted the attention of the whole nation. Many organizations in charge of family planning have been set up and a law on family planning after being revised will be published and put into effect. The

economic measures that have been adopted are proving effective.

Of course, the focus of our work should be placed on changing people's thinking. China, still economically and technically backward, has not yet completely thrown off the influence of feudal society. Still deeply rooted in people's minds are centuries-old traditional concepts such as: "the more sons one has, the better off one is," "a son is better than a daughter" and "raise sons to provide for one's old age." Particularly in the rural areas, people usually prefer to have boys. Therefore, while carrying out measures for modernization, it is necessary, through painstaking ideological work among the people, to create new social ethics regarding family planning as an honour. The natural growth rate of population in 11 out of 29 provinces and municipalities dropped to 1 per cent or even lower last year.

With a big population and large numbers of people in the age-bracket for having children, it is necessary for China to keep the birth rate strictly under control. The nation's birth rate in 1978 was 1.8 per cent. From now on, if a couple give birth to no more than two children, or still better, to one child, it is possible to attain the targets set for 1980 and 1985. Later on, if couples further limit their children to only one, then by the year 2000, the population will hit the zero mark.

Family Planning

Marked Results in China's Most Populous Province

by Ouyang Huiyun

THE population and cultivated land of Sichuan Province in southwest China make up one-tenth and one-fifteenth of China's total respectively. Its population growth rate has dropped from 3.12 per cent in 1970 to 0.6 per cent in 1978.

All the province's 14 prefectures and cities, except three autonomous prefectures thinly inhabited by Tibetan, Yi and other minority peoples, which are not required to carry

out birth control, have fulfilled ahead of time the state plan for population growth control. The annual growth rate in two prefectures has fallen to 0.3 per cent, that in another three prefectures and cities to 0.4 per cent, and that in nine counties to 0.2 per cent.

In the 28 years since 1950, Sichuan's population has increased 38.7 million, or 65.5 per cent of its original figure. Owing to the sharp increase in population, the amount of grain and

cash income for the peasants in the province is lower than the country's rural average. In the cities, too, there are difficulties in providing adequate housing, job opportunities, and schools for children.

Attention to Family Planning

Since 1971 the provincial authorities have paid equal attention to industrial and agricultural production as well as to family planning. At some important meetings, leading members from various parts of the province discussed matters and reached unity in thinking. They were required to include in their plans the targets for industrial and agricultural production and population growth in their own localities. When Comrade Zhao Ziyang, first secretary of the provincial Party committee, made an inspection tour of the countryside and factories, he inquired about the implementation of their plans for family planning. Organizations in charge of family planning have been strengthened from the provincial down to the commune levels. Full-time or part-time cadres have been assigned to every production brigade.

Visitors to the province's countryside often see two charts on the walls of the commune's office: one showing agricultural production targets and the other, targets for family planning. The population of Dayi County on the Chengdu plain was 320,000 in 1966, with one-tenth of a hectare of cultivated land and 380 kilogrammes of grain per capita. But ten years later, despite annual increase of grain output, per-capita grain ration was reduced 41 kilogrammes and the cultivated land each peasant used was down one-third. Later, as the county authorities paid attention to family planning, the natural growth rate of its population came down to 0.2 per cent and its per-capita grain ration increased by 121 kilogrammes in 1978.

Calculation and Comparison

It will not do to cut down the birth rate simply by administrative orders. It is necessary to attach primary importance to ideological education. One of the province's successful experiences is to educate the masses through making a comparison between the increase of production and the increase of population.

In a production brigade of Hejiang County, per-hectare grain output increased by 70 per cent in ten years while at the same time grain ration per person decreased. The brigade brought up the matter for discussions at a meeting of its members on how to solve the problem. Through discussions, they came to see that their brigade's population had increased by 72.5 per cent in ten years. Realizing the importance in holding down the growth of population, many people volunteered to carry out birth control.

The Chongqing Prospecting Machinery Plant asked its workers to make a calculation. Seventy couples in the plant responded to the government's call to have only one child. The total expenses (including those for livelihood, education and medical care) needed for bringing up each child to the age of 16 are estimated at 6,900 yuan, one-third of which are undertaken by the state to run schools, hospitals and various kinds of services. Thus, the 70 unborn second children can save more than 160,000 yuan for the state and at the same time each couple can save 4,600 yuan for themselves. So, many workers in the factory are determined not to give birth to a second child.

