

# BEIJING REVIEW

China's Foreign Trade  
Prospects

●  
Technical Co-operation  
With UN

●  
Bai Hua Finds  
Incentive in  
Criticisms



北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS

# LETTERS

## Chinese-Type Modernization

We are happy that China will do things the Chinese way. A number of other nations, especially the nations of the third world, can learn a profound and progressive lesson from what China is doing. It is about time that the nations of the third world stand up for what they aspire in their own countries.

The article in *Beijing Review* ("Chinese-Type Modernization: Why a Change in Emphasis?" No. 1, 1983) about how China will never pursue capitalist modernization and how China's modernization will be accomplished while adhering to socialism was very educational. The spirit of love and creating happiness for all is something very unique with Chinese socialism. Keep up the beautiful work of creating New China. And let others learn from your experience in order to create their own happiness and to spread love among the citizens of this rich and beautiful planet of ours. We are glad that China will bring about a modernization that has uniquely Chinese features and will avoid the emergence of capitalist evils.

**Hodari N. Mqulo**  
Malmö, Sweden

## Somali Project

The article "Somalia's Fanole Water Conservancy Project" (No. 47, 1982) was fruitful and bore witness that China supports unconditionally all developing countries.

Let's glance at the background of Fanole Project. It was first started in Jan. 1974 according to an agreement reached between the Soviet Government and Somalia. However, the project was subject to numerous delays. In November 1977 the Soviet experts were withdrawn from Somalia for reasons related to our sovereignty.

In 1978 China and Somalia signed an agreement to complete the project. As a result of hard work of the workers of both countries, the most important parts of the project were completed and put into operation on October 23, 1982. China has already cooperated with Somalia in a variety of fruitful projects which both the Somali people and the government deeply appreciated.

**Osmanos O. Haji**  
Merca, Somalia

## Cover the World

I enjoy the foreign relations and international articles best because it is always interesting to find out China's opinions on world events

and compare them to the views of the US and USSR.

I commend you on the improved coverage on third world countries, such as "Oman and Democratic Republic Yemen Agree to Normalize Relations," Zambia and CARICOM summit in issue No. 49, 1982.

I also congratulate you on your Middle East stand—supporting the Palestinians' right to a homeland while not being so narrow-minded as to deprive this same right from the Israelis.

**Peter Hunter**  
Morewood, Ont., Canada

## Third World Development

I like specially "Developing Countries' Strategy for Socio-Economic Development" (No. 36, 1982).

This article helps one understand how the developing countries can improve their economies, be self-dependent and resist the imperialists' attempts to institute neo-colonialism and also the aggressive policy of hegemonism.

It would be good if there is a special feature on both agricultural and industrial production in China as well as in other countries.

**Nityananda Das (Junior)**  
Midnapur, India

*Starting from issue No. 48, 1982, we have published a column "Facts and Figures" which includes reports on China's industrial and agricultural production. — Ed.*

## Malvinas Lesson

"The Malvinas Aftermath" (No. 37, 1982) reprimands a big colonialist country which refuses even today to return a territory it grabbed 150 years ago. Britain defied the UN resolution requesting negotiations between Britain and Argentina. The British attitude is intolerable to many countries.

Britain should give Malvinas back to Argentina, Xianggang (Hongkong) to China and Gibraltar to Spain.

**Jose A. Anido Lopez**  
Carballo, Spain

*Coming soon!*

## CHINA & THE WORLD (3)

BEIJING REVIEW Foreign Affairs Series

### China's Foreign Policy

General Secretary Hu Yaobang on China's foreign policy and the CPC's relations with other Communist Parties.

### How to Preserve World Peace

State Councillor Huang Hua on China's stand on current world issues.

### The Human Rights Question

Professor Chen Zhongjing of Beijing University on hegemonism and how to safeguard world peace.

### Strategy for Third World Socio-Economic Development

Huan Xiang, an adviser to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, on China's independent foreign policy.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### **China's Foreign Trade Prospects**

State Councillor Chen Muhua predicts an 8.7 per cent annual increase in China's foreign trade during the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85) and about a 19 per cent rise in the total volume for 1983 over last year (p. 14).

### **Sihanouk Honoured**

Meeting with Samdech Sihanouk, Premier Zhao congratulates the Kampuchean leader on his successful recent trip back to his home country where his extensive efforts have had a great impact worldwide (p. 8).

### **Never Seek Hegemony**

*Renmin Ribao* Commentator explains a guiding principle of China's foreign policy — under no circumstances will it seek hegemony or become the leader of any block of countries (p. 17).

### **Technical Co-operation With UN**

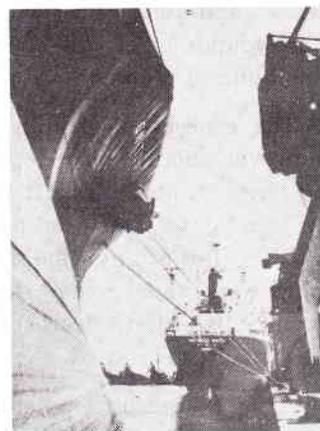
Rapid growth of China-UN technical co-operation helps other developing nations and China (p. 19).

### **Bai Hua's Recent Creative Activities**

The well-known army writer views public criticisms of his film script *Unrequited Love* as providing an incentive to further work. A short literary commentary is presented here from among his many recent works (p. 28).

### **Debates on Historical Issues**

With all the taboos removed, Chinese historians can now work on whatever topics they choose and boldly air their views (p. 23).



Ocean-going vessels at anchor in Qinhuangdao Port.

Photo by Bi Bao

## NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

**China now repeatedly stresses the importance of economic construction. Does this suggest that you no longer attach importance to politics or to political and ideological work?**

Political and economic work should not be set against each other. Marxism holds that politics is part of the superstructure which is determined by the economic base and also reacts on the base, and that politics should serve the economic base.

To achieve its own emancipation, the proletariat must first seize political power from the hands of the exploiting classes and then consolidate the political power it has gained. Without political power it is impossible for the proletariat to free itself from enslavement, and socialist economic construction is out of the question.

In this sense, politics are more important than economic work. The Chinese people gave priority to the seizing and consolidating of political power before and during a period after the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The concept of politics first, however, should not be regarded in terms of absolutes. It would be wrong to insist on putting politics first at any time, in any place or under any circumstances. We have learnt many lessons in this regard.

After the basic completion of the socialist transformation of the means of production throughout China in 1956, the

## Political and economic work

exploiting classes were eliminated as classes in our country. Class struggle was no longer the nation's principal contradiction. The Party correctly called for a shift in the focus of the Party's and the country's work to economic construction. Shortly afterwards, however, because of "Left" mistakes in the Party's guiding thought, class struggle was once again made a priority. This laid the groundwork for the "cultural revolution," which began in 1966 and, as everyone knows, caused serious setbacks in our economic and social development.

Since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee at the end of 1978, "Left" mistakes have been corrected and marked changes have taken place in the country.

Some people question the correctness of China's stress on economic work by quoting the well-known saying of Lenin that politics cannot but take precedence over economics. But a careful study of the historical context of Lenin's remark reveals its real meaning.

Lenin did say, in *Once Again on the Trade Unions, the Current Situation and the Mistakes of Trotsky and Bukharin* (January 1921) that politics must take precedence over economics. At that time, only three years after the successful October Revolution, Soviet power was not yet consolidated and it was still impossible for

the Russian Party to shift the focus of its work to economic construction. Lenin's position was intended to oppose Trotsky's which erroneously called for discarding the task of consolidating the young Soviets and instead stressed production. Obviously Lenin's remark was a specific call to consolidate Soviet power as a first task, and was not intended as a generalization about the relations between politics and economics under all circumstances.

China is now concentrating all its forces on economic construction. This, however, does not mean that politics are not important. Although class struggle is no longer the principal contradiction today, the Party Central Committee has repeatedly reminded the whole nation that class struggle still exists and has called on the people to heighten their vigilance. The serious criminal activities in the economic sphere aimed at undermining the socialist economy are the concentrated manifestation of the current class struggle. China has already achieved successes in combating these criminal activities, and the struggle is still going on.

Mao Zedong said correctly: "Ideological and political work is the lifeblood of economic and all other work." Our economic and all other work should have a correct bearing. To engross oneself only in economic and vocational work

### China's steel production grows

and be politically indifferent or neglectful towards ideological work may cause one to lose socialist orientation. Mao Zedong also said: "Ideological and political work is a guarantee for fulfilling economic and technical work." This is because people's consciousness and initiative are essential to the successful completion of all kinds of work.

For varied reasons, ideological and political work was weak in many fields for a period of time. The Party Central Committee pinpointed this problem in 1981 and has adopted measures to strengthen the work in this field.

During the course of constructing a socialist material civilization, China also is building a socialist spiritual civilization, which includes education of the people in communist ideals and moral values, revolutionary discipline, patriotism and internationalism.

In China today, ideological and political work is conducted in combination with economic work. It serves economic construction and guarantees that our economy will develop in the socialist direction. Such an integration of tasks is far removed from the previous political struggles guided by "Left" thinking, which were divorced from the economy and disrupted economic work.

— Political Editor An Zhiguo

China's annual steel output is expected to double by the end of this century, said Li Dongye, Minister of Metallurgical Industry at a recent national metallurgical working conference. The output of steel was 37.15 million tons last year.

The long-term plan for China's iron and steel industry not only demands an increase in the output and variety of iron and steel, but also requires improved quality, reduced energy consumption and better economic returns, he said.

The readjustment of the national economy in the past two years has laid a favourable foundation for the development of China's iron and steel industry. The conduction of frequent market surveys has helped eliminate disconnection between production and the market and the product mix has become more rational. This accounts for the leap in output.

The industry has greatly increased production of rolled steel much needed by light and textile industries, urban and rural construction, energy and communications, export trade and for the technical transformation in other sectors of the national economy.

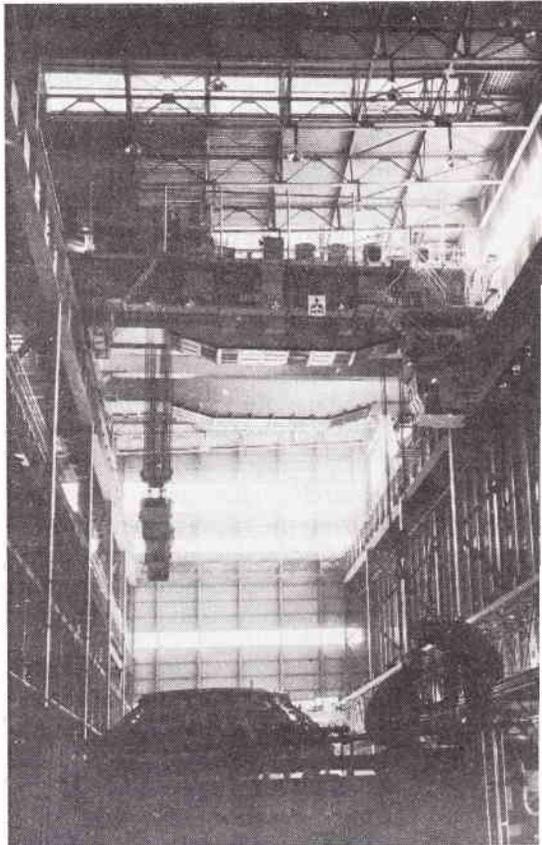
Over the past two years, more than 1,500 new products have been trial-produced. The number of products recognized as top quality by the state and the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry rose from 101 in 1980 to 289 in 1982.