Wenjiang Prefecture cited the personal experience of Chen Ping, a commune member of 45 and a father of nine children, as an example in its propaganda to encourage birth control. Because there are too many children in the family, he and his wife are tied down by household chores. Though they go to work in the field every day, their earnings still cannot cover the cost of their grain rations. He is in debt every year and has led a hard life. His experience taught many young commune members a useful lesson.

Meticulous Ideological Work

Shifang County tops the province in family planning. It distinguishes itself in doing meticulous ideological work among the people.

In 1970 the county's natural population growth rate was as high as 3.2 per cent because only 15 per cent of its women who were in the child-bearing age (from 25 to 49) practised birth control.

The leading comrades in the county felt that they could no longer ignore the problem. But at the beginning, they didn't make any study and investigation; they just assigned quotas to be fulfilled by different places through various administrative departments according to the size of population in those localities. As a result, the plan was not fulfilled satisfactorily. They came to realize in practice that a high or low rate of birth depended on what attitude all married women would adopt towards birth control. From then on, they made an investigation of the county's population and found out the exact number of women still in child-bearing age, what their life was like after marriage and how many children they had. Based on this investigation, they worked out birth control quotas which conformed to the actual situation. They got support from every woman after education and persuasion. In 1978 the growth rate fell to 0.26 per cent.

One can see from a chart on the wall of the office of Huilan Commune showing the fulfilment of its plan for birth control in 1977 and 1978. On another chart, a curved line shows that during the period of 1977-83, more young people will approach the age for marriage and there could be a peak birth rate. But, because the commune has done careful work in promoting birth control, encouraging late marriage, late child-bearing and fewer children, the first two years of this period may still see a fall in population growth.

One-Child Families on the Increase

Recently Sichuan Province has put the stress on "one couple, one child" to promote family planning. This is done through education and persuasion coupled with other economic measures. Li Chengying, deputy head of the provincial public health bureau, explained to me that they encourage young people to get married and give birth to children after 25. This is out of the consideration that, in 100 years, there will be five generations if the young people get married at 20. But there will be four generations if the marriage age is postponed to 25. At the same time they also encourage one couple to have only one child. According to statistics, from 1950 to 1978, more than 60 million children had been born in the province and these peo-

ple will gradually approach the age of marriage. If every couple give birth to two children, there will still be an increase of 42 million by the end of this century, after deducting the number of dead. Therefore, only by increasing the number of one-child families to 50 per cent of the total can 20 million fewer children be born to the province.

Shifang County and the communes there have all decided to give one-child families honour certificates and give monthly subsidies to their children under 14. They also decided to give the child the same amount of grain as that of an adult and a private plot 150 per cent that of a grown-up. The children go to kindergartens and schools free of charge and they also have preference in getting a job and medical treatment. Some communes have guaranteed higher grain rations and money income for lonely old people than that for ordinary commune members. In order to relieve the old people from worrying that they are without dependents to help, the production teams will assign people to farm their plots and send them grain and firewood.

To date, 8,300 out of the 9,600 one-child couples have got their honour certificates.



A barefoot doctor giving regular medical check-up to one-child family children.

Planned Parenthood

How Tianjin's Heping District Does It

by Our Correspondent Zhou Jinghua

TIANJIN, a major seaport in the north and the third largest city in the country, has been successful in slowing down its birth rate. During my visit there, an extensive publicity campaign was going on to push family planning farther ahead.

Heping District is a densely populated business centre in the heart of the city. It has done well in the work of family planning. The deputy director of the Heping district office in charge of the programme was an affable woman named Zhang Zhaorong who had four very competent assistants working under her—two young and two middle-aged women. The five made a remarkably good team and got things done.

Heping District has half a million inhabitants. By 1978, 90 per cent of the married women there between the ages of 25 and 49 were practising birth control. By September this year, of the 15,642 married couples with only one child, 11,707 had decided definitively not to have more children.

Relying on the Masses

How did Heping District manage to do so well?

When she first came to work in this department in 1972, Zhang Zhaorong recalled, no real attention was paid to family planning and the subject never got on the agenda of the city government. The public in general was burdened by all kinds of ideas which made effective family planning very difficult.

Later, the city governments at various levels made family planning a major task, set up special offices for this purpose in the city, in suburban districts and outlying counties. In the neighbourhood committees and enterprises, special full- or part-time personnel were given charge of the work and family planning activists were trained. In Heping District there are more than 7,000 such activists, averaging one in every ten women of child-bearing age. They help

publicize and manage family planning among local residents.

Economic Measures

Massive and constant ideological and educational work was done among the masses in combination with moral and material awards for those who have only one child. Couples who have more than two children are criticized or have economic sanctions applied against them.

The department store staff in the district were the first to work out some tentative regulations for encouraging planned families:

- To become recognized as an advanced unit, the staff, in addition to fulfilling production quotas, must also implement an effective birth control programme.

- Staff members with only one child are issued a card entitling them to draw a monthly subsidy of five yuan to be spent on the welfare of their single child, given priority to nurseries and houses. Single-child parents, if necessary, can stay home to look after a sick child without having their pay docked.

- Parents insisting on having many children despite patient dissuasion have their bonuses cut for a specified period. Those who insist on having more than two children have to pay the state or the collective a monthly sum amounting to 10 per cent of their wages.

Other trades in the district too have tentatively adopted similar economic measures. Most people support these measures, which they think are fair and rational. It must be pointed out here that the state pays parents in many ways to bring up their children. For instance, parents only pay about two-thirds the costs for the upkeep of a factory or government office nursery, the rest is made up by the state. So deducting 10 per cent the pay of those with more than two children is not penalizing anyone. These measures are proving most effective. By July this year, 73 per cent of the single-child mothers or fathers working in the district's chains of de-

SPECIAL FEATURE

partment stores had declared affirmatively not to have a second child.

In the repair trade, mono-child families reached 71 per cent, with some grass-roots units attaining 100 per cent.

As Young Parents See It

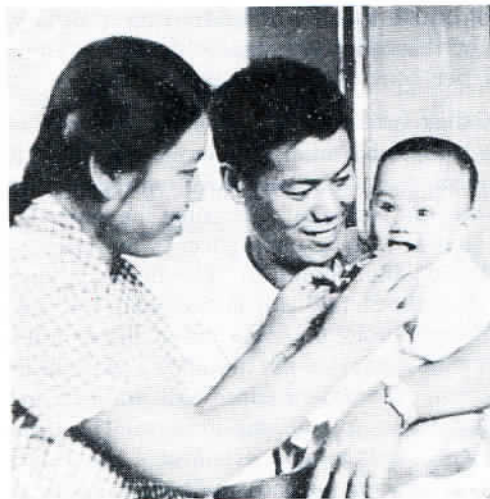
I interviewed a number of married people in their late twenties and early thirties.

Among them was Wu Jianguo, male, a trade union worker in a paint spraying plant. "A Party member takes the lead in carrying out the Party's policy," he said. "If curbing population growth helps the four modernizations, I'm all for it."

Weng Qiunian, female, who works in a bank, said: "I don't want a lot of kids as they'll wear me out and hold back my work and study. I think it's better to have just one child."

Liu Xinsheng, a woman worker at the environmental protection research institute, had this to say: "One should not only think of one's own family, but of the country as a whole."

Liu Jiapeng, an advanced worker in a repair factory, and his wife Wang Ying are advocates of family planning. They did not get married until they were almost 30 and had a baby daughter only in January this year. As they have promised they would have only one child, they have been issued a "one-child certificate." Their exemplary deed has influenced all the young people in the factory.



The Lius and their only daughter.



A skit on family planning.

They invited me to visit their home. They had two rooms, clean, tidy and comfortably furnished. Their daughter was a bonny baby, well cared for by her grandparents. The couple said that they had not had one day off work because of the baby. "We want just one child so we can do our bit for the four modernizations," they said.