Some steel products, such as steel tubes for the petroleum industry and steel plates for

building ships, are up to international standards. The metallurgical industry has completed more than 400 major scientific research projects, and has won 33 national awards for scientific and technical inventions.

This year, the state plans to increase output by 1.5 million tons of basic steel and 2.5 million tons of rolled steel over 1982. But it will still import some steel products for domestic needs.

Minister Li Dongye said that the industry will adopt measures to increase production, save energy and reduce imports.



Workers of the steel mill of the Shanghai Baoshan Iron and Steel Complex installing a converter.

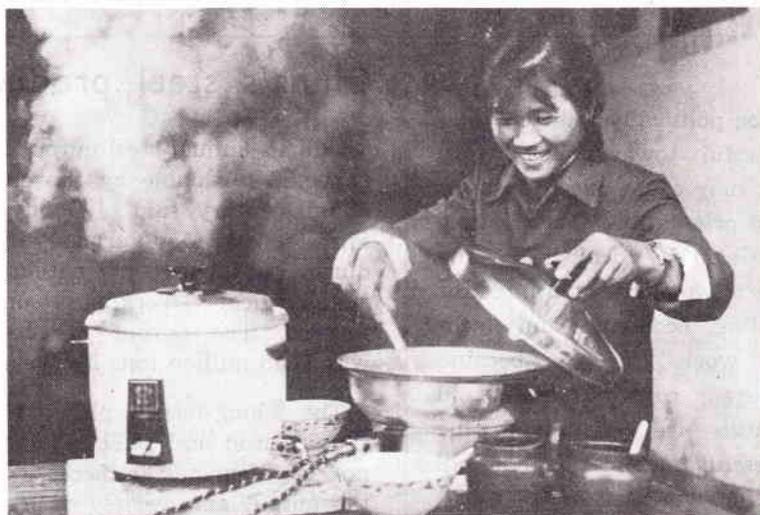
The Shanghai Baoshan Iron and Steel Complex, equipped mostly with Japanese machinery, is the biggest of its kind in China. About 60 per cent of the first phase of the project was completed at the end of last year. The blast furnaces are expected to fire in September 1985, and to produce 3 million tons of iron and steel annually.

## Association of plant engineering founded

"The management, utilization and maintenance of machinery will directly affect the production level and economic returns of the enterprises and have an important bearing on the implementation of the 6th Five-Year Plan as well as the realization of the strategic goal of quadrupling the total output value of industry and agriculture by the end of this century." Hao Jianxiu, alternate secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, made this statement at the inaugural meeting of China's Association of Plant Engineering which was set up recently in Tianjin.

The task of the association is to conduct studies on the theories, policies and measures of managing industrial equipment; exchange and popularize the advanced experiences and research achievements in improving the management and renovating the equipment, maintenance and consultation; and launch international exchanges.

At present, China has a total of 300,000 million yuan of machinery and equipment, accounting for 60 per cent of the total fixed assets of the industrial and transport enterprises and constituting the material and technical basis for China's modernization.



A peasant in western Hunan Province uses electric cooking utensils.

## Chinese-style rural electrification

Water-generated electricity will fundamentally solve the problems of energy shortages and forest protection in the countryside, said Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee. During an inspection tour of four small hydropower stations in Fujian Province last year, Hu praised the province's reliance on local initiative to generate power, calling it "Chinese-style electrification."

He noted that Fujian's 8,900 small hydropower stations provide energy for 53 of its 67 counties and cities, and 70 per cent of its production teams.

Hu proposed that all rural areas are capable of establishing this level of electric power over the next 20 years, which will greatly improve peasants' material and cultural lives and allow better health care facilities. Furthermore, light and power will enable areas to develop local industry.

Hu also advocated incen-

tives to encourage peasants themselves to construct, manage and utilize small electric stations. It is very important to reduce the cost of electricity so that rural residents can afford it, he said.

Most small hydroelectric stations are built by local efforts with some support from the state.

The state also aids individual households in out-of-the-way villages to build small electric stations. For example, two brothers in Shouning County of Fujian Province built a three kw hydropower station with 5,000 yuan they had pooled plus a 2,100 yuan loan from the local government.

The Ministry of Water Resources and Electrical Power has selected 100 rural counties nationwide for trial electrification projects. China has an estimated 70 million kw in potential small hydroelectric resources. Currently only 17 per cent of the 8 million kw in the experimental counties are being tapped.

## Tourism to rise in 1983

China's tourist agencies expect to host 1.3 million people in 1983, including 400,000 foreigners, said a state tourism official.

This represents a 30 per cent increase over 1982, according to Han Kehua, Director of the State General Administration for Travel and Tourism.

Speaking at a mid-January national conference to cite advanced collectives and workers in the tourist organizations, he outlined the tasks for this year:

—Further improve service. While enhancing ideological education among workers, the tourist organizations will continue to conduct management reforms and institute an economic responsibility system that integrates responsibilities, rights and profits. All managerial and service personnel are scheduled to go through training courses by 1985.

—Upgrade the skills of interpreters and guides. Interpreters who are now working in government or other organizations and students from foreign language institutes will be invited to work in tourist services as interpreters and guides.

—Increase publicity about China's tourism. The agencies need to reach a broader audience with information about places of historical and cultural interest. For this purpose, an international tourism conference will be held in China soon. Several liaison groups will be

February 7, 1983

## Sentence on Jiang Qing reduced

The Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China on January 25 reduced the sentences for Jiang Qing and Zhang Chunqiao, principal culprits in the Lin Biao and Jiang Qing counter-revolutionary cliques, from death with a two-year reprieve to life imprisonment.

But the original sentence, handed down two years ago, of permanent deprivation of political rights on the two criminals will continue to stand, the court said.

The Criminal Ruling of the Supreme People's Court announced that its decision indicated the two criminals had not resisted reform in a flagrant way during the two-year reprieve.

According to Article 46 of China's criminal law, where an offender sentenced to death penalty with reprieve demonstrates sufficient repentance during the period of reprieve, the penalty shall be reduced to life imprisonment at the end of the two-year period . . . in cases where it is verified that the offender's resistance to reform is flagrant, the death sentence shall be executed upon the ruling of the Supreme

People's Court or after its examination and approval.

The two other members of the gang of four, prosecuted with Jiang and Zhang, Wang Hongwen and Yao Wenyuan, were sentenced to life imprisonment and 20 years in prison respectively.

The heinous crimes committed by the gang of four caused chaos during the "cultural revolution," disrupted the national economy and persecuted cadres and the masses. These horrors remain fresh in the Chinese people's minds and are bitterly hated.

The general view is that their crimes were so terrible that even death could not expiate their deeds. But people were not surprised at the recent ruling.

An ordinary office worker said, now that our country is socially stable, even the lives of these two criminals are spared, they will find it hard to stir up trouble.

Another Beijing resident said, to keep them in the jail as teachers by negative example will serve to remind people of the bitter lesson of the catastrophic 10 years.

sent to the United States, Japan and West European countries to attract tourists to China through local travel agencies. China also will invite foreign

correspondents to visit and report about China.

—Provide flexible arrangements so that more individuals and small groups are able to

Yurts for tourists in Inner Mongolia.



tour China for diverse purposes from honeymoons to recuperation, to special studies. The Chinese agencies will invite international organizations to hold meetings in China. Rewards will be given to those who organize the most tours.

— Improve the sanitation and living conditions of the guest houses in the scenic spots.

— Continue to update old equipment and facilities in the hotels and to offer new services.

Since the adoption of the open policy in 1978, more tourists are coming to China every year. That year, only 680,000 tourists travelled through China, including 125,000 foreigners. By 1982, the total number of tourists had nearly doubled at 1.22 million, with 300,000 foreign tourists, more than twice the 1978 figure.

## Zhao congratulates Samdech Sihanouk

Premier Zhao Ziyang met with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, President of Democratic Kampuchea, and Madame Monique Sihanouk on January 30 and had talks with Sihanouk on January 31.

At the January 30 meeting, Zhao congratulated Sihanouk on his successful trip back to Kampuchea, saying that he had done much "which has made a great impact on the world."

Zhao said that the second cabinet meeting of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea presided over by Sihanouk was a great success and has greatly encouraged the



Premier Zhao greets Samdech Sihanouk.

patriotic forces and people of Kampuchea in their struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors.

"The fact that the Coalition Government is becoming more and more consolidated is itself a telling blow to the Vietnamese invaders and the puppet regime of Heng Samrin. The warm welcome Sihanouk received in Kampuchea fully demonstrates the will of the Kampuchean people to fight against the Vietnamese invaders and win their independence under the leadership of Norodom Sihanouk. The Chinese Government and people will continue their efforts in consolidating the friendship between the Chinese and Kampuchean peoples," Zhao said.

Sihanouk said that during his stay in Kampuchea, he met with his colleagues, soldiers and people. "The Coalition Government is now leading a vast area with a large population. All the people there are very healthy. These things show the successfulness of the policies followed

by the Coalition Government," he said.

In their talks on January 31, Zhao and Sihanouk exchanged views on the present international situation, especially on the consolidation of unity and co-operation among the third world countries and the maintenance of world peace.

Zhao said that China was convinced that in future Sihanouk would play an important role in leading the Kampuchean people to rebuild their homeland just as he is doing today by uniting all the patriotic Kampuchean forces and promoting the struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors.

Premier Zhao also spoke highly of Sihanouk's firm attitude and stand which he has repeatedly voiced that he would fight on, and adhere to a policy of independence, neutrality and non-alignment.

Sihanouk arrived in Beijing on January 29 after presiding over the second cabinet meeting of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea in Kampuchea.

## Thailand assured of China's support

Yang Dezhi, Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, said in Bangkok on January 28 that "the Chinese Government and people will give firm support to Thailand if Viet Nam dares to invade Thailand by force."

Yang said that the tense situation resulting from Viet Nam's aggression against Kampuchea had not changed. Hanoi, he said, still refuses to implement the UN resolutions and withdraw its troops from Kampuchea, and is engaging in armed provocations along the Chinese and Thai borders. Viet Nam's wilful acts have sabotaged peace and security in Asia and the world, and have been strongly condemned and opposed by all just countries and people the world over, he said.

Yang arrived in Bangkok on January 28 on a week-long official visit to Thailand at the invitation of General Saiyud Kerdphol, Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces.

## Resolute support for Namibia

"The Chinese Communist Party, Government and people resolutely stand by the side of Namibian people," reiterated Premier Zhao Ziyang on January 27 when he met the SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization of Namibia) Delegation led by its President Sam Nujoma.