The 112th Family

Neighbourhood committee members and the local family planning activists played a big role in this family planning drive. Most are retired women workers or middle-aged housewives. They visit local residents to patiently explain the advantages of family planning. Many of them could write tolerably good skits which they would put on during holidays to encourage family planning.

Zhao Zhenwen, a member of the neighbourhood committee and in her fifties, was formerly a draughtswoman of a designing institute. She quit her job years ago because she had five children to look after. She now looks after family planning in the neighbourhood. For some years now none of the 856 households in the neighbourhood has had more than one birth. Of the 129 households with only one child, 112 have declared they would not have another child. Zhao had talked to all 129 families and, at first, had been frequently "rebuffed." She told me how she had persuaded the 112th family she had visited. The old lady of this family happened to have only one son and she wanted her son to give her a grandson, as she had only a granddaughter. Every time Zhao went to see her, the old lady gave her a frosty reception. Sometimes,

she simply refused to let Zhao in. But Zhao was not discouraged. She patiently persuaded the old lady to listen and, after seven sessions about the population and its relationship to the economy, she got the grandmother to see the necessity of family planning. The old lady finally allowed her daughter-in-law to get the "one-child certificate" from the neighbourhood committee, stamped No. 112.

Free Contraceptives

In Heping only a few had chosen sterilization. The majority chose various contraceptive methods. But whatever the method used, there is no charge.



Take-away contraceptives in a pharmacy.

At a pharmacy on Binjiang Road, I saw a special counter stocked with various contraceptives, free pills, jellies and devices, for people to take away. The manager told me that people once had to ask for these, and that some people were too embarrassed to ask. So the shop decided to set up this take-away counter. This led to a threefold increase in the quantity of contraceptives distributed. The manager also told me that the eight pharmacies in the district distributed only 10 per cent of the total quantity of contraceptives used in the neighbourhood; the rest was distributed directly to people working in this district. The state spends approximately 1,500 yuan a month keeping this district supplied with contraceptives.

Fewer But Better

The state cares for expectant mothers who subscribe to family planning and their infants in many ways. Tianjin, for instance, has begun issuing certificates to those expecting a baby. This certificate issued by health clinics at the

grass-roots level entitles the bearer to free periodical prenatal checks and pre- and post-maternity care.

Priority is given to planned parenthood children to admission into nurseries and kindergartens to back up the family planning programme. Heping District has more than 30 such child-care centres run by the state or collectives, giving good care to the children.

It was a fine day when I went to visit the Heping Nursery, a model unit in the district. The kiddies were playing outdoors, and it was a pleasure to see all the smiling young faces and hear their carefree laughter as they swooshed down the slides and whirled round and round in the revolving chairs. Nannies were amusing the younger ones. Older children were sitting under a tree around the head of the nursery listening to a nursery tale. The two doctors spoke to me about their work. Every morning when the children come to the day nursery, their temperature is taken and their throats examined. The doctors check them three times a day so that at the first sign of sickness, prompt treatment is given. Every three months there is a general check-up and various inoculations are given regularly. Under the care of the experienced teachers and nannies, few children fall sick.

Much has been done in Heping District, but there are still many problems. For instance, contraceptives are not as effective as they should be, and there has been a number of unnecessary abortions. This is something the medical and pharmaceutical departments are tackling. I have heard that the Institute of Pharmacology in Tianjin is presently trying out some simple and more effective contraceptives and should be widely available soon.

At a nursery in Heping District.



VIET NAM

Chemical Warfare Against Laos and Kampuchea

The Ministry of Information and Propaganda of Democratic Kampuchea, in a press communique on November 4, condemned the Vietnamese authorities for repeatedly spraying many regions of Kampuchea with toxic chemicals from aircraft since July, killing large numbers of children, pregnant women and old people, poisoning many others and destroying vast areas of crops.

The Vietnamese authorities have of late strongly denied that they have used toxic chemicals in Kampuchea. However, the Thai paper *Nation Review* on November 3 quoted the Thai Supreme Command's Deputy Information Director as saying, "Refugees have related to Thai soldiers their symptoms caused by the poisonous gas." Three U.S. Senators and folk singer Joan Baez who visited Kampuchea recently testified at a hearing that the Vietnamese authorities had, in fact, used poisonous gas against the Kampuchean people suffering from famine and disease. Senator James Sasser said that the Vietnamese had used deadly nerve gas and a gas causing death by internal bleeding in Kampuchea. Baez said that her interviews with Kampuchean refugees had revealed "hundreds of persons have been exposed to the gas."



Moreover, according to the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, reports by intelligence agencies have shown that Vietnamese troops also used Soviet-supplied poisonous gas to suppress and kill people in the Laotian mountainous districts. Foreign newspapers and magazines have indicated that the Soviet Union is conducting secret tests in preparation for chemical warfare.

It is becoming patently clear that hegemonists, big and small, are turning Laos and Kampuchea into a testing ground for chemical warfare. Such a barbarous action violates the Geneva Accords and is strongly condemned by people throughout the world. During their war against U.S. aggression, the Vietnamese authorities repeatedly protested the use of poisonous gas by the aggressor troops. At present, the Vietnamese aggressors are using poisonous gas against the victims of their aggression. This indeed symbolizes Viet Nam's "special relationship" with Laos and Kampuchea.

UNITED STATES

New Debate on Mideast Policy

The United States has in the past few years made some adjustments to its Middle East policy, but has not gone far enough because of hold-ups inside and outside the U.S. This has sparked dissatisfaction and criticism within U.S. political circles.

In a report issued on November 4, a special Middle East Working Group of the Atlantic Council called on the U.S. Government to devote "its best efforts to guiding the current

negotiations with Egypt and Israel towards a real autonomy and self-determination for the Palestinians on the West Bank."

The council consists of former Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs Joseph Sisco; Commandant of the U.S. Military Academy Andrew Good-paster; National Security Adviser to former President Ford, Brent Scowcroft; and ten former ambassadors to Middle East countries.

The report further stated: "We do not see any solution possible unless the negotiators take up the hard questions of Palestinian self-determination together with those relating to borders and security arrangements, aiming at an eventual total package that reconciles Palestinian rights to self-government with Israel's right to security."

Last September Andrew Young, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, openly expressed his disagreement with the government policy of not contacting the P.L.O. before it recognizes Israel's existence. Not long ago, some influential U.S. black leaders, who advocated the recognition of the P.L.O., went to the Middle East to confer with P.L.O. leaders. Recently, a Republican presidential contender, John Connally, issued a statement criticizing the government's current Middle East policy as having lost "force or effect" and being unable to "provide the basis for successful negotiations on the remaining issues." He put forward his own nine-point plan which, in the main, requires Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab lands and allows the creation of a Palestinian state in exchange for

Arab recognition of Israel's right to exist and a stable supply of Middle East oil at a reasonable price.

Although Connally's plan was belittled by the pro-Jewish groups in the U.S., the fact that someone dared to openly challenge the traditional U.S. policy towards Israel indicates a growing tendency in U.S. political circles for a bolder approach to the Middle East question in order to strengthen the U.S. position in this strategically critical area against the energetic Soviet south-thrust strategy.

In the recent Egypt-Israel-U.S. talks in London on Palestinian autonomy, an agreement was reached among the three parties that the Palestinians could take part in the supervision over the planned Palestinian elections for a self-governing authority on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. This indicated that some progress had been made in the long stalemated talks and in the adjustment of U.S. policy. However, the road to a final settlement is long and hard, as the well-known U.S. trouble-shooter Robert Strauss has admitted.

ISRAEL

Begin in Trouble

After a five-hour row on November 1, the Israeli Cabinet of Menachem Begin had to swallow the supreme court ruling of October 22 to outlaw the Elon Moreh Jewish settlement on the West Bank of the Jordan River. This was another bitter pill following the resignation of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

These developments indicate that the government policy of aggression and expansion is running up against a wall.

The supreme court ruling is by no means a show of kindness towards the Palestinian people whose homeland has been forcibly occupied by Israel for decades. Rather, it is due to the strong opposition to Jewish settlements on Arab lands by the Arab countries, the Palestinian people, and people around the world. The Israeli policy is even losing support among certain sections of the Jewish people. Thus the decision is the result of powerful public pressure both at home and abroad.