Premier Zhao said that China strongly opposes the South African racist regime, backed by the United States, for refusing to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on Namibia. China also is opposed to the US action of deliberately complicating matters by linking the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola with the independence of Namibia, two issues of different natures.

The Premier told the delegation that China has unswervingly supported SWAPO and the Namibian people's just struggle for national liberation under its leadership. "We have not only supported you politically and morally, but also provided as much material assistance as we can. No matter what changes in the world situation, China will remain firm in supporting your just cause," he said.

The delegation paid a visit to China from January 24 to 28.

## AFIUC council holds meeting

The Association for International Understanding of China (AFIUC) held its second council meeting in Beijing on January 28 to review its work of the past year and outline plans for 1983.

Founded in September 1981, the AFIUC is composed of prominent personages, scholars and social activists from various Chinese organizations, political parties and other social bodies. A public organization, the AFIUC aims at promoting understanding and friendship between China and other countries and safeguarding world peace. To this end, it engages in

such activities as the exchange of visitors, the organization of forums and lectures, participation in international conferences, exchange of publications, etc.

The council meeting was presided over by its president, Li Yimang, who is a veteran revolutionary who took part in the Long March of 1934-35 and has been New China's ambassador to several countries. He is also a member of the CPC Central Advisory Commission. Li is well versed in classical Chinese literature and poetry and is a noted calligrapher.

By the end of 1982, said vice-president Zhang Zhixiang in his report to the meeting, the AFIUC had received 180 foreign visitors in 56 delegations. Among them were a number of leaders of third world nationalist parties, second world politicians, and scholars from international organizations, academic bodies and research institutions.

Zhu Xuefan, vice-president of the AFIUC and Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and Lei Jieqiong, another AFIUC vice-president and Deputy Mayor of Beijing, also spoke at the meeting. They said that 1983 will see continued political stability and economic growth in China. In a world where the economy as a whole is mired in a deep crisis and the political situation is turbulent, it can be expected that China will attract more international attention. At the same time, China needs to better understand other countries. In such circumstances, the AFIUC should make greater efforts to make more friends.

*United States***Reagan's State of the Union**

**A**LTHOUGH the State of the Union message is a regular annual event in US politics, President Ronald Reagan's speech to a joint session of Congress on January 25 seemed to attract more attention than usual.

How the president was going to deal with the disappointing domestic situation would not only affect his performance in the remaining two years of his term, but would determine whether he will be able to run for re-election in 1984.

**A Change in Tone**

President Reagan predictably devoted the bulk of his address to the most troublesome economic problems. And in this respect people found a change in his tone, compared with the self-confident, optimistic language he used when he entered the White House two years ago.

He said the current US economic recession is worse than anyone inside or outside the administration expected. He admitted that the nearly US\$200 billion federal deficits are "a clear and present danger" to the country. To most Americans, particularly the 12 million jobless, he acknowledged, "this is a painful period." His projections for an economic recovery this year are not at all cheering, saying it has got a long way to go.

Two years ago he did not say such things. He boasted that his administration would go down in US annals as a period of national rejuvenation.

But, two years have elapsed and Reagan's economic programme has suffered setbacks in every respect, with the exception of the substantial reduction in the inflation rate.

Reagan's State of the Union address described the spiralling deficits as both the symptom and cause of the economic malady. He announced several remedial measures, including:

- 1) A freeze in the growth of federal government spending, which would apply to the total national budget except defence, and would fix the total expenditures next year at the level of 1983.
- 2) Specific steps to control the cost of food stamps and other social programmes.
- 3) Adjustments in the defence budget to save US\$55 billion over the next five years.
- 4) A standby tax increase plan to go into effect in 1986 if needed to curb ballooning deficits.

Rarely in US history has the government frozen federal spending, and the fact speaks to the serious nature of the current deficit problem. The proposed reduction of defence spending would average slightly more than \$10 billion annually, not a very impressive figure compared with the nearly \$200 billion deficits each year.

Moreover, the standby tax increase plan, which would not take effect until 1986, cannot overcome the "present" danger.

In total, these measures can hardly be expected to bring about a fundamental solution to US economic troubles.

Nevertheless, Reagan's decision to hike taxes and cut defence spending represents a major revision of his original economic policy. Only a year ago, still touting the supply-side theory, he opposed tax increases and promised not to slash the defence budget. Now, forced by reality, he has no other choice.

Furthermore, opinion polls show that Reagan's political prestige has dropped to the lowest point since he took office. Ironically, his critics are not only the poor, but Big Business bosses, who do not hide their dissatisfaction with his economic policies. And some Republicans are pulling away from him, and even have asked him not to run for re-election in 1984. Reagan is in a tough situation.

**External Relations No Better**

The State of the Union message contains nothing new on foreign relations. The main issues that Reagan dealt with were international trade and the US-Soviet talks on reduction of Euro-missiles. The Reagan administration is not in a favourable position on either issue.

The deepening recession in the West is aggravating differences between Washington and its allies on trade issues and on how to deal with Moscow.

Reagan, of course, reiterated American determination to maintain a powerful nuclear deterrent force and asked US allies to show an equal "stead-

fastness." But, the mounting anti-nuclear weapons movement is putting increasing pressure on the US as well as West European governments.

In response, Reagan also expressed willingness to "carefully explore serious Soviet proposals" on arms control, which is an unmistakable hint that Washington would take a flexible stance in the US-Soviet Geneva talks.

On the trade war among the Western nations, he restated the American stand of upholding free trade principles, criticized other countries' protectionist measures and demanded lower world trade tariffs. But contrary to his rhetoric, he actually is practising protectionism in agricultural products, iron, steel and textiles. This double-faced policy cannot help but sharpen contradictions between the United States and other countries.

The American press says President Reagan showed a poor performance in the first two years of his term. His State of the Union address suggests that he has learnt some lessons from reality.

— Zhang Dezhen

## US-Soviet

# Geneva talks on nuclear missiles

THE year-long US-Soviet Geneva talks on medium-range nuclear missiles reopened on January 27. Before the meeting, the dispute between Moscow and Washington over this issue had been both open and veiled.

When US Secretary of State George Shultz attended the NATO council meeting last December, the NATO countries re-

peatedly declared that if no agreement were reached in the Geneva talks between the United States and the Soviet Union, NATO would begin to deploy 572 Pershing II and cruise missiles in five West European countries in late December of 1983.

US Vice-President George Bush, who is making a European trip at the end of January, will try to reassure its allies about US disarmament policy and persuade them not to vacillate. On the eve of the Geneva talks, successive urgent meetings were held in the White House to study countermeasures.

On the other hand, Moscow has put forward a series of new proposals since the new Soviet leadership came to power. A Warsaw Pact summit and a Warsaw Treaty defence ministerial conference held in Prague in early January this year reiterated Moscow's disarmament proposals in their public statements.

## Moscow's New Proposals

The main points of the series of new proposals put forward by Soviet leader Yuri Andropov last December and the subsequent supplements are: 1. the United States must abandon plans to deploy 572 Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe and the Soviet Union will agree to reduce its missiles in Europe to the number of missiles possessed by the British and French; 2. if agreement is reached, the Soviet Union is prepared to destroy some of its SS-20 missiles and move others to more distant parts of the Soviet Union from which they could no longer reach the



West European countries; and 3. Moscow will accept a future nuclear arms inspection agreement. This means that the Soviet Union will agree to international nuclear arms inspection in accordance with essential international procedure.

The West European media point out that Moscow's proposals represent some new changes. In the past, the Soviet Union insisted that the nuclear strength of both sides in Europe be approximately equal, but now it acknowledges that the Soviet Union has attained superiority in medium-range nuclear missiles. In the past, the Soviets have repeated the demand that medium-range missiles and US forward-based nuclear weapons in Europe, including US bombers stationed in Europe, be brought within the scope of the arms control talks. But now Moscow agrees to cut down the number of medium-range nuclear missiles first and then reduce the number of aircraft. All these new gestures show the Soviet Union has kicked the ball to the United States.

## Washington's Reaction

The United States has been in a passive position vis-a-vis the Soviet "peace offensives." Washington first rejected the Soviet proposals, but then changed its attitude and offered some positive comments. Now President Reagan has agreed to hold US-Soviet summit talks, and has also repeated that he is

determined to explore every possibility for attaining a fair agreement. US arms negotiator Paul Nitze said in Geneva that the United States is prepared to "reach an agreement which meets the security requirements of the US and its NATO allies." Some of the US Western allies, including West Germany and Britain, suggest that they should seek a compromise on the "zero-option" proposal. This means that if Moscow reduces the number of its medium-range missiles NATO will cancel its planned deployment of new missiles.

### No Basic Change

Both Moscow and Washington have their own schemes and calculations. The Soviet Union is attempting to cut down part of its SS-20 missile force in exchange for the non-deployment of US Euro-missiles. Moscow is launching its "peace offensive" at a time when Western Europe is experiencing economic and political instability. The anti-nuclear movement is mounting. Moscow is trying to win over European public opinion and sow discord in US-European relations, to put more pressure on the United States. Washington has insisted on the "zero-option" proposal in an attempt to break the Soviet superiority in medium-range nuclear missiles.

Moscow and Washington have made some changes in their stances towards the Geneva talks because both are now having difficulties at home. The Soviet domestic economy has problems, and in foreign affairs Moscow is heavily burdened by the wars in Afghanistan and Kampuchea. If Moscow gets into another round of arms escala-

tion, its economic difficulties will increase. On the US side, Washington and its West European allies have serious economic and political differences that have produced a split in the Western alliance.

Large budget deficits in the United States have made more and more Americans demand reductions in the military budget to solve the economic recession and severe unemployment. The Reagan administration has been forced to cut out part of the military budget.

### OPEC

## Unproductive emergency meeting

THE two-day ministerial meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries ended Jan. 24 in Geneva without any agreement on output quotas or price differentials.

### Differences

The first day of the meeting went smoothly with very little disagreement. But on the second day, when Nigeria put forward a new proposal, the meeting ran into a bad snag. The proposal called for reducing OPEC's daily oil production ceiling to 17.5 million barrels from 18.5 million barrels, for maintaining the OPEC reference price of US\$34 a barrel for Arabian light crude, and for keeping the existing price differential between the high-quality light crude of the African countries and the standard light crude of Saudi Arabia.

At first 11 of the 13 OPEC

countries agreed with this proposal. Only Saudi Arabia and Kuwait objected. Later, however, they were joined by Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Dispute over price differentials was one of the main stumbling blocks at the meeting. Since the spring of last year, Libya, Nigeria and Algeria have been selling their high-quality light crude at only \$1.5 above the OPEC reference price of \$34 a barrel for Arabian light crude. This made it difficult for Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states to sell their oil and they were forced to repeatedly cut back their production levels. Their request that the three African countries raise their price differentials by \$2 to \$4 so as to ensure a market for Gulf light crude was not heeded.

— Chen Tean

### Serious Challenge

In the spring of 1981, the world faced a glut in oil, with

a surplus of 1.5 million to 2 million barrels a day, and the price of crude began to falter. This phenomenon was tied to the world economic situation at the time. With the recent general slump in the Western economy, there has been a tendency to economize on oil and to find substitutes for oil. Such activities have cut demands for oil. Furthermore, the rapid development of oil production by countries which are not members of OPEC has eliminated some traditional OPEC markets.

The fact that the oil monopolies and some Western countries have been selling off their oil stockpiles, forcing down the price of crude oil and ceasing to purchase oil has presented OPEC the gravest challenge in its 20-odd-year history.

To counter this challenge, the OPEC members have sharply reduced production and given loans to the worst-hit member countries in order to stabilize oil prices. The struggle is still not over. Although serious differences exist among the OPEC members, they are all making efforts to avoid a split in OPEC and hope to reach agreement soon.

—Cheng Li

## Canada

# Trudeau's ASEAN visit

**I**N mid-January Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau ended a 13-day visit to the five ASEAN countries—Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines. This is his first visit to this region since taking office in 1968. Trudeau also visited Brunei and Japan. His visit attracted

much attention and achieved positive results. The common view is that the relations between Canada and the ASEAN countries will further develop therefrom.

## "Third Option" Policy

Trudeau's tour came against a background of Western economic slump, prevailing protectionism and increasing trade friction. Although Canada is rich in resources and at a comparatively high degree of industrialization, its economic development heavily depends on the United States. To reduce its dependence on the United States, the Canadian Government has adopted the "third option" principle in its foreign policy for more than 10 years. It has actively promoted relations with European, Asian and Pacific and Latin American countries and has been seeking new investment and export markets. Trudeau's visit to the ASEAN countries is a major effort in the Canadian pursuit of the "third option" principle to expand economic co-operation.

In recent years the political and economic relations between Canada and the ASEAN countries have steadily developed. The first formal talks between Canada and the ASEAN countries began in 1977. Since 1980 Canada has attended the annual foreign ministers meetings held to promote dialogue between the ASEAN countries and other countries. In September of 1981 Canada signed economic co-operation agreements with the ASEAN countries and established a joint assistance committee.

## Co-operation Strengthened

During his visit Trudeau discussed with ASEAN leaders the issue of expanding and strength-

ening bilateral economic co-operation. Canada and Thailand signed two agreements on economic co-operation and investment insurance. Trudeau and Malaysian leaders discussed future Canadian investments and joint ventures in Malaysia's economic development programmes.

To balance trade, Canada agreed to Indonesia's "equal purchase" policy for boosting Indonesian exports to Canada. Canada and the Philippines discussed the question of Canadian aid for major Philippine projects. During Trudeau's visit to the Philippines, Canada agreed to supply uranium to the Philippines for its nuclear power plant.

The Canadian Government has always recognized the strategic importance of the ASEAN countries. Canadian officials have stressed repeatedly that the ASEAN countries, located around the Strait of Malacca, have a most important strategic position. Since the Soviet intervention in Southeast Asian affairs and support for the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea, Canada has paid more attention to the political situation there than before. Since the five ASEAN countries have become a co-ordinated unit, politically and economically, Canada has recognized that they constitute an important force in the Asian and Pacific region. They have played a major role in safeguarding the peace and promoting the economic prosperity of this region.

—Ren Yan



# Prospects for China's Foreign Trade in 1983

by Chen Muhua, State Councillor and concurrently Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade

**China has a great potential for its foreign trade and is optimistic about the prospect for its development.**

**During the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85), the total volume of China's foreign trade is slated to increase at an annual rate of 8.7 per cent. It is planned that the total volume for 1983 will be about 19 per cent higher than last year.**

**The key to fulfil these targets lies in expanding exports to meet changing demands of the international market.**

**T**HE year 1983 will witness new developments in China's national economy, including new contributions from foreign trade, an important aspect of the national economy.

## Four Years of Growth

China has pursued a policy of stimulating its economy and opening to the outside world since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee at the end of 1978.

By 1982, the total volume of foreign trade had reached US \$38,600 million, up 87.1 per cent in four years. The total export volume increased from US \$9,700 million in 1978 to US \$21,600 million in 1982; the total import volume rose from US \$10,900 million to US \$17,000 million.

In 1982 China borrowed US \$1,630 million in foreign capital for various projects and absorbed about US \$700 million in foreign capital for government departments and regions and in direct foreign investment. It spent US \$1,700 million to import technology and equipment for whole factories, US \$29 million for production and technological co-operation with foreign countries and US \$586 million in contracts for projects and labour service co-operation with foreign countries. It also conducted a business volume of US \$371 million and gave US \$540 million in foreign aid.



China's domestic economy was unaffected by the 1982 recession on the international market because socialist production is aimed at meeting the people's growing material and cultural needs, which know no bounds. The cycles of economic crises resulting from overproduction, characteristic of the capitalist world, do not exist in China.

In 1982 China's total industrial output value increased 7.4 per cent and harvests were generally good with the total grain at an all time high of 344.3 million tons. These gains together with new measures to encourage exports provided favourable conditions for developing foreign trade.

## New Tasks

Under China's Sixth Five-Year Plan, the total import and export trade volume in 1985 is expected to reach US \$57,400 million, 51.8 per cent above the 1980 figure, for an average annual increase of 8.7 per cent.

Thus, the goal for the total volume of foreign trade in 1983 is US \$45,900 million, with the exports set for US \$22,000 million and imports US \$23,900 million. This rate of growth can be achieved through efforts because:

First, the 12.3 per cent average annual increase in the total volume of China's foreign trade between 1950-80 was slightly higher than the world average. In 1981 while the total world export volume dropped, China's exports increased 14.3 per cent.

Second, China's total exports today account for only 1 per cent of the world's total of nearly US \$2,000,000 million. The varieties of commodities we can supply are still limited. Therefore, China must work to change the mix of its exported commodities, develop new varieties, and enter new markets.

Third, the world today is experiencing a depression in imports and exports. Thus, the supply of capital goods has been reduced but the demand for consumer goods is rising. China is well able to export such commodities.

Fourth, China's exports of machinery, chemical industrial and other products occupy a very small proportion of the world's total exports in these categories. For example, the exports of mechanical and electrical products, instruments and meters are only 0.14 per cent of world exports and chemical industrial products (not including petroleum) 0.42 per cent. We are able to rapidly increase our ability to export these goods.

Fifth, the development of diverse forms of foreign economic activities will inevitably help bring more Chinese goods to the international markets. Contracts for foreign projects and labour service co-operation are new Chinese foreign co-operative undertakings. They will boost the export of building materials, mechanical, electrical and light industrial products.

Clearly, China can expect good prospects for developing its export trade. Furthermore, an increased export will help enlarge our ability to import equipment and materials necessary for our modernization programme.

To fulfil our total volume of import and ex-

port trade for 1983, we must expand export. This forms the basis of our foreign economic relations and trade. A stronger exporting ability makes it possible for us to import more equipment and materials suited to the urgent needs of socialist modernization programme.

## Expand Export

Today the international market is a buyer's market. Exported commodities must suit the changing international market demands. Only low-priced, high-quality goods are competitive on the international market. "Protectionist" measures are an increasingly common feature of international trade, such as the restrictions on imports that many countries have adopted.

In order to improve China's ability to compete in export trade, we have adopted the following policies and measures:

### Readjust Commodity Mix, Make the Most of Our Resources and Export More Resourceful

**Products.** We will maintain the present level of oil exports until marine oil is exploited and gradually increase the exports of nonferrous metals and their processed products. The export of coal should be increased by a big margin gradually.

Although China produces much machinery, exports of these products account for only 4 per cent of the nation's export total. Thus efforts must be made to tap this potential.

Traditional commodities such as agricultural, sideline and special local products, as well

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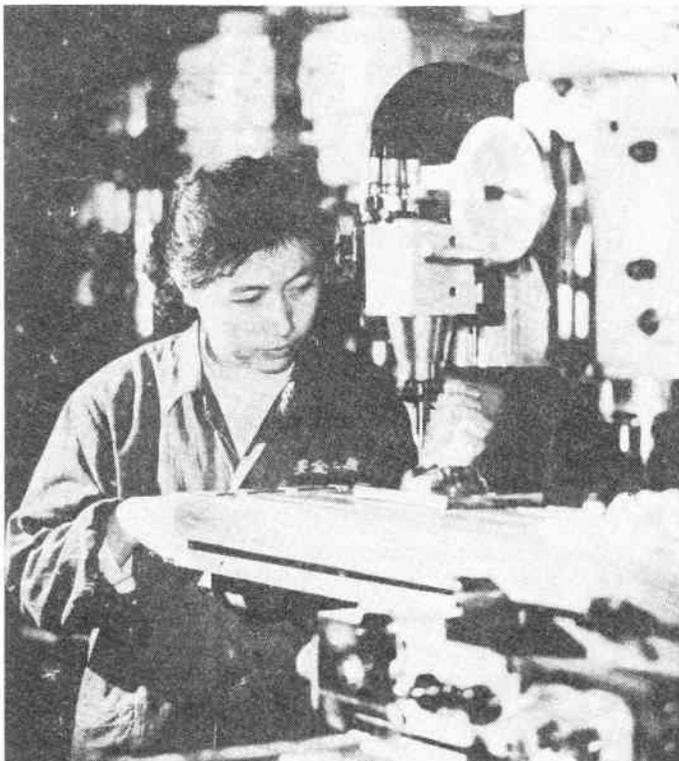
**The goal set for exports in 1983 is US \$22,000 million, for imports US \$23,900 million.**

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**Table**

**Mix of Exported Commodities**

Year	Farm & sideline products (%)	Light industrial products (%)	Heavy industrial products (%)
1953	55.7	26.9	17.4
1959	37.6	41.9	20.5
1969	37.4	41.2	21.4
1979	23.1	45.0	31.9
1980	19.0	42.4	38.6
1981	17.6	39.0	43.4



A worker at the Nantong Machine-Tools Plant in Jiangsu Province tests universal radial milling machines for export to the United States.

as light and textile industrial goods, will remain important components of China's exports (see Table).

**Improve Quality to Win Customers.** Raw materials and primary products make up almost half of China's exported products. Therefore, we must stress our ability to process raw materials and improve the processed primary products before they are exported. While continually improving the quality of commodities, we should strive to increase designs and varieties and improve packaging so as to upgrade the products and sell superior-quality products at reasonable prices.

**Build Production Bases and Factories That Produce Commodities for Export.** While arranging the production of exported commodities, we must gradually increase the number of products on our order forms, to be flexible in face of changing international market demands. This will require constructing a group of production bases and factories for foreign trade.

By the end of 1982 we had established 24 comprehensive bases for export commodities, 90 production bases for a variety of single com-

modities and 94 factories and mines for exported goods.

This year, while consolidating and improving the existing bases and factories, we still need to build a group of new production bases, factories and mines.

These include production bases that produce fresh-water fish and poultry in Guangdong and Fujian Provinces, neighbours of Xianggang and Aomen, and livestock-breeding and aquatic products bases in other regions.