The dismantling of one settlement does not imply that the Begin government will abandon its policy. Its compliance to the ruling is nothing but a compromise between the "hawks" who are advocating a policy of settlements and the "doves" who prefer a change in tactics.



The Cabinet decision to dismantle the Elon Moreh settlement was coupled with a decision to look for a new site for the Elon Moreh settlers.

But where can Begin find the new site other than the Israeli-occupied Arab lands on the West Bank? Calling the site a "common land" as Begin does cannot cover up the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

Begin is meeting with more and more difficulties as a result of his policy of aggression and expansion, especially his refusal to recognize the national rights

of the Palestinian people. If he continues to close his eyes to reality, he will surely bump into the wall again.

BELGIUM

Labour Party Formed

The Belgian Labour Party held its founding congress in Brussels recently with 208 representatives taking part.

The congress discussed and amended a Draft Fundamental Programme, an International Programme, a Constitution and a Political Report of the Central Committee of the Party's predecessor "All Power to Workers (Amada)." The congress also elected the Party's Central Committee with Ludo Martens as its Chairman.

The Party Constitution passed at the congress states: "The aim of the Labour Party is to organize and lead the broad masses of Belgian workers and labourers in their struggle against exploitation, oppression, injustice and all crimes of capitalism."

The Constitution stresses: "To elaborate its political line, the Labour Party will combine the general truth of Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought with the concrete practice of the Belgian revolution. It will study dialectical materialism and historical materialism and apply them to work."

On foreign policy, it states: "The Labour Party is struggling for the defence of world peace and against the increasing war menace, the cause of which are the two superpowers." "The Soviet Union, a new imperialist power, is conquering new places to achieve its hegemonic purpose. The Soviet Union is taking the offensive in the world and is preparing a full-scale aggressive war."

● **Textile Industry in Xinjiang**

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China has established 54 textile enterprises as a basis for a textile industry covering cotton, woollen, silk, linen and knitted goods. Total value of the region's textile products went up at an average annual progressive rate of 24.2 per cent from 1952 to 1978.

Xinjiang's first cotton mill, the Qiyi (July 1) in Urumqi, was set up in 1952. It has developed into an integrated spinning, weaving, printing and dyeing textile mill. The present silk integrated complex in Hotan grew out of a silk filature built that same year.

Textile enterprises in Xinjiang today turn out some 200 varieties of goods ranging from cotton yarn, cotton cloth, printed cloth, knitting wool, woollen blankets, woollen goods, silk piece goods to knitwear. The region is not only self-sufficient in textile goods, but also supplies other places. Some of its textile products are sold on the international market.

When the textile industry was

being set up in Xinjiang, older textile mills from other parts of the country not only sent technicians and equipment, but also helped train a large number of workers of Uygur, Kazakh, Uzbek nationalities. Many of them have become veteran workers or managerial staff members.

Before liberation, there was no textile industry in Xinjiang although it produced cotton and wool. The local demand for textile goods was met by handicraftsmen or shipped in from other places.

● **Confectionery for Children**

A new shop specializing in nutritious pastries, cakes and sweets for children has opened in Shanghai. Located in the downtown section of Nanjing Road, it now serves 20,000 customers a day.

The food, which is high in protein, glucose and vitamins, is manufactured under the supervision of the Institute of Child Nutrition, a children's hospital and a co-operative group for child care. Some of the pastries

contain traditional Chinese herb tonics that aid digestion.

Shanghai now has 60 confectionaries, which have produced 90,000 tons of pastry, cake and sweets this year. Their goods are sold all over the country.

● **New Tibetan Typewriter**

A new Tibetan typewriter with a keyboard has been produced in Shanghai. It represents a vast improvement over the original typewriter which consisted of a type-case, similar to a Chinese typewriter.

The new typewriter is easy to operate. It takes only one week for beginners to become familiar with the keyboard, and after training for one month, they can type 2,500 Tibetan syllables an hour, three times the number on the original one.

It was designed by Wang Shizhen, a Tibetan translator for Lhasa's *Xizang Ribao* (Tibet Daily). He was assisted and supported by the Central Nationalities Publishing House in Beijing and the Shanghai Typewriter Factory. He also asked people in the Tibetan-speaking areas for their opinions. Wang was awarded a certificate of merit and a prize from the scientific and technological commission of the Tibet Autonomous Region for his achievement.