**Maximize the Advantages of the Coastal Areas, Process Imported Materials and Export Finished Products.** Shanghai, Tianjin and other big coastal cities have a solid industrial foundation, a high technical level, good communications and transport facilities and extensive experience in international exchange. These advantages allow them to maximize the use of foreign capital, to process imported materials and export finished products.

**Solve the Transport and Storage Problems.** Timely supply is important for foreign economic relations and trade. Even if two competing commodities are of equivalent quality, the one that is delivered rapidly is at an advantage. It is, therefore, necessary to improve the means of transport in order to facilitate circulation.

The two ports of Nantong and Zhangjiagang have opened to foreign ships on the navigational routes along the Changjiang River. But other improvements are needed. Local authorities must have greater decision-making powers. Regions, departments and enterprises should be allowed to use their own funds or foreign capital to build small and medium-sized ports and special wharves in order to improve transport for foreign trade and to simplify export procedures.

We have decided to deal with the shortage of storage capacity by introducing among existing warehouses the system of enterprise management. We will devise standardized charges for storage and independent accounting to encourage a more rapid turnover rate in the warehouses.

**Open Up New Markets.** While consolidating and developing international trade relations with other countries, we should actively enter new markets and further develop our trade relations.

We wish to join efforts with other third world countries to strengthen "South-South"

co-operation in order to change the irrational and unequal international economic order.

### **Increase Imports**

China will increase its imports of technology and equipment in the years to come, to meet the needs of national economic development.

The composition of imports has changed tremendously in the past few years and the changes will be more noticeable in 1983. The emphasis has shifted to the import of certain raw materials needed for technical transforma-

tion and production in enterprises. There has been a drastic cut in the import of consumer goods.

According to incomplete statistics from various localities, the imports of technology and equipment account for 37 per cent, industrial raw materials 39 per cent, materials for farm use 7 per cent, market goods 9 per cent and other items 8 per cent. These figures are a reflection of the moves towards a rational mix of imported commodities following China's entry into a new historical period in economic construction, and it represents an encouraging change. □

## **China Will Never Seek Hegemony**

by "Renmin Ribao" Commentator

**T**O defend world peace and firmly oppose hegemonism, the Chinese people have repeatedly declared to the world that under no circumstances shall we seek hegemony.

This means that China will never seek to become a superpower or resort to force or political and economic means, as the superpowers do, to invade, control or plunder other countries or interfere in their affairs. This position is determined by China's socialist system.

The foreign policies of imperialist countries ruled by exploiting classes invariably are based upon power politics characterized by the law of the jungle. These countries will inevitably seize every opportunity to expand and seek more spheres of influence. This is also determined by their social systems.

Ours is a socialist country. At home, we have abolished the system of exploitation and oppression of men by men; in our foreign affairs we follow a policy of peace. We oppose national oppression, power politics and all forms of imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism. We maintain that all countries, big and small, are equal, and support the struggle of all oppressed nations for emancipation. All these in essence decide that China will never pursue a hegemonist policy.

Precisely as Comrade Hu Yaobang said in his report to the CPC 12th Congress, "The founding of our People's Republic has removed the social causes both of China's submission to

foreign aggression and of any possibility of China committing aggression abroad."

Lenin once severely criticized those "socialists" who championed the system of national oppression by calling them socialists or internationalists in words but chauvinists and annexationists in deeds.

Today, certain self-styled socialist countries are still trying to impose their own will upon others by force and even attempt to control other countries. By using force or political and economic means in a bid to "export revolution," they are embarked on the road of hegemonism and have become invaders and oppressors of other nations and saboteurs of world peace. This lesson merits attention.

Comrade Mao Zedong unequivocally proclaimed that China would never seek hegemonism, a conclusion he reached after a careful summary of the experiences and lessons in history and contemporary world politics.

Engels once said that nobody can enslave a nation without being punished. Clearly, the hegemonist policy of a country jeopardizes the interests not only of the people of other countries but also of its own people.

In the international community, the activities of all nations and countries are inter-related and influence each other. The interests of the people of all countries are, in the final analysis, identical. In making inroads into other nations, the hegemonists will eventually force the people of their own countries to pay the

price. No hegemonist in history has come to a good end, nor will hegemonists of the world today escape the punishment meted out by this historical law.

China's resolute opposition to hegemonism and its determination of never seeking hegemony under all circumstances are in the interests of the Chinese people and completely conform to those of the people of the rest of the world. These also help the lofty cause of safeguarding world peace.

China's determination not to seek hegemony also stems from the Chinese people's deep-seated hatred for hegemonism, a hatred ingrained in them through long years of humiliation at the hands of imperialists and hegemonists since the Opium War of 1840-42.

To win national independence, freedom and emancipation, and to safeguard their sacred and independent national rights, the Chinese people waged long, arduous struggles against imperialists and colonialists. Even today, when liberation has been secured, the Chinese people are still threatened by superpower hegemony.

Our national independence is hard-won and we highly treasure it.

As the ancient Chinese saying goes: "Do not do to others what you don't wish to have done to yourself." China shares common experiences with many other developing countries and faces the same struggles. We must perform our internationalist duty to unite and co-operate with these countries and support each other. On no account should we do, or even think of doing anything to bully the smaller, weaker nations.

Recently, some suggestion has been made that China's efforts to strengthen unity and co-operation with other third world countries are a bid to become the leader of the third world. Some have said this out of misunderstanding, but there are undeniably some narrow-minded people who cannot comprehend the intentions of a fair-minded person.

Every hegemonist craves to be the leader of a bloc, a region or even the whole world so that at the wave of his baton he can put his

interests above those of the people of other countries and impose his will upon other countries.

China is a developing socialist country and an equal member of the third world. Our state policy of never seeking hegemony dictates that we cannot and shall never become the leader of the third world or of any bloc of countries.

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***We oppose national oppression, power politics and all forms of imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism.***

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Although the first clear-cut principle of never seeking hegemony was put forth by China in the early 1970s, it has been an important component of the thought guiding China's foreign policy since the early days of the founding of the People's Republic.

During the Sino-Indian talks in 1953, Premier Zhou Enlai presented the famous Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Later the five principles, officially endorsed together with India and Burma, won the approval of the governments and peoples of many countries.

Over more than three decades, New China has established diplomatic relations with 126 countries and settled boundary problems with Burma, Nepal, Mongolia, Pakistan and Afghanistan through consultations on the basis of equality in accordance with the Five Principles.

These principles have now become an important, fundamental norm governing international relations. They reflect the common desire of newly independent countries to safeguard independence and sovereignty as well as world peace. They are an important contribution to current world politics by the newly independent countries and a powerful weapon against power politics and all kinds of hegemonism.

The Chinese Government and people have always abided by the principle of never seeking hegemony in their dealings with other countries. We have not occupied one inch of the territory of another country, nor have we stationed a single soldier in other lands, nor encroached upon the sovereignty of other countries, nor interfered in their internal affairs. Still less have we imposed unequal relations on any other country.

We have always adhered to the principled stand of combating imperialism, colonialism

and hegemonism, and supported the just struggles of the people of various countries. Shortly after the founding of the People's Republic, we resolutely sent our fine sons and daughters to fight shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Korean people against US aggressors. However, as soon as they fulfilled their internationalist duty, the Chinese People's Volunteers completely withdrew from Korea to the motherland.

We also went all out to support the Vietnamese people's struggle against US imperialism and for independence and national salvation. In the whole process of its assistance to the Vietnamese struggle, China never interfered in Viet Nam's internal affairs or sought any special privileges.

When the Le Duan clique requited kindness with enmity and repeatedly infringed on China's borders, the Chinese people were compelled to give due punishment to the Vietnamese authorities with counterattack in self-defence. But once this aim was accomplished, the Chinese People's Liberation Army immediately and completely withdrew their forces to their

own country without leaving a single soldier on Vietnamese soil.

For more than 30 years, we have extended what economic assistance we could to friendly third world countries without any political strings attached. All this is clear to the world's people and manifestly demonstrates the guiding thought of never seeking hegemony in China's foreign policy.

Judging by the history of foreign relations of our People's Republic in the past 30 years or so, anyone free from prejudice will have no difficulty in drawing the fair conclusion: Socialist China has acted in good faith and adhered to principles, and has always treated other states and nations equally and with an attitude of mutual respect.

We are pursuing a policy of proletarian internationalism instead of hegemonism. Refusing to seek hegemonism is by no means a tactic or an expedient measure but an unswerving principle that we will adhere to for ever. It will withstand the tests of history and time.

(January 12)

## China's Technical Co-operation With the United Nations

by Bu Zhaomin

SINCE the restoration of its lawful seat at the United Nations in 1972, China has participated in many UN multilateral technical co-operation activities. Between 1972 and 1978, as a donor nation of the UN development system, China donated funds and technologies to the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Capital Development Fund, the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and other organizations. Since 1979, China has implemented the policy of mutual exchange, that is, while donating funds to UN organizations and undertaking their projects, China also receives technical assistance from these organizations. Mutual co-operation has made rapid progress in the last decade.

The author is director of the liaison bureau of international organizations under the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

Entrusted by the United Nations, China has, since 1974, used the funds provided by organizations of the UN development system to impart its technical skills to some developing countries by holding inspection tours, classes, discussion meetings, technical training classes and by dispatching experts. These items include fresh-water fish breeding, biogas, acupuncture, silk-worm breeding, rural comprehensive development, elementary health co-operation, transport and communications, small hydropower stations, diesel engine technology and groundwater exploration. From 1979 to 1981, 1,400 experts, technicians and administrative personnel from developing countries took part in 92 such activities.

Take fresh-water fish breeding for example. In collaboration with the United Nations, China had held eight training classes by 1982, attended by a total of 150 trainees. Upon return to their

countries, they have helped their governments build fish spawning and breeding ponds and some have successfully bred fish. Trainees from Sri Lanka have hatched fish fries with good results in their first experiment.

China's biogas technology has been valued in the world because of its local availability, low cost, economic returns and ease of popularization. From 1979 to 1981, under the sponsorship of UN organizations, technicians from more than 50 countries and international organizations came to China for biogas inspection tours. China also held two biogas training classes attended by technicians from nearly 30 countries and regions in the world.

In co-operation with the UN Development Programme, China has since 1981 set up seven regional research and training centres for such projects as fresh-water fishery, small hydropower, rural comprehensive development, elementary health co-operation, sericulture, acupuncture and biogas. Trainees from many countries are now being trained in these centres.

The Chinese Government, UN organizations and countries in the Asian and Pacific region are planning to establish training centres for Chinese herbal medicine, the utilization of the forestry resources, small cement factories, pumping equipment and anticorrosion. These centres have played or will play a positive role in introducing China's technologies and experiences to developing countries in the Asian and Pacific

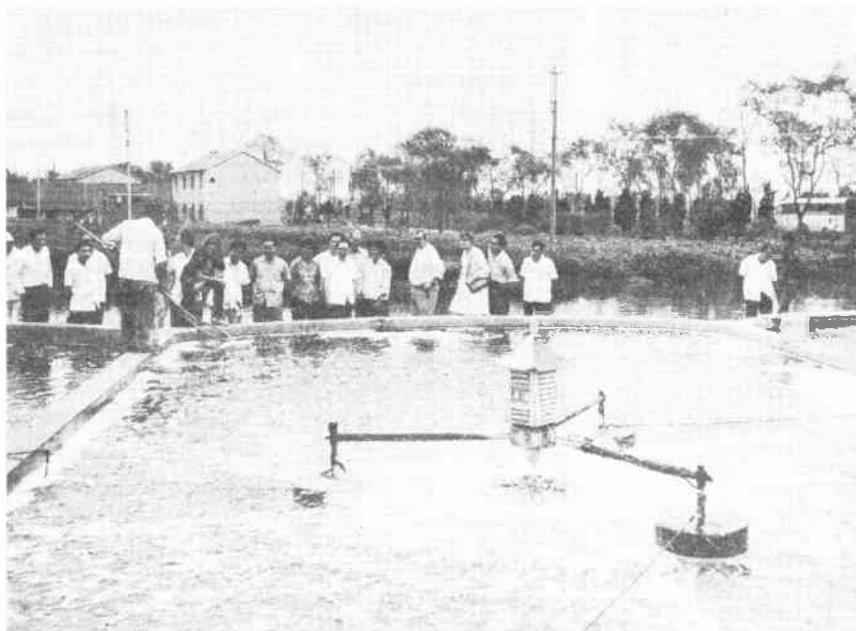
and other regions and in enhancing economic and technical co-operation among the developing countries.

China has all along adhered to the principle of independence and self-reliance in its socialist construction while at the same time receiving appropriate assistance and learning advanced technologies from other countries.

Since its acceptance of UN aid, China has received about 230 million US dollars in grants, including those promised from the UN Development Programme, the UN Fund for Population Activities and the UN Children's Fund. These funds have been used for some 200 technical co-operative projects involving industry, agriculture, transport and communications, culture, education, public health, population, energy resources, scientific research, children's welfare and infrastructure. More than 30 of these projects have already been completed.

Technical assistance from the United Nations has played a supplementary and complementary role in China's economic and technical growth. The larger B-6810 computers and the smaller HP-3000 computers have been effectively used for different purposes.

China bought a set of computers with an appropriation from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities which is being used to compile and analyse data from China's third census of July 1, 1982.



Fresh-water fish breeding class observes aeration techniques.

The Chinese Government has attached great importance to these projects. It not only allocated a considerable amount of funds for capital construction, equipment and expenses for training personnel, but has appointed special departments to be responsible for the implementation of these projects. Thus, these projects are making good progress.

In addition, financed by the United Nations, China has trained many specialized personnel by inviting foreign experts to give

lectures, consultations and technical guidance, and by sending people abroad to make inspection tours and attend international meetings or training classes, thus deepening their understanding of the development of advanced technology in the world.

In June 1982, the Chinese Investment Promotion Meeting was held in Guangzhou sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. Participating in the meeting were over 400 businessmen and personnel in banking, industry and com-

merce from 23 countries and regions. There were talks on the 121 Chinese projects absorbing foreign investment, and letters of intent for 70 projects were signed.

China's participation in UN multilateral economic and technical activities has contributed to enhancing mutual understanding between China and other countries, to expanding economic and technical exchanges and to the training of qualified personnel. This positive co-operation, based on equality and respect for sovereignty, has bright prospects for the future. □

## *Higher Education*

# Today and Tomorrow

by Our Correspondent Xiao Qian

**E**DUCATION was designated by the 12th Party Congress as a strategically important area along with agriculture, energy, communications and science for overall national economic development. Institutions of higher learning are gearing up to meet the demand for qualified intellectuals to serve economic and cultural construction. What is the condition of China's colleges and universities now and how will they be expanded and improved in the years ahead?

### **Accomplishments and Problems**

Future development must take the present situation as its starting point. While China has accomplished much in higher education in the last 33 years, it still faces many problems.

Since liberation, 3.54 million students have graduated from institutions of higher learning (600,000 in the last four years). These college graduates are today backbone forces in many fields of endeavour.

China's institutions of higher learning can be classified into full-time universities and colleges and other types.

By the end of 1982, the number of full-time universities and colleges had increased from 205 in 1949 to 598 in 1978, and it is more than 700 today, with an enrolment of 1.35 million students, nearly 11 times that of the early post-liberation period. These institutions are centres of teaching and scientific research. They em-

ploy a full-time teaching staff of 250,000, of whom 4,231 are professors, 20,000 associate professors and 118,000 lecturers.

In addition to full-time schools, the Central Radio and TV University was set up in February 1979 and 28 similar universities were established by provincial departments, enrolling 800,000 students in the past three years; 78,000 students have already graduated and another 140,000 have completed specialized courses of study. In addition, workers and staff universities, peasants universities, correspondence universities and evening universities have 490,000 students.

To encourage the establishment of schools and independent study, the Ministry of Education recently set up a national examination committee which administers nationwide tests for graduates from schools run by units without license from the Ministry of Education and certifies their graduates if the students' exam scores are up to the required standard and issues them diplomas. Employed young people are eagerly studying and already more than 10,000 people in Beijing alone have sat for the national university-equivalency exam. In response to the desires of these youths, many private schools and remedial classes have come into existence, and the educational field is flourishing.

China's higher education is still confronted with these outstanding problems:

— The scale is small and the number of students is limited. There are only 11 university

students for every 10,000 people. This is far fewer than in developed countries, lags behind some developing countries and is falling far short of the requirements of China's economic development.

— The quality of moral, intellectual, and physical education needs to be improved. Intellectual development not only refers to the students' school records and their levels of knowledge, but also includes broadening and updating their knowledge and their comprehensive abilities to analyse and tackle problems.

— The curricula offered by institutions of higher learning are out-of-balance. The proportion of finance, management, political science, law, and liberal arts should be increased as should that of subjects related to textile and other light industries. As compared with undergraduate courses, the ratio of special training courses should also be increased.

### **Task**

The main task for national economic construction during the decade of the 80s is to accumulate strength and prepare the groundwork for stimulating the economy in the ensuing 10 years. To set the stage, higher education in the 80s will develop faster than the economy as a whole.

Under the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85), the number of students to be enrolled in full-time institutions of higher learning will increase from 280,000 in 1980 to 400,000 in 1985, a 42.2 per cent rise. Total enrolment in these institutions alone will reach 1.3 million, an increase of 13.6 per cent over 1980. The number of graduates over the five years will total 1.5 million. The Ministry of Education predicts that institutions of higher learning will take in over 600,000 full-time students in 1990, twice as much as the 1980 figure, thus raising the number of full-time undergraduate students to about 2 million.

Workers and staff universities, peasants universities, correspondence universities and radio and TV universities will develop faster



**Prof. Fei Xiaotong (Fei Hsiao Tung), Director of the Institute of Sociology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, with students of Nankai University in Tianjin.**

than full-time universities. The number of students to be enrolled and the total enrolment will surpass those of full-time universities.

Post-graduate education which has been restored and developed in the past few years will continue to develop rapidly. In 1980, graduate schools enrolled 3,600 new students; in 1981, 11,000; in 1985, a projected 20,000.

### **Measures**

The continuous development of the national economy and greater investment in education are the prerequisites for achieving China's goal to upgrade higher education. In the Sixth Five-Year Plan, funds for the development of education, science, culture, public health and physical culture constitute 15.9 per cent of the state's total expenditure, or a 4.9 per cent increase over that in the previous five-year plan. To expand higher education, the following measures are needed:

— Establish new universities and colleges and open more departments and specialities in existing institutions of higher learning, especially courses like finance, management, political science and law. Furthermore, new colleges and departments should offer more special training courses.

— Enlarge enrolment while maintaining quality. Since the shortage of dormitories adversely affects enrolment, colleges should take in more day students while building more dor-

mitories. This will make it possible to train more personnel with less money.

—Develop short-term vocational colleges. Rapid economic development in medium-sized cities and some other areas has given rise to an urgent demand for people with middle-level (or higher) professional skills. Such personnel will be trained locally because the state is unable to provide so many graduates. In such vocational colleges, the period of study is about two years; local students are enrolled and most are day students. With development of vocational colleges which started recently, China's higher education will be administered by three levels — the central government, the provincial, municipal and autonomous regional governments, and by cities — instead of only by the first two levels. Thereby higher education will be pushed forward.

—Develop multiple forms of higher education as allowed by state policies. Workers and staff universities, peasants universities, correspondence universities, TV universities and radio universities will spread and examinations will be organized for students who have reached college-graduate level through independent study. Radio and TV universities already play a significant role. From now on, radio, TV, and correspondence universities will co-operate better to enrol more students, diversify content and improve quality. Big cities will establish educational channels and offer more courses.

—Train cadres in rotation. Institutions of higher learning will also offer courses for personnel from government offices, enterprises and organizations. This will be included as a regular work of institutes of higher learning. □

## Forum Roundup

# Debates on Certain Historical Issues

by Chen Juncong

*“Emancipating the mind” became a watchword in winter 1978. In its wake came, among other heartening things, lively discussions among Chinese historians. Many major historical issues have been brought into these debates, such as the relationship between the Marxist theory of class struggle and the science of history, the motive force in the historical development of society, the prolonged existence of feudal society in China, the historical role of peasant wars and the Asiatic mode of production. Some of these topics were “forbidden zones” when the gang of four were in power. Today, with all the taboos removed, Chinese historians can work on whatever topics they choose. The full exchange of opinions has contributed to the development of the Marxist science of history.*

*The following is a summary of the debates on several major issues.*

—Ed.

### **Motive Force in Historical Development**

**W**HAT is the motive force in the historical development of society? Five divergent views can be heard on this issue.

**The Productive Forces Are the Fundamental Force Propelling History Forward.** Some historians say that the history of society is first and foremost the history of the development of production. The nature and developmental

level of the productive forces decide the social structure. That is to say, the latter's changes are decided by the level of growth of the productive forces; the productive forces likewise play a direct, decisive role in the superstructure. Therefore, the struggle for production is the fundamental motive force in history.

**Class Struggle Is the Real Motive Force in the Development of History.** The majority of Chinese historians believe that the development of the economy and the productive forces in a class society cannot spontaneously change the

The author is a staff member of *Guangming Ribao*, a national scientific, cultural and educational newspaper.

course of history. History can be changed only through class struggle and revolutionary movements. In other words, only through class struggle can an old system be overthrown and a new one established, thereby altering the course of history. The conclusion: class struggle is the real force moving the history forward in class society.

**The Motive Force in Historical Development Is the Combined Force of the Movement of Social Contradictions.** Others argue that contradictions are the motive force for all objective things. The latter's changes and development, they say, are caused by the movement and solution of contradictions. The history of mankind is a complex unity of many contradictions. It is impossible for any single contradiction to play the principal, direct propelling role in this unity; rather, it is the combined force of the movement of all social contradictions that pushes human history forward.