The Tibetan language is written horizontally from left to right and has 30 letters and four vowel symbols in addition to five letters written in the opposite direction which are used in writing non-Tibetan words.



Han and Uygur textile workers in Xinjiang.



LETTERS FROM READERS

Places of Revolutionary Significance

I was deeply moved when I read "Visiting Places of Revolutionary Significance" published in *Beijing Review* in instalments. In my opinion, Mao Zedong Thought is not the product of Chairman Mao alone but the crystallization of prolonged arduous struggles by the Chinese people in their hundreds of millions. Chairman Mao was a great revolutionary who gave correct leadership to the Chinese revolution. Any attempt to negate Mao Zedong Thought is tantamount to negating the entire Chinese revolution. Of course, in the protracted revolutionary struggle for the realization of communism, it is inevitable to make partial mistakes or meet with setbacks. But I believe that the Chinese people will not negate the socialist revolution they have undertaken with their sweat and blood and that they will sum up their new experiences so as to prevent the restoration of capitalism and march forward along the socialist road.

Osamu Nakane
Ehime, Japan

The special feature "Visiting Places of Revolutionary Significance" by your correspondents helps the reader better understand the historical facts. After reading these articles, I know what should be my approach to history.

I hope you will publish articles on the Chinese people's attitude towards history. A Japanese newspaper said in a report that after an interval of 13 years, there is an exhibition in the Museum of the Chinese Revolution on the history of the Chinese Communist Party, and on display are materials on Lin Biao who is now being criticized.

When Chairman Mao died, pictures of the gang of four were not

printed. It is understandable that the Chinese people dislike to see their pictures because they have brought suffering to the nation. What makes me happy now is that the Chinese people have got the better of their resentment and adopted the attitude of passing on the facts to posterity.

Yuko Sugimoto
Kyoto, Japan

Economic Reports

I must congratulate the editorial board for its various interesting and informative coverage since the beginning of this year. I am professionally and individually much indebted for the coverage of Chinese economy you have incorporated in previous issues. It would be still more interesting if the board could incorporate some macro-economic variables such as national income (GDP), balance of payments position, etc., so that we could study the trends in the Chinese economy without outside sources.

Keshav Prasad Acharya
Kathmandu, Nepal

On Minority Nationalities

In view of our struggle to gain national minority status for the Romani or Gypsy people in various European countries, and our slow progress to obtain elementary human rights to education and a place to live in the face of racial and class discrimination, we were extremely interested in your issue of June 22nd 1979, and its report on the deliberations of the National People's Congress on speeding up the development of minority nationalities, and on the recognition of the Jinuo as China's 55th minority nationality.

I think it would be most enlightening for us if you could publish more on the process leading up to this recognition.

Thomas Acton
London, England

Don't Evade Issues

Many countries have reported on what is happening in China, but China itself has so far evaded many issues. This, I think, is detrimental to China's prestige. I sincerely wish you will believe me that if you publish such re-

ports, you'll clear up misunderstandings without any damage to your prestige. Moreover, this will help prevent one-sidedness. Your reports in this respect will, in addition, provide information for clarifying doubts and misinterpretations. If you do so, you will win over more sympathizers and friends.

GPE. Villarreal Y.
Mexico

A report by a broadcasting station recently said that a "dissident" had been given a sentence in court of 15 years. I would think that the best way to champion human rights for your country's and Party's case would be to present a report to readers about such trials.

Violations of democracy as seen by Western capitalist eyes are good ground for turning people against communism and as such are strongly exploited.

Alex. G. Macaskill
Fourla, Britain

*Please read the article on
page 15 in this issue. — Ed.*

Outdated Form of Address

The address "Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II and His Royal Highness Prince Henrik of Denmark" as published on page 3 in issue No. 38 of *Beijing Review* has ceased to be used in capitalist Greece since the downfall of the fascist military autocracy.

Matis Anronopoulos
Athens, Greece

*Thanks for your comment. We
have noticed this. — Ed.*



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