**Mankind's Material and Economic Interests Are the Fundamental Motive Force in History.** Some historians believe that human beings develop the productive forces primarily to meet their material needs; the growth of productive forces is impelled by humanity's material needs for subsistence and development. As these needs reflect the fundamental aspects of objective things more thoroughly than the productive forces, they should constitute the fundamental force moving history forward.

**Desires Are the Motive Force in Historical Development.** A few historians believe that man's desires include both his material needs and his cultural needs, both of which contribute to the development of human history. Humanity's desires find expression in scientific and technical inventions and innovations, economic development and class struggle. It is the avid quest for material well-being and political power that propels society, feudal and capitalist alike, forward. Likewise, the lofty aspiration to satisfy society's increasing material and cultural needs is the prime mover for the growth of socialist production, and the great ideal, communism, inspires the proletariat and the people to march forward. The productive forces are simply the hallmark of historical development and class struggle is but a means for promoting historical development in a class society. Only people's desires are the impetus for the development of history.

## **Causes for the Prolonged Existence Of Feudal Society in China**

**A**CTIVE disagreements remain on the question of why Chinese feudal society (c. 475 B.C.-1911 A.D.) could persist for more than 2,000 years. Differing opinions can be summed up as follows:

**A Stable Conservative System.** Some historians say that the structure of Chinese feudal society consisted of economic, political and ideological subsystems. Interrelated and acting on each other, these three subsystems were highly centralized and formed an extraordinarily stable system. Through their mutual influence, they helped perfect the system. Their four stages of development — establishment, consolidation, growth and ossification — caused periodic instabilities in society, which, however, always returned to the old form of social stability. This conservative system, which hampered creation and innovation, constituted the basic cause for the seemingly interminable lingering of the feudal society in China.

**A Backward Economic Base.** The majority of historians are of the opinion that Chinese feudal society was built on a self-sufficient, small-peasant economy which also served as the foundation of feudal autocracy. Characterized by its conservative rigidity and stagnant growth, this economic base hampered the growth of sprouts of capitalism and stubbornly resisted the influence of capitalist economy from abroad. As a result Chinese feudal society survived many challenges and was notable for its slow development and persistent existence.

**Feudalization Unfulfilled.** Some historians attribute China's prolonged feudalism to an unfinished feudalizing process which caused the centralized autocracy to linger but never brought about the necessary social structure for the free, independent development of industry and commerce, still less the proper innovations, utilization and development of science and technology needed to boost the growth of the productive forces.

**Full-Fledged Feudalization Delayed the Outbreak of the General Social Crisis.** Opponents of the above-mentioned opinions hold that Chinese feudal society dragged on for over 2,000 years not because of unfulfilled feudalization but because of full feudalization. The high degree of feudalization opened larger vistas for the development of the productive forces than the system

under feudal lords, thereby delaying the outbreak of the general crisis in the feudal society. Full-fledged feudalization also gave society a vitality that enabled it to regulate itself and move forward continuously; it also produced a tenacity and stubbornness which lengthened the life span of the feudal society.

**Regional Expansion of the Relations of Production.** Quantitative changes in the feudal relations of production (i.e., regional expansion of such relations), feudal landlord ownership of the land based on scattered, small farms and with large numbers of land-holding peasants, an economic structure that integrated agriculture with commerce, and the reaction of that part of the superstructure, that is, the centralized feudal bureaucracy — these are believed by some to be the decisive factors accounting for the prolonged maturing and slow disintegration of the feudal economy in China. The regional expansion of the relations of production is the most significant of these factors.

### **Historical Role of Peasant Wars**

**T**HERE are two opposing views about peasant wars.

**Peasant Wars Promoted Historical Development of Chinese Society.** The majority of Chinese historians maintain that peasant wars in Chinese feudal society were unique in the world both in their frequency and scale. They say that these peasant wars overthrew a number of decaying dynasties, dealt telling blows to the most decadent and reactionary part of the feudal relations of production, and forced the landlord class to make certain readjustments and reforms in these relations.

For instance, in the early days of the Han (206 B.C.-220 A.D.), Tang (618-907), Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) Dynasties, the rulers did positive things such as reducing taxes and corvée service, reclaiming the land, building water conservancy projects and developing production.

During the peasant wars, many peasants took back the products of their labour from the landlords, acquired some farmland and lessened or got rid of their subordination to the landlords. All these helped boost the productive forces and accelerated economic progress.

**Peasant Wars "Repaired" the Feudal System.** A few people believe that because each peasant

war improved the feudal system, such wars kept the feudal society alive for many centuries while holding back the development of history. According to them, the thousands of peasant uprisings — from Chen Sheng (?-208 B.C.), who led the peasant uprising during the late Qin Dynasty, to Hong Xiuquan (1814-64), leader of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom peasant uprising in the Qing Dynasty — broke out not because the whole feudal system failed to meet the needs

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## **Foreign Languages Periodicals From China**

**BEIJING REVIEW.** Chinese weekly of news and views. English, French, Spanish, German and Japanese editions. Airmailed postage free to all parts of the world.

**CHINA PICTORIAL.** Large-format monthly of beautiful colour photographs and lively articles. Available in Chinese, English, Russian, French, German, Japanese, Spanish, Hindi, Arabic, Swahili, Urdu, Swedish, Italian, Romanian, Korean, Mongolian, Uygur, Tibetan and Kazakh.

**CHINA RECONSTRUCTS.** Illustrated monthly of in-depth domestic coverage from China. Available in Chinese, English, French, German, Spanish, Arabic and Portuguese editions. Chinese edition uses the old unsimplified Chinese characters. An additional English edition specially for North American readers will be available this year. Printed in the United States, it will be distributed in the US and Canada by China Books and Periodicals.

**JINMIN CHUGOGU.** Comprehensive monthly in Japanese includes 24 pages of full colour pictures.

**CHINESE LITERATURE.** Journal of Chinese literature and art. Monthly in English, about 140 pages per issue. Quarterly in French (LITTÉRATURE CHINOISE), about 240 pages each issue.

**EL POPOLA CINIO.** Monthly in Esperanto. Compiled and published by All-China Esperanto Association.

**WOMEN OF CHINA.** Monthly in English.

**CHINA SPORTS.** Monthly in English.

**CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE.** Bimonthly in Chinese, English, French and Spanish editions.

**CHINA'S SCREEN.** Cinema quarterly in Chinese, English, French and Spanish editions.

**CHINESE MEDICAL JOURNAL.** Monthly in English.

**CHINA PHILATELY.** Bimonthly in English.

**SOCIAL SCIENCES IN CHINA.** Quarterly journal of scholarly essays in English.

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for the development of the productive force but because the normal functions of the feudal system failed to work. The task of these wars was to repair or overhaul the whole machinery of feudalism rather than abolish it. Whatever motives of the peasants, objective law predicted that the wars they launched were nothing but fence-mending instruments for the feudal system.

### **Assessment of the 19th-Century Westernization Movement\***

FOR 120 years, discussions on Westernization remained superficial for one reason or another. The principle of "letting a hundred schools of thought contend" opened broad prospects for the research into the Westernization movement. So far there are three viewpoints on this movement's historical role.

**The Westernization Movement Drove Modern China to the Abyss of Semi-Colonialism and Semi-Feudalism.** Those who hold this opinion maintain that the Westernization movement was the criminal product of the Chinese feudal rulers' collusion with foreign invaders to oppress the revolution of the Chinese people. In the main, it was characterized by its collusion with, reliance on and compromise with foreign invaders.

\*During the 1860s-90s, comprador bureaucrats of the Qing Dynasty, the last feudal dynasty in China, imported certain production technology from capitalist countries in an effort to maintain the dynasty's feudal rule and save themselves from doom.

### **Facts and Figures**

## **Agricultural Economic Structure: 1952-81**

SINCE the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, China—an ancient agricultural country—has greatly developed farm production and altered some aspects of the agricultural economic structure. But grain crops have always held the dominant position in agriculture.

A one-sided emphasis was placed upon grain production for some years in the past. As a result, some forest and pasture areas were used for planting grain crops and the ecological equilibrium was undermined. Recent agricultural

But it was also the unity of contradictions: It limited and suppressed national capitalism but at the same time encouraged and boosted it.

**The Westernization Movement Was Objectively Progressive.** Some hold that a number of landlord class representatives and enlightened people of the time helped accelerate the growth of the productive forces when they, seeking to maintain feudal rule and groping for ways to "make the country prosperous and the army strong," advocated learning from the West and launched China into modern industry. Judging from the way it promoted the development of the productive forces, the Westernization movement should be regarded as a progressive answer to the needs of historical development, although it did not and could not change the feudal relations of production.

**Merits and Demerits Coexisted.** Through their study of enterprises "supervised by the government but run by businessmen," some historians have indirectly examined the historical role of the Westernization movement. They maintain that these enterprises contributed to China's development because they resisted the aggressive foreign capital within a certain scope and added new productive forces in China. But ultimately, they gravely hindered the development of national capitalism, encouraged the inroads made by foreign capital and gave rise to China's bureaucrat capital. The movement's demerit of introducing the reactionary, bureaucrat capitalist relations of production in the country could not outweigh its merit of adding some new productive forces. □

policy has stressed the principle of taking grain as the major product (emphasizing grain, but not to the exclusion of other crops), diversifying the economy and striving for an all-round development. The structure of agricultural production is gradually becoming more rational.

Compared with 1978, the area sown to grain in 1981 was reduced by more than 6 million hectares. But the output value of farm crops (including cotton and other cash crops) increased 12 per cent; that of forestry, 17 per cent; that

of animal husbandry, 27 per cent; that of sideline occupations, 40 per cent; and that of fishery, 7 per cent.

The following two tables show the agricultural development and changes in agricultural

structure in the past 30 years. The 1952, 1957 and 1965 figures of output value are calculated according to 1957 constant prices, while that of 1978, 1980 and 1981 are calculated according to 1970 constant prices.

## Output of Major Agricultural Products

Unit: thousand tons

Name	1952	1957	1965	1978	1980	1981
Grain	163,900	195,050	194,550	304,750	320,520	325,020
Cotton	1,304	1,640	2,098	2,167	2,707	2,968
Oil-Bearing Crops	4,193	4,196	3,626	5,218	7,691	10,205
Jute and Ambar Hemp	306	301	279	1,088	1,099	1,260
Silkworm Cocoons	62	68	67	173	250	252
Tea	83	112	101	268	304	343
Sugarcane	7,116	10,393	13,392	21,117	22,808	29,668
Sugar Beet	479	1,501	1,985	2,702	6,306	6,360
Fruit	2,443	3,248	3,240	6,570	6,793	7,801

## Output Value of Farm Crops, Forestry, Animal Husbandry, Sideline Occupations and Fishery

	Year	Farm Crops	Forestry	Animal Husbandry	Sideline Occupations		Fishery
					Total	Of Which: Run by Brigades	
1. Absolute Value (Million Yuan)	1952	34,660	290	4,790	1,830		130
	1957	43,260	930	6,900	2,290		290
	1965	44,680	1,200	8,270	3,800		1,010
	1978	98,860	4,440	19,300	21,250	17,010	2,030
	1980	104,690	4,970	23,100	27,860	23,640	2,100
	1981	110,310	5,190	24,500	29,780	25,770	2,180
2. Percentages of the Total Agricultural Output Value	1952	83.1	0.7	11.5	4.4		0.3
	1957	80.6	1.7	12.9	4.3		0.5
	1965	75.8	2.0	14.0	6.5		1.7
	1978	67.8	3.0	13.2	14.6	11.7	1.4
	1980	64.3	3.1	14.2	17.1	14.5	1.3
	1981	64.1	3.0	14.3	17.3	15.0	1.3

LITERATURE

Two exciting new stories

by Bai Hua

IN a chat with colleagues in the literary circles when I revisited Kunming last February after 25 years of absence, I came to know that many young writers born of the many minority peoples in Yunnan have come to the fore.

These include a few promising writers of the Wa nationality, who, as late as the 1950s, still remained a primitive tribe, of the Yis and the Jingpos, who in those years still lived in a slave society. Naturally I was anxious to read their literary works.

Among them was a short story in manuscript entitled *A Thirst for Love* by Yue Ding, a young Jingpo student of the Yunnan Institute of Nationalities.

There are trees after trees, whose branches and leaves interlock with each other in a very intimate way, like a sword attached to its sheath. But my own family is more like a palm-leaf at the end of the village, torn apart in a gust of wind...

How I was stunned! Yes, I was. "I was stunned" was actually what I said in my letter of recommendation to the Editorial Department of *Renmin Wenxue* (People's Literature). A short story less than 3,000 words has poured out, in an indirect way, the thirst for love of a child who has lost his parents and grandfather. The misery of this orphan is graphically told in a few lines at the very beginning of the story with

the sentiments of a poet. How he envies these "trees after trees" and how he, heart-broken, cries over his family, which was 'like a palm-leaf . . . , torn apart in a gust of wind.'

The story ends with the author demanding an answer to his question from the World:

Ah, you, the World, how many, after all, unfortunate families have you been burdened with? Don't you want to see that that night of yours is a sweet, serene one?



Here is an imagination, so natural, so rich and so unaffected, peculiar to a child of a people living in high mountains and thick woods.

In my memory, a Jingpo man invariably wore a fiery red turban on his head, a checkered skirt, carried a long knife in a silver-inlaid sheath hung on his waistband, had a crossbow on his back, sat sideways on his horse, had a swarthy face, and a pair of bright and yet somewhat fierce-looking eyes, and was tall, a good singer and drank a lot of wine. Is Yue Ding such a man? At that time I didn't have the chance to meet him in person.

In April I went to Kunming again and spoke to a meeting on literature. I told the participants of my positive impressions of the short story by Yue Ding. It turned out that little Yue

Ding was present at the meeting and I found this Jingpo man, his hair dishevelled, only 1.68 metres high, in a jacket with many pockets on it even on the sleeves. He had bright eyes all right, but not fierce-looking. On the contrary, they were rather gentle, and there were tears swimming in them when he saw me.

Speechless, he merely repeated these words again and again: "I'm so glad to know you, Teacher Bai!" I am, of course, old enough to be his teacher—he had not come into this world yet when I left Yunnan 25 years ago. But in literary writing, what is there he can learn from me?

I told him: "Try to preserve always this language of yours, which is as fresh as a fountain in a mountain. You're what you are, a Jingpo child from the virgin forests! Try to write about the life you know and avoid being contaminated by those mechanical literary formulas and dogmatic syllabus! You are not going to cook up things, but to sing out your stories and prose as if you are singing a song. And, mind you, sing it with your heart and soul!"

I saw Yue Ding only once but I can never forget him. So when the October issue of *Bianjiang Wenyi* (Literature in the Frontier Region) came to hand today, the first thing I read was the last item in the issue, a short story entitled *By the Creek* by Yue Ding.

This time, instead of being stunned, I felt a kind of ecstasy that can be had only when one hears a fine piece of music, for this was not my first time to have read a short story like this one, one which was sung by Yue

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## *Bai Hua: Public criticism a good incentive*

At the invitation of the Ministry of Culture, army writer Bai Hua attended a national conference on feature film scripts held in Shanghai in January. Last year, his film scenario, *Unrequited Love*, was criticized in the Chinese press (see *Beijing Review*, issue No. 2, 1982).

"The public criticism has spurred on me to work harder," he said in an interview with *Beijing Review* staff correspondent.

"I did fairly well last year," he continued, beaming. Bai Hua, who has just turned 52, spent half of 1982 touring frontier regions in southwest China's Yunnan Province. In the late 40s, when the war to overthrow the reactionary Kuomintang rule was approaching victory, Bai Hua was one of the earliest PLA soldiers to enter these out-of-the-way places inhabited by minority nationalities.

His return was an emotional experience. Old acquaintances who still remembered him as a robust young soldier welcomed him as a son returning home after long years of absence. With them he shared many tears and smiles over recollections of their unforgettable past together.

During his stay in northwest Yunnan, he talked over the phone with a Tibetan friend in a neighbouring county whom he had not seen for a long time. Both felt dissatisfied when they hung up. They set off almost at the same moment, each climbing a snow-capped mountain, and met in person in a small mountain village.

His reunion with his friends reminded him of the Party's three decades of ideological influences over the minority nationalities as well as the great motive force of the large-scale social reforms. These experiences furnished excellent materials for one of his forthcoming novels, he said.

In the latter half of 1982, he wrote four novelettes.

Two have military themes —

one is about a group of soldiers in the liberation war of the 40s, the other about the army in contemporary China.

Another is about the death of a fish-breeding expert. In it, the author alternates his customary realistic style with more abstract symbolism to illuminate some philosophical values which tend to pass unnoticed in daily life.

The fourth novelette, to be published by the national literary journal *Renmin Wenxue* (People's Literature), denounces the destruction of ecological equilibrium in border regions.

Bai Hua made his literary debut as a teenage, when he contributed prose and short stories to newspapers. He became a prolific writer in the 50s.

In 1977, shortly after the fall of the gang of four, he wrote *The Light of Dawn*, a drama about the life of Marshall He Long half a century ago. In 1981, his free verse *Spring Is Coming* won a prize as one of the outstanding works by middle-aged and young poets.

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Ding. In less than 800 words, it sings the praise of two people's tender feelings flowing like water in a brook.

It is a song of a pure, wordless love between a young man and a young woman who live on two sides of a creek that serves as a border between China and Burma.

(From "Wenyi Bao" [Journal of Literature and Art], No. 1, 1983, slightly abridged.)

### *By a creek*

How green are the saplings!  
Is she still the mistress of this

plot of land? Does she still live somewhere not very far from here?... Maybe she has gone to a place afar to start a new life, maybe she is married to someone, maybe....

Then, every day the grass was wet with pearl-like dew drops. He and she used to come to the riverside before sunrise.

Driving a horse cart, he walked along a not very steep slope; the cart wheels creaked as they rolled, on and the plank on the cart rattled, making a big noise.

A stool in hand and a straw

hat on her back, she came romping on her way in a skirt with floral designs on it, and then stopped in the field golden with paddy-rice on the other side of the creek. When sparrows came, she uttered a sound of "Woo." A crisp voice she had! The sparrows flew away. Sweet was her laughter!

His cart came to a stop at the riverside. The sun came out of the bamboo groove at the other side of the river. Both he and she turned back. They stood at different sides of the boundary creek and looked at the same

sun opening the lock of mist with the key of light.

The sun was coming up, higher, and higher still; the earth was getting brighter, and brighter still. Both he and she could see things that were farther away. At the other side of the boundary creek: a small basin, in the basin a little Western-style house with galvanized iron sheet on its roof, a zigzag path,



farmers cutting grass... At this side of the creek: a not very steep slope, motor traffic on the highway, cattle and horses grazing, a tile kiln sending up columns of blue smoke... even her fine eyebrows and small mouth, his bushy eyebrows and big eyes were clearly visible before his and her eyes.

Standing in the pit, with a hoe going up and down, he was digging clay for making bricks and tiles, and then loaded one dustpan of clay after another into the cart. From the other side of the river came songs the girl was singing.

The cart was now fully loaded. He glanced at the girl who had taken off her hat which was used to keep away the dew, her hair hanging to her shoulders. She was doing needlework while keeping watch. She was in her early teens.

He drove his cart away. She turned back to look at him at this side of the creek. He was walking by the side of the horse without giving an extra burden

to the animal struggling with a fully loaded cart. He must be kindhearted. It was not very warm yet, but he had taken off his outer garment, with just a vest on. And look at him, tall and slender, about 15, at most.

When he came back for the second load, he found a pineapple near the pit. He looked at her at the other side of the creek, but she had turned round so that he could see only her back. "Was it you who brought this here?" She couldn't understand what he said, turned back for a look, and then squatted down, blushing.

He jumped into the creek, caught a few small fish and sent them to the other side of the creek. Some sparrows came to peck at the crops, he scared them away with a "Woo."

The next day, he found another pineapple near the pit; she, too, found a cluster of bananas and a bamboo catapult on the bank of earth between the paddyfields, where she had sat the previous day.

He saw her peeling a banana, so he too started peeling the pineapple with a dagger. Both of them were smiling to themselves...

Soon the school opened and he could no longer come here to dig clay. In the evening before the day the school opened, he made a bamboo whistle for frightening away birds from crops. Wearing a white headgear with a ball made of red silk on it and a band knitted out of wool peculiar to the Jingpo people round his waist, he brought the bamboo whistle to the field under the girl's care. She had come too, digging up a small well at this side of the creek so that this young lad could have water to drink when he was thirsty.

They didn't understand each other's language, nor had they sensed that they were in love. But, the two, no one knows why, parted at the side of the creek reluctantly. That night he could not go to sleep until the cocks in both countries crowed. Nor could she, perhaps?

She thought he would be here again today to cart clay, but he was nowhere to be seen when the sun was already shining overhead. He had gone to study at a middle school in the county seat. On a holiday, he came to the side of the creek, but the paddies at the other side were already gathered in some time ago and the field had been ploughed. Years later, he went to university. Ah, you the little girl who kept watch at the



field! He had taken the image of yours with him to a place far, far away, into a dream far, far away....

And now he is back to this place where the seed of a pure friendship was sown — the eye of the well is still open, pineapples are still giving out their fragrance, and the running water keeps singing as before just as the song she sung is still being heard....

He wished he could have travelled all over the world to find her.

— Yue Ding

## Sketches by Xiao Huixiang



Woman painter Xiao Huixiang is a graduate of the Central Academy of Fine Arts. She taught at art institutes in Shandong and Hunan and is now on the faculty of the Central Institute of Applied Arts. Her specialty is graphic art, fresco and line drawing.

The lucid and graceful lines of her drawings seem to be charged with life. For her, to crystalize beauties in everyday life is the greatest happiness.

These sketches were drawn in the west of Hunan, inhabited by people of Miao and other minority nationalities.

**ART PAGE**

# "TEMPLE OF HEAVEN" MOSQUITO REPELLENT COILS

